THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 20th 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. F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, R. G. MAPP, C. E. TALMA, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, D. D. GARNER, H. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE, and E. L. WARD.

Prayers are read.

Mr. HAYNES enters the House and takes his seat.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 13th April, 1948, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month of March, 1948.

PETITION

Mr. GALE: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from Barbados Distilleries Ltd., praying the House to pass a Bill authorizing them to drive piles and erect a jetty thereon on the seashore adjoining their property called Mount Ararat, St. Michael, and extending out into the sea for a distance not exceeding five hundred feet. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £2,099 at the disposal of the Governor-in Executive Committee for the service of the Colony as set out in the Schedule.

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

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. GALE: A Bill to authorize Barbados Distilleries Ltd. to drive piles and erect a jetty thereon on the seashore adjoining their property called Mount Ararat, St. Michael, and extending out into the sea for a distance not exceeding five hundred feet.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly are of the opinion that the further mechanization of and the introduction of labour-saving devices in the sugar industry of this colony militate against the best interests of work people in this industry and the island in general.

The House respectfully request Your Excellency to take early steps to control and limit the importation of such further machinery.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. GALE, seconded by Mr. WARD, a Bill to authorize Barbados Distilleries Ltd. to drive piles and erect a jetty thereon on the seashore adjoining the property called Mount Ararat, St. Michael, and extending out into the sea for a distance not exceeding five hundred feet is read a first time.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. MAPP) is appointed Chairman of Committees for the day's sitting.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 60 AND 88.

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to enable me to take Order No. 29 as the first Order of the day. It is a Resolution to provide a cost of living allowance

for the officers of the Savings Bank and it is essential that it should be dealt with as early as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have to move the suspension of Rule 88 as well.

There being no objection, the honourable member is granted leave to proceed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rules 60 and 88 be now suspended.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that Rules 60 and 88 be now suspended is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Messrs WILKINSON and S. A. WALCOTT enter the House and take their seats.

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR SAVINGS BANK'S OFFICERS.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—To move the passing of a Resolution to provide from the 1st April, 1948, 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, at the rates and subject to the terms, conditions and exceptions set out in the schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: As honourable members will readily understand, it is because the Savings Bank functions under a separate Act that its officers do not come under the general Resolution which we passed last Tuesday. It is, therefore, necessary to pass this seperate Resolution for this purpose. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next 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.

RESOLUTION *re* FIRE BRIGADE POSTPONED

Dr. CUMMINS asks for and is granted leave to postpone the consideration of Resolution No.1 for the sum of £2,740 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of engaging on contract for a period of two years of a Fire Brigade Officer.

RE-VOTE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £5.500 to be placed at the disposal of the Department of Highways and Transport to complete the work set out in Column I of the schedule thereto to the extent of the amount set out in Column II of the said schedule. The object of this Resolution is, as is stated therein, to complete work that was left undone during 1947-48. This money was not spent and this Resolution seeks to have it re-voted so that the work can be done. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution but I would like to remind honourable members that when I said last year that the programme laid out by the Department of Highways and Transport was a bit ambitious, honourable members laughed at my statement. There were no continual rains last year to hold up the work of the Department; there were ideal weather conditions and still the Department was unable to complete its programme. I am not opposing this Resolution because I am only too glad to see the money spent to provide employment but I hope that the Director of Highways and Transport has not done the same thing this year.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,— I understand the honourable member who has just spoken to say that he views with disfavour the Director of Highways and Transport issuing a programme which he knows he cannot complete in one year and the honourable member reminds us that he regarded last year's programme as having been too ambitious. Of course, it is hardly necessary for me to say that I am supporting this Resolution. I am only sorry that it is not for more money. But what about the over-all supervision? Things for the past two months in that Department have been moving more quickly than they have ever been known to move and there is a special engineer on contract, a man who knows his job, a dynamic personality, pushing forward the work and I have heard the rumour that he will not be available after the end of this month. The programme will be ambitious if there is not over-all supervision. The Director is busy writing Minutes and does not go out to see that the work is properly supervised. As I said, I am in favour of this Resolution but we must not deplete our competent staff. There may be more than one person on the staff whose services we can easily dispense with but retain the services of the men who have been doing the work with record speed.

Mr. HAYNES: I think the junior member for St. James rather hit at me because I opposed his idea of rejecting the estimate last year. What amazes me is that he is a member of the Advisory Board and does not know why this money has not been spent. I am not a member of the Board but I have taken the trouble to find out why it has not been spent. The greater part of this work was held back because, as we all know, cement was unobtainable. The Director of Highways and Transport informed me that that was one of the reasons why these various jobs were not completed. Of course, you cannot blame anybody for that because cement would be in short supply at times whether the Government or private firms kept it in stock. I repeat that if you go on keeping down this Department they take particular pains to do less roadwork every year; they laugh at you; they do not care if they do the work now or subsequently.

Mr. WARD: I cannot agree with that reason if the Director gave it. Take the section of road in St. Lucy from St. Lucy's Church to Lamberts via Mount Gay. No cement was needed to do that job and yet the resheeting of that section of road was not finished. I cannot see why the Department did not spend that money because there were many people idling and they could have started that job and finished it. To make the claim that the lack of cement held up that job is, in my opinion, a most ridiculous and absurd statement.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think that the senior member for St. Andrew said that he got that information form the Director of Highways and Transport.

Mr. WARD: If that is so, Mr. Chairman, I am stronger about my objection. That job could have been finished. Labour was available and rollers were not in use. With proper supervision, the road could have been completed. The money could have been spent and people who were idling could have been employed.

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

Mr. SMITH joins the Committee and takes his seat.

PURCHASE OF HUTS FROM THE WAR OFFICE

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £5,450 to be placed 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. Honourable members will see from the addendum all that is necessary to remind them — they know of it already — what the Government proposes to do with these huts. This is, we are told, a very good purchase. The War Office has really been kind to us in accepting the Colonial Engineer's valuation and I am sure that honourable members will be glad to know that some of the present renting of the buildings for the accommodation of government offices will be ended at least so far as the conversion of the two stone huts is concerned. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

INVESTIGATION INTO DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £1,250 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of a detailed investigation into the departmental organization of the Public Service of the colony.

This Resolution arises as a result of the House having asked the Government, when the Resolution for a sum of money to obtain the services of Mr. G. H. ADAMS, C. B. E., was being discussed, to get somebody not only to enquire into, and make recommendations in respect of, the salaries of government employees but also to investigate the working of government departments. It is with the object of meeting the wishes of the House in that respect that this Resolution has been sent down. Honourable members will observe that it will take possibly six months before this investigation is completed. Everybody seems to be satisfied with Mr. ADAMS but it is questionable whether he would stay and make the investigation. Obviously it would be better for him to make it because the experience which he has gained in enquiring into the salaries and emoluments of the employees of the several government departments, apart from the experience which he has had in other colonies, would fit him for this work better than anybody else that is brought in to do it. Naturally, there would be a saving as far as travelling expenses are concerned because we would be paying only his return passage to England. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think I heard the honourable member who introduced this Resolution say that if the same gentleman who is making enquiry into the salaries and emoluments of government employees were to make this investigation it would be so much better than if the services of somebody else were obtained for the purpose but I did not hear him say that the gentleman was going to do it. It would make a considerable difference in expenditure because passages to-day to and from the United Kingdom are very expensive. I would like to know whether the honourable member can assure us that the present gentleman is going to stay and make this investigation.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to ask the same question that the junior member for St. James has asked and I am going to be positive. I got it officially that the present gentleman is not capable to undertake the job of investigating the working of government departments. I understand that he can do the job of enquiring into the salaries and emoluments of government employees and I do not know if a mistake has been made at the Colonial Office. We passed a Resolution on the 2nd September last year and that Resolution was to meet the cost of an enquiry into the organization of the Civil Establishment including salaries and conditions of service of government servants and matters incidental thereto and I want to be sure that this present gentleman is a man who can undertake the work because if he was criticized his future might be at state. When we pass Resolutions of this nature we do not want people to come here misinformed as to the nature of the duties which they have to perform.

Mr. FOSTER joins the Committee and takes his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: All I can tell honourable members is what was put before the Executive Committee that caused this Resolution to be sent down. You hear so many things outside and so many things are reported inaccurately that it is easy to get wrong impressions. I do not think that I have heard, until now, that Mr. ADAMS has said that he is not capable of making this investigation. I should be amazed to find that he is not. He was Financial Secretary of Tanganyika; he has had many years' experience in the Colonial Service; he has been here for some time making enquiry into the salaries and conditions of service of government employees and he must have present before him the possibility of overlapping in the several departments. If even he was an utter stranger to Colonial Office work, he must have some adequate and exact knowledge of the workings of our several departments. One cannot, of course, make any recommendation as regards salaries and conditions of service without knowing how far the salaries of a particular department are worth comparing with the salaries of another department. I do not know if anybody else has any other suggestion to make. As a result of the Resolution which the House passed, His Excellency the Governor spoke as if the Commissioner would be willing to undertake this investigation but it would take some months — at least six — to do it thoroughly. So as far as the Executive Committee is aware, he will be willing, if he is asked, to do this work. I want to say that there has never been any suggestion that he is incapable of doing it. From the point of view of the Government I can give the assurance that he would be asked to do it and as far as I know he would be willing to undertake it. At the meeting of the Executive Committee which took place on the first

of this month, reference was made by the Head of the Administration to the amendment to the Resolution when the House decided that they would like an investigation into the organization of the several departments, in addition to the enquiry into salaries and conditions of service. His Excellency said that he did not know exactly what the House had in mind but that if a detailed investigation was required, it would be necessary to engage the Commissioner's services for a longer period and ask for additional funds for remuneration. I take it from that statement that it must be an understanding that the Commissioner was willing to undertake the job. I do not think there is any difficulty about that whatever. No doubt has been expressed at the Executive Committee as to either his ability or willingness to undertake it, so that I do not think I am wrong in giving the assurance that he will carry out the investigation.

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

RESOLUTION TO MEET COST OF ENQUIRY INTO SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £2,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of an enquiry into the system of local Government in Barbados.

Honourable members will see from the addendum that before the House began its deliberations at the opening of this legislative session, the Acting Governor suggested the advisability of an enquiry into the system of local Government and the House of Assembly subsequently agreed to the suggestion. The Secretary of State for the Colonies thinks that we can get a suitable person and he has told us what are the usual rates of pay for officials of this sort — salary at the rate of £100 a month, subsistence allowance at the rate of 35/- a night while in Barbaodes would be terms under which this person would come. Of course, there are to be free return passage and travelling expenses. I do not think that any member of this House would to-day say that we do not need this enquiry. After all, the Vestry system is 300 years old. To-day, as many honourable members are aware, some of the law governing the working, let us say, of poor relief is the Statute of Queen Elizabeth and however venerable that virginal lady might have been, it is hardly necessary to state that possibly the Statute of Queen Elizabeth is not quite up-to-date. I suggest to honourable members, if they have any criticism to make as regards fear of what the result of a new system of local government will be, to make that criticism now but that all of us should agree to the principle that an enquiry into the local government set-up is long overdue and that there should be some change in our Vestry system. I am not one of those who believe in centralizing for the sake of centralizing, — in fact I believe that the best way of producing a good Central Government is to give people practice in their local districts in the science of Government. In short. I believe, especially in a small island like Barbados, that you should have a very general policy for this, that or the other thing and that the administration should be carried on by local bodies, local people on the spot who know their parishes and districts and who can get smoother workings than if people went from Bridgetown to control the affairs of the several districts. The principle in the Public Health Act which applies to the eleven Vestries in the matter of public Health administration might well be adopted as regards local government generally. After all, when the early settlers came here 300 years ago, there were virgin forests to be cut down. The means of travel to Holetown or Speightstown are vastly different to-day than what they were at that time. The excessive mileage in our road system makes it easy to travel from one parish to the other and schemes that are suitable for one parish are suitable for another. I have spoken at this length merely because I believe it is possible that some people may misunderstand the purport of this proposal and imagine that we are hoping to get somebody to come out here only to talk about a policy of local government. Nothing of the sort. A local government expert in Great Britain went to Jamaica and made a report of local government in that colony and it is one of the best reports that have been made in connection with West Indian affairs for the last ten years or so. I think some honourable members must have read or heard of it; it is a longish report and everybody whom I have ever met that has seen it has spoken highly of it. This is an attempt to bring up-to-date local government in the West Indies and in this connection I should like to pay a tribute to British Guiana. Heaven knows if one can speak of good work on the part of British Guiana but the system of village councils in British Guiana is really better, as a form of local Government, than any we have in the caribbean area. I put it that way because British Guiana speaks of continental destiny and does not like to be spoken of as a West Indian colony. I do assure honourable members that this is an attempt to get somebody with up-to-date knowledge of local government, someone who has himself been engaged in local government administration, to come to us, to see our system at work and make the necessary recommendations for improving it but not abolishing it. I have much pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution and merely to add that although I have great faith in the expert who may be appointed to make this enquiry I hope that when he submits his report, he will recommend the remedying of one of the greatest evils that actually exist in this island in connection with local government, that is, that the Rectors will keep to the Church and leave State affairs alone.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, —This is a very big question, much bigger than some honourable members seem to realize. I admit that our Vestry system is 300 years old and may need replacing but honourable members must not forget all the good work that has been done in the past and is still being done by members of the Vestries and their subsidiary Boards. We, Barbadians, have a habit of taking things for granted. Few people get any thanks but many are abused. We secure the services of experts, get their reports and then, like Supt. Calver's Report on the Police Force, a length of time expires before they are implemented. I am not going to oppose this Resolution because I agree with the senior member for St. Joseph that some re-organization may be desirable but I do hope that when this expert comes, the Government will allow members of the Vestries to interview him and explain to him how the system is being worked to-day and I am sure that he will find, as an honest

man, that a lot of good work is being done for nothing. And it is a great mistake in a small country like Barbados to do away with the system by which persons look after the affairs of their respective parishes in which they live. I am sure that everybody will agree that these people have done and are doing good work voluntarily; they know the requirements of their parishioners and in my opinion it would be a great mistake to take somebody who lives in St. Peter, for instance, and put him to look after local affairs in St. John. I think, Sir, that this matter deserves very serious consideration because there is always the danger that you will get someone from England or Canada who has no idea of living in this beautiful little island. He comes here with ideas in a big country and things that work well in a big country do not always work well in Barbados. In a big country, I am sorry to say, you do not get the personal interest in local affairs that you get in an island like this.

The CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt to say that the Chair feels that while it may be desirable to point out certain dangers that may arise, we do not want honourable members to ruminate on what this officer may or may not find because they will have the opportunity to point out those things when he comes.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not think, Sir, that my remarks are out of place. Anyhow, I do not wish to detain this Committee but I want them to realize that this is a very big question and need not be lightly passed over. It may be desirable to change the local system of government in this country but before we do that, we should think very seriously.

Mr. HAYNES: I wish I was as enthusiastic as the last speaker about our system of local Government. I have had great experience in our local government but unfortunately I do not know of all this good work that he talks about in some of the parishes; that is mere ballyhoo. You get in these Vestries certain cliques who just want to feather their own nests. Although on some of these Vestries there are ten members, those members who are not in the cliques are as helpless as a ship without a rudder; they can do nothing sometimes. We pass certain measures in this House of Assembly which are also passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor in the interest of good local government but these Vestries, their Committees and subsidiary Boards are so established that they simply sit down and incur any expenditure they like and if they have a majority, nothing can stop them. It is a very serious matter. There is no right of appeal and no way of stopping them. The only thing they are governed by is the Vestries Act and that contains certain conditions which they, in many instances, ignore and by-pass. I am hoping that this gentleman, whoever he may be, will come and not fall into evil hands (Laughter) and will not be biased by all this chat about this wonderful work that these Vestries have done. I do not say that some of their work is not good but one has, in this world, to take the good with the bad. Sometimes the bad outshines the good in this country. These Vestries are elected by the taxpayers of the parishes and the vestrymen appoint the subsidiary Boards which, the minute they are appointed, are entirely emancipated from the parent body. All the parent body can do is to make suggestions and if the particular Board does not feel like accepting a suggestion, the parent body will be only talking to the wind. I think that that is a very serious drawback to the proper working of our local government. The taxpayer looks to the vestrymen, whom he has elected to put matters right but when some vestrymen are elected they find that they cannot put matters right. In some instances, they do not know what is going on and in the end they get the blame. I only hope that we will get the right man and as I have already said that he will fall into the proper channel. I can assure you, Sir, that the present system of local Government gives me a great deal of concern. In my time, despite what the junior member for St. James has said about the good work that has been done, I can tell you that there is just as much bad work that has been done.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I certainly do not agree with the remarks of the last speaker. I hope that he is not one of the "ballyhoo" men. I look on this Resolution as the thin edge of the wedge as far centralization is concerned. If this expert was being brought down to consider how the Government is running the island I would be one of the first members to vote for it. To-day unemployment could not be worse and we are going to spend £2,000 to bring another expert here. I consider that it is for the purpose of centralization and that the Government is aware of it.

The CHAIRMAN: The Resolution says absolutely nothing about centralization. It simply seeks to place this money at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of an enquiry into the system of local Government in ths Island. We cannot tell what he would recommend; he may recommend decentralization.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: It is not stated in the Resolution that this money is for the purpose of centralization but we can use our brains and try to see what this money will be spent for. I consider that the Government instead of spending this money to bring this expert here could spend it to a much better advantage. However, Sir, if you rule that I am out of order to make reference to centralization in discussing this Resolution I shall bow to your ruling but I should like to remind you that I do not live in the clouds. I live in Barbados and I have heard it stated repeatedly that they want to centralize the Vestries. If you have not heard that, you must be living in the clouds. I think that the local governments are handling their business much better than the Central Government is handling its business and if, in such circumstances, you take the big ones and put them in the charge of the little ones I do not know what is going to happen to Barbados. There is a drought on—we have had it since this Government came into power and I do not know if the Lord sent this drought to see if this Government can do its work but, Sir, it could not do its work worse than it is doing it at the present time. This Government has been in office two years and I do not believe it knows the condition that Barbados is in, as far as the water supply is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: I hate to interrupt the honourable member but I rule that he is entirely out of order. The honourable member is talking about water and the Committee is dealing with a proposal to have an enquiry into the system of local Government in Barbados.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: If the water system is centralized, why can't I prove that the Government is unfit to deal with matters that are centralized? It is perfectly unfit to take charge of anything more than what it is doing to-day; it is not even fit to do what it is doing at the present moment. If this com-

modity that is centralized, namely, water, was in the hands of private individuals and was being dealt with as the Government is dealing with it, this Government would have taken it over long ago. I am asking that this money be not spent to send for someone to interfere with the local governments that are doing their job better than the Central Government is doing its work.

Mr. GALE: I shall support this Resolution. Unlike other honourable members I have no fears as to the kind of report that will be submitted by this expert. There is no doubt, about it that the Vestries have done excellent work and are still doing good work, although there are certain things in parochial administration that need to be brought up-to-date. To my mind, a thorough investigation into the system of local Government in this island can do no harm whatever. I think all vestrymen should welcome this proposal; they should be pleased that somebody will be coming here to investigate the system of their administration and advise as to the improvement of it. I cannot appreciate the fear about centralization because the expert will be coming from a place where there is no centralization of local government. In England, there are Urban Councils, Borough Councils, Mayor and City Councils; there is no centralization of those services in Great Britain, so I shou'd be surprised if an expert comes from England and recommends that the services which the Vestries perform should be centralized. In all the colonies under British administration at present, there has been decentralization. In the Gold Coast and places like that — very primitive places — the Governments found it necessary in the past to run such services under the Governments but the general policy now is to put them under local administration; so I cannot appreciate the great fear on the part of the senior member for St. James about centralization. As I said, I shall support this Resolution and I think that all members of Vestries should welcome it. I am quite sure that they will get sound advice from the expert's report.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I, unlike the senior member for St. James, do not consider this Resolution is, as he puts it, the thin edge of the wedge to bring about centralization of parochial services in Barbados. I am sure that the honourable member is old enough to appreciate that just as he may have found it necessary to make changes in respect of things appertaining to his business, so too are the functions of Government in need of changes. (Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: For the better). As an aside, he says "for the better". I do not think that he should assume that any change which the Government attempts to make is for the worse; it would appear that it is only when he thinks of a change that it is for the better. Our Vestry system, as we know, is old. As one honourable member has said, we have had some good work done by them but by no means can we say that there cannot be better work by them. It is fashionable for honourable members to accuse this Government as if these things have now happened. To my mind, many of the set-backs which the Government is having and the mistakes which it is endeavouring to correct have been going on when certain honourable members' closest friends were functioning, not during the term of office of this Government. I would like to say that despite the shortages we have had and the setbacks which this Government has experienced, it can still be said that the water rates which are under governmental control have not been increased. To go back to the question at issue, no one can say that our Vestry system does not need some sort of co-ordination. It is fantastic that we have eleven Parochial Treasurers, eleven Parochial Medical Officers, eleven Sanitary Boards, and in each parish you have the same system by which every square mile that lies within its boundaries is controlled. I can see very well that it will not be necessary to have eleven Parochial Treasurers or by any means to have eleven Parochial Medical Officers to deal with the rates or sanitation and that we could co-ordinate the services in such a manner as to have greater efficiency in parochial administration. It would in no way prevent the local people from doing what they have to do. Remember that democracy does not work through decree or some central body but by means of decentralization and, therefore, you pass on the authority but you do not pass it on by giving certain persons Kingdoms, so to speak, to work in at the exclusion of others. When we see the things that our local authorities are doing, it is incumbent upon us to widen the gap and make it easier for other people to give more efficient service. I do not take with any degree of seriousness the argument that you cannot find other purposes in Barbados for the use of this money. You can find many purposes for which £2,000 can be used and £2,000 would not even be sufficient. Any person would agree that if you appoint a local Committee to make this enquiry it would be wrought with difficulties. It would not get the support it should get because local feelings would come into the issue and if you can get someone with an impartial feeling to undertake the work you would be doing something for the betterment of this island. Barbados is patterned after somewhere else and it has the same form of Government that it had in the seventeenth century. If we have to make changes now I do not see what any honourable member would have to fear if an enquiry was made into our local set-up to see what changes are necessary. I speak as a layman but I speak as one with some knowledge of conditions in Barbados. St. Michael thinks of St. Michael alone and does not care anything about St James or any of the other contiguous parishes. The same thing applies to Christ Church. Parishes like St. Michael and Christ Church do have more money and greater potentialities than the other parishes but they cannot do anything to help those other parishes because the money is raised for their particular parishes. I fail to see why there should not be a system by which all the wealth of this country should be used for the benefit of every person in this country. We need some sort of re-organization so that we can bring betterment to all the poeple. It does not matter whether a man lives in St. Philip or in St. George. If he is suffering, his suffering should in some way reflect on others, irrespective of where he lives. I feel that an enquiry into the local Vestry system can do no harm but may do a great deal of good.

Mr. DOWDING: I do not intend to ruminate very long over this matter but there are a few remarks which I should like to make and which I should like honourable members to digest. Now, Sir, there is no getting away from the fact that there is good and there is bad among the local set-up today; but, Sir, if we look at the first six Resolutions that are before us, we will see that four of them are for the purpose of bringing experts here to make enquiries. That certainly needs going into. Are we lacking in interest in Barbados? Are we so lacking in intelligent people in Barbados that we cannot find suitable persons to make these enquiries and, if necessary, call in outside aid afterwards? In these days when we are clamouring for the British West

Indies to be under one Government, are we incapable of doing something to show that at least we are competent to deal with our local affairs? £7,240 is to be spent in bringing experts to this island to make enquiries, when it is possible — I admit in this case it may not be probable — that local committees could go in to these matters and supply the necessary information. We would probably save half of these expenses and we would let the world outside see that we in Barbados are capable of at least trying to put our own affairs right ourselves.

Dr. CUMMINS: One or two of the speeches I have heard from members sitting on my left are just the type of speeches I expected to hear. Take the speech of the last honourable member first. Of course, it is generally known that Barbadians are authorities and experts on everything under the sun. Our local set-up, I think it is generally acknowledged, needs overhauling and being brought up-to-date but some of us who have tried to effect such improvements have always been cold shouldered. I will give the Committee one of my experiences. I happened to have been a member of the St. Michael's Vestry for eleven years. During those eleven years, I and others associated with me, realizing that the system of raising taxes from trade was, to say the least of it, a bad one, tried on several occasions to get what, in our opinion, would be a better system. Committees were appointed by that Vestry on more than one occasion in more than one year and were summoned several times to meet but they never met for want of a quorum and one or two of us then gave it up as a bad case. That is the way certain honourable members would like local experts to enquire into the local form of government. Why? Because a change, if it did come about, would have to suit vested interests. When some of them were summoned to meet to make an effort to change the system which, everybody acknowledges—even members of the Vestries admit — needs to be changed, they would not attend. The senior member for St. James, naturally, would not like a change in the system of local government because — I will not call names—in the Vestry of St. James there is one man who runs that Vestry. When the Chief in the St. James's Vestry says so and so, it must be done and that settles it. Again, the senior member for St. James would not welcome an enquiry into the local set-up because some of the local governors may be displaced. We, who have some knowledge of the working of Vestries, know it and as the junior member for St. Michael has said, every vestryman should welcome an investigation into the system with the view of making recommendations for its improvement. They should be big enough and broad-minded enough to welcome that change instead of making speeches which would give the impression outside that we are not in favour of a change. What this Committee has lost sight of is that when this expert comes and goes into conditions as they exist he will then have to submit his recommendations for the approval or otherwise of the Legislature; he will have to be a man of wide experience in local government, at least in England. Before I sit I would like to reply to a remark by the junior member for St. James. He made reference to the pigeon-holing of the recommendations of Supt. Calver in connection with the Police Force but I want to inform him that those recommendations might have been pigeon-holed at one time but at present they are under active consideration.

Mr. SMITH: I do feel that this Resolution should be supported because the Vestries and the laws under which they function are away behind the times. It is all right for the senior member for St. George to talk about this money being expended on an expert but I believe that the majority of the Vestries have certainly asked for this enquiry owing to their actions. As far as the subsidiary Boards are concerned, after they have been appointed the Vestries cannot ask them one word. Very often an elector comes to you as a vestryman and asks you about conditions that exist at these Boards and you are ashamed to tell him "I do not know. I cannot tell you. You have to see Mr. So and So;" although that elector has cast his vote in your favour and assisted in electing you to the particular Vestry. Of course, the intelligent elector would reply "After all, you are no good." These Boards care nothing whatever about the Vestries who appoint them and as regards the Vestries themselves some of the members are too spiteful. Too much spite is existing on the part of members of these Vestries and it is time that the Government does something to remedy the present state of affairs. The majority of the Vestries are comprised of ten members and of these ten, only five or six run the particular parishes; the other four know nothing whatever of what goes on. What is being done at the Sanitary Board, those four know nothing about and the same thing applies to the Boards of Guardians; yet every year the same persons are appointed to these Boards. I do not think that system should exist to-day. This is an urgent matter. If by the actions of the Vestries, the Government sees that the local government needs to be investigated, by all means we will have to bring in an expert. The senior member for St. George wanted to find out if we did not have men in this island who are intelligent enough to make this enquiry. I say "yes, we have them but the fear is that they may drop into the hands of other local people." There are some vestrymen who do the work of the Vestries at their dining tables. Many a Vestryman does not know what is going to happen at their respective Vestries because of the cliques which exist. If those cliques can control a majority, then the minority can go about their business. I can assure you, Sir, that these cliques carry on this kind of business in their offices, in the fields, and in their drawing rooms; all they have to do is to control a majority at their respective Vestries. Take for instance the appointment of officers. Some Vestries will appoint particular members as Churchwardens of the respective parishes year after year until those gentlemen say "We are finished"; and this goes on year after year despite the fact that the majority of the taxpayers in the particular parishes would want certain vestrymen to be appointed Churchwardens. As long as the old, grey bearded fellows have their cliques behind them they will remain in these offices and retain their seats on these subsidiary Boards. Can anyone say that the actions of such vestrymen are justified? Some of these men are as popular as ever by virtue of the fact that they are vestrymen; if they were to lose their seats they could not be so popular. Some of them would prefer to die before they would support a Resolution of this nature. I am saying that these things cannot be allowed to go on any longer. The taxpayers will cry "Halt!" some day. There are some vestrymen who tremble in their seats; they cannot sit at the Vestry Boards for five minutes. There are others who would give up their own business but still would not let go the coat-tails of these subsidiary Boards. I say that it is time to say "Halt!" Let the expert

come as soon as possible and let the taxpayers of the island get a square deal.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House while Mr. SMITH was speaking and took his seat.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I just want to answer some of the criticisms which have been made against this Government in connection with the water supply in this island. I would like to say that the present Government has sent down Resolutions for the sum of £117,000—Resolutions which have been passed by this House—to get machinery to improve the water supply in the island. The present machinery has got into its present condition through the negligence of past Governments and it seems to me very extraordinary that the present Government should be blamed for doing something which, everybody knows, another Government has done and which this Government is endeavouring to put in order.

The CHAIRMAN: I rule the honourable member out of order. That has absolutely nothing to do with the Resolution before the Committee.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I would still like to say that I feel that instead of criticizing the Government those persons who own plantations should dig wells on their plantations to help to supply people with water when the Government cannot supply it.

Mr. FOSTER: I am going to support the passing of this Resolution, because I think it is very necessary. Speaking as a member of the Vestry of St. Andrew I would like to say that I am very surprised at the remarks of my colleague as far as taxation is concerned and I sincerely hope that this expert would make some recommendation as regards the method of levying taxation in the parishes. I am a member of the Assessment Committee appointed by the Vestry of St. Andrew and I am not afraid to say that there is not a small trader in that parish who does not pay his tax year after year but that for the past 4 or 5 years Bruce Vale Factory has made Returns to the effect that no profits have been made. That Factory has five lorries which freight canes sometimes until midnight and yet for five years, it has not made one cent profit; so I hope that the expert will do something to remedy the existing method of taxation in these parishes (Cheers) I wonder if any factory owner would continue to buy canes at a loss for 4 or 5 years! As I said, I am not afraid to make this criticism. I have faced several contested elections in the parish of St. Andrew and in the majority of instances I have been returned at the head of the poll and I feel that I would be returned there again if there was a contest as a result of my criticism. I hope, as I have said, the expert would make some recommendation that will enable taxation to be levied in the parishes in an equitable manner.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—No one will deny that the necessity exists for a very fundamental re-organisation of our local government services and, therefore, it is to be expected that there will be a majority vote in favour of this Resolution. It must not be assumed that because we vote the sum of £2,000 for the purpose of enquiring into our system of local government, overnight there will be an improvement in our local government services as a result. As a matter of fact, Sir, in my opinion while the Vestry system itself is inadequate, yet we could, without the assistance of an expert, do a lot immediately to get more advantageous results from what we have at present. The main trouble with the Vestry system in this island at the moment is in its more or less obsoleteness as compared with systems under which local government services are controlled and run in other parts of the world. We need to liberalize our Vestry Constitution as a first step. We need to make it easier for people with liberal, to say nothing of socialist, views to secure election to local government bodies in this country. We need also to liberalize the qualifications for the people who vote for members of our local government bodies. If we were to do that — liberalizing the Constitution of the Vestries, making it easier for people of our working class to secure election to these bodies — in other words, if we were to treat the Vestries in the same way we treat, for instance, this Chamber we might find that far more beneficial results would emerge, even from the present system, than we get at present. I know, for instance, that in the parish of St. Philip year after year, my colleague and myself find it an absolute impossibility to get people with the necessary qualifications who have views similar to our own to run for a seat on the Vestry. As a matter of fact it would be absolutely impossible to-day to find 10 men in the parish of St. Philip with liberal views who possess the qualification to sit on the Vestry of that parish. If the system is out-moded, so is the qualification both for membership of the Vestries, and the electors. Therefore, Sir, we might as a first step seek to bring the qualifications for the Vesrties into line with those for the House of Assembly and then we could proceed to endeavour to bring the entire system of local government itself more into line with that which obtains in more advanced countries. Now, I am in agreement, to some extent, with the criticism which has been made against the general decision to bring experts into this country on any and every possible occasion to investigate any and everything. There are on the Order Paper now before us a few Resolutions which seek to provide the money to bring in experts in instances in which, I am sure, it can be proved beyond the slightest shadow of a doubt that the money will be wasted. Even in connection with this matter before us to-day, merely because the entire system of local government is not one of the most advanced in the world, it does not necessarily follow that the expert will be able to recommend the system best suitable for this country. As a matter of fact it may be found that many of the things that suit Great Britain definitely do not suit this country and perhaps it may be better , in my opinion, if we brought in an experienced qualified man with practical local government experience from one of the neighbouring colonies in which the system of local government more closely approximates that of Great Britain. Of course, in this Resolution, Sir, we are not precisely told what will be the terms of reference to this expert. We have no indication as to the lines along which the enquiry will proceed. We do not know whether it is merely a question of recommending that the colony should be divided into different areas which will be given the status of boroughs or what not, or whether the expert is expected to recommend accurately what part the local governing bodies are to play in connection with our health services or our educational services or our nationalized public utility services or whether perhaps he might include in his investigation a change in the system of rating with recommendations, perhaps, for the abolition completely of the rating system and the substitution of a system, for instance, of local income tax or something like that. We do not exactly know what line the investigation will take but I should like to repeat that mere knowledge of the system which obtains in Great Britain may be of no assistance whatsoever to us. For instance, with regard to the question of health services in so far as they concern the local governing bodies, last week in considering the new Public Health Bill we were thinking in terms of centralizing our health services,

that is, making the Central Government more directly responsible for all the health services of the country. In Great Britain to-day the tendency seems to be in the other direction. Under the new National Health Services Bill—

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask the honourable member if he is using that as an argument in support of this Resolution or as argument against the Public Health Bill?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am using it in connection with the remarks I am making.

The CHAIRMAN: If you are using it in connection with the Public Health Bill, you are out of order.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If you will permit me to make the analogy, it will be easily understandable in what way I am making reference to the Bill. In this colony, arising out of the debate last Tuesday, we are thinking in terms of centralizing our health services; in Great Britain it is entirely in the opposite direction. Under the new National Health Services Bill, it does appear to me that the decisions will rest to a greater extent with the local bodies than they do at present; so that if an expert comes here who is conversant with the trend of local government policy in Great Britain and conversant with the new policy envisaged in the various Bills which have to come before the British Parliament in connection with Services which are controlled by local government bodies, the mere fact that he is more conversant with them and the mere fact that he is more or less inclined to support that particular policy may disqualify him for the purpose of making an enquiry into our local government reorganization. In other words, we have to guard against the danger of assuming that merely because this expert is a suitable person and knows a lot about local government in England, he will be, as a matter of course, the best type of person for making this enquiry. And I repeat that I would like to see as a first step a beginning of the liberalizing of the Constitution of the Vestries and if you like, at the same time or immediately after, proceed to have your highly qualified local government expert who should not necessarily be a Britisher but possibly a West Indian, to go into this question and make recommendations which will be applicable to our local conditions and advantageous to the island. Now, it does appear, Sir, that generally speaking, the present Administration is addicted to this principle of importing experts on the slightest provocation. It does appear, on some of these matters at least, that the Administration is shirking its duties and responsibilities. It may be attributed to laziness on the one hand or it may be attributed to a desire to waste time or mark time on the other hand. If we notice carefully, we will realize that on every single occasion when it is necessary for a decision to be taken on the highest administrative level, we either bring in an expert or we appoint a Committee to consider the Report of a previous Committee and decide what action should be taken on the report of the previous Committee. And so we go on — an endless succession of referring matters to experts or deciding what action should be taken on Reports made by previous Committees. I believe, Sir, that it should not be a difficult matter to get a properly qualified West Indian to bring our local government services more into line. I understand that inasmuch as the debate on this matter may extend for a little while and there may be other speakers, it is desirable at this stage, before 2 o'clock, that progress be reported and in consequence I am willing to postpone my additional remarks until the discussion on this particular Resolution is resumed.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61(A)

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (a) so as to continue Government Business.

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

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. MAPP, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, FOSTER TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, HAYNES, GALE and DR. CUMMINS—10.

Noes: Messrs. BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, S. A. WALCOTT, WARD and WILKINSON—6.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, ten honourable members voting "Aye" and six honourable members voting "No". The Rule will not be suspended, however, because twelve honourable members must vote for the suspension of a Rule.

APPOINTMENT OF WEST INDIANS IN THE LOCAL CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. SPEAKER: On the last occasion of Question Time, the House were discussing the replies given to question No. 15 put by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy relating to the appointment of West Indians in the local Civil Service. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph was speaking.

Mr. ADAMS: I was making the point that not only is it the policy of the Colonial Office to appoint West Indians as far as possible to posts within the area, but that in that branch of the Service which has always been and still is a "closed" service or a service to which West Indians are not normally appointed, the reason has been given that in every English Civil Service administrative posts are a special branch of the Service for which special training is needed; and it is with the object of preventing West Indians from feeling that they are especially excluded from holding these posts that the Colonial Office, as honourable members are probably aware, has started a scheme whereby Colonials generally will have a course of training for two years for the administrative service in order to fit them to return to their colonies and fill administrative posts. Honourable members will remember that when a Resolution was sent down to this House for the purpose of making an addition to the Secretariat and Mr. Barton was brought in, it was specially pointed out that no local person was fitted for the job because of the lack of the necessary training which a person has to undergo before he can be

admitted to the administrative side of the Civil Service. I have with me the file which deals with this matter and there are communications which date back as far as 1938 in connection with it. Therefore it is not to be thought that this matter has not been brought to the attention of the Colonial Office. Honourable members will remember that on the last occasion I quoted a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated July, 1945, which begins this way: "As you are aware grievance is frequently expressed in the West Indies that a large number of 'imported' officials are appointed to senior posts in the Caribbean colonies for which there are said to be suitable candidates available locally. Apart from other considerations which arise in this connection, this grievance is for the most part unfounded since a large number of senior as well as practically all the junior posts in the West Indies are filled by persons born within the area." Then the Secretary of State went on to ask the Governor for fuller details as to administrative officers in the local Civil Service and their places of origin. With the exception of Dr. Saint, the Colonial Secretary and others in the Colonial Secretary's Office and people like Mr. Sweet and Mr. Paterson's successor, there are no imported officials in this island at present. I mentioned that we have Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Archer in Trinidad, Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Field in the Bahamas and Mr. Courtenay Reece in Nigeria; so that, on the legal side at any rate, if the Colonial Office is bringing in people here, it is also transferring our people. Whatever might be the position in Trinidad which caused the Governor there to make the remarks which he made, the letter from which I have just quoted shows that the Colonial Office is very much aware of this live issue and is endeavouring to do whatever it can to remove such grievances as local persons might feel exist. I have not enquired, but any of us using his intelligence can well see that however eminently qualified a local person might be, at this stage of our political development, one can well imagine the Colonial Office not wanting to appoint any local person to the post of Attorney General. I say that, and I suppose I might add that before our late Governor, Sir Grattan Bushe, left the island one might say, and it was no secret, that he was going to advise the Colonial Office to that effect. Whether he did so or not, I repeat that at this stage of our development there was felt the necessity of not having the Attorney General being eligible for a seat in the House. One might quite easily see that the natural development would be that the Attorney General's successor, until we reach a further stage in our political development, should not have a seat in the House. After all, no civil servant is eligible to stand for election unless the Governor gives that permission. I hope honourable members will agree with me that it is better to let Barbadians go out into other West Indian Colonies in the first place and let West Indians come here than to have important posts in these small islands always filled by local persons. I say that, because with the best will in the world, with the most honest mind in the world, we are so small that everybody knows everybody else's business, more or less, and an official might quite easily find himself in a position in which he does justice to the community at the expense of sacrificing his friendship with people who were otherwise his life-long friends. An individual should not be put in the unenviable position of having constant conflicts between his duty and his friendship. I do not think there is anything more I can add but I say that the general policy of the Colonial Office, far from importing people into this colony, is to take West Indians in the Colonial Office itself in order that they may get some inside experience and then go back to their colonies fitted to fill the higher posts. I have heard it said and I think I have seen it written that the Colonial Office feels that many scholars in the West Indies should be appointed to posts in the Civil Service in their Colonies or in other West Indian Colonies, but in the past there had been no incentive to these scholars to qualify for positions in the Civil Service; and the presence of so many doctors and lawyers in the West Indies has been due to the fact that persons who may have qualified and become Colonial Secretaries or Administrators have never been encouraged to do so because the higher posts in the Civil Service were never opened to them. The Colonial Office has the definite intention of changing that position and scholars have the chance of reaching the highest posts in the Colonial Office just as Englishmen who are sent out as Administrators. A beginning is being made for training West Indians and they are being taken into the Colonial Office itself so as to be given the necessary inside knowledge as to what is to be done. I think that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy can rest assured that this question of making appointments from among West Indians to the local Civil Service will be even more present to the mind of the Colonial Office than what we feel about it. Perhaps I may be pardoned for drawing attention to the latest appointment of Mr. Beaubrun as Controller of Food Supplies and Prices in this Colony. Mr. Beaubrun is a West Indian and his appointment is carrying out the policy of making use of suitable people in the West Indian area where you have them before going outside the area.

Mr. MAPP: I was not here when the replies to these questions were first debated, but I think the questions revolved around a circular issued by the Governor of Trinidad as to the attitude of the Colonial Office in appointing local men to administrative posts in the Civil Service. As far as I remember the circular it is a unique step taken by any Head of the Administration in these West Indian Islands, and I understand that this Head of the Administration is under local fire because of the steps which he had taken to censure a legislator in front of other officials.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think I can allow any discussion on that point.

Mr. MAPP: There is just this aspect of the matter that it took place soon after the Governor issued this directive to which the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has drawn attention. It is useless our talking about our going forward to self-government or Dominion status unless we are assisted and developed on some positive policy of training our local people for the top-most administrative posts. It cannot be denied that we have had some legally trained men who have been sent abroad to fill important posts even though not the highest posts; but I do not hesitate in saying that some of our legal luminaries could have been luminaries in any sphere, and some of them would have made excellent administrative officials in any British colony, especially in the West Indies. Since all that has been said to be the policy of the British Government to encourage officials, I am yet to see a definite start being made to train the local products of Universities for top administrative posts as is being done in the case of products of Universities in other countries. There are those products from Universities who have risen high in the Civil Service; they have been given the opportunities to become Gov-

ernors and Colonial Secretaries in these Colonies and I am hoping that a more definite and early step will be made to advance our local men who have had University training for training in these top administrative positions. Although it has been the policy in the West Indian area to promote local men to certain posts in the Civil Service, it is not so much a question of the senior posts but the top administrative posts which I have in mind to-day. There are certain officials who are not in harmony with the existing outlook of the people of this colony and they do nothing or very little to try to implement the policy of the Party that may be in power. The sooner we have local men trained for these top posts, the better it will be for all of us; we will then be able to talk about self-government and the direction of affairs being in our own hands. It is true that the policy of the present Secretary of State for the Colonies has always been in consequence of the views put forward by such liberal people as those connected with the Fabian Society which always suggested the best for local people, but it is difficult to see any definite policy being put into practice. A policy suggested twelve months ago will take another twelve years before you see it put into practice. The present Government in England has many encumbrances and hindrances; there are officials in that country who do not help in promoting the policy of the Government and it may happen that in these Colonies we might get imported Officials who are out of touch with the changed outlook of the people and therefore they will not be of any help to us along the road of self-government or in respect of the aspirations of the people. I am hoping that plans for the implementation of this policy which has been said by the last speaker to be the policy of the Colonial Office will be stepped up and put into effect. I repeat that whereas it cannot be denied that in the past encouragement has been given to local men who have been trained in the legal field, no encouragement has been given to men who, in my opinion, would be suitable to fill administrative posts. There has been no definite policy in the past to train these men and I look forward to see practical steps being taken to implement this policy. In this colony, politicians have the responsibility but they have no power and I hope that we will try and see that this liberal policy of the Colonial Office is speeded up and put into practice. It is not enough merely to have people rising to the post of Auditor General or Colonial Treasurer, having to go up the grades in the Civil Service by a long and tedious journey and no steps being taken to give University graduates the training suitable for the highest administrative posts. This policy must be carried out before we talk about self-government and dominion status. The question put by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy is a very apt one; I had also put a question relative to training people for certain posts as had been advertised in the Press. I do not remember what was the answer given to the question but as far as I know several applications were made and the answers given to the applicants certainly indicated that there was no hope for many of them to receive any training. I do not know what is the delay in the matter; applications have been made in answer to the advertisement and I have heard nothing about them except having the formal statement that they are being considered. We want more than that. I repeat that it is not so much a question of filling the senior posts in the Civil Service or that of the Head of some Department, but filling the administrative posts for which we have capable men, graduates of Universities, who could be sent out for training to fill these administrative posts. I say that these men should be encouraged to take charge of local affairs and fill the top administrative posts.

Mr. BRANCKER: As no other honourable member desires to add his quota to this debate I should like to say in reply that the question as it was framed by me asked that preference for these appointments be given to West Indians, particularly Barbadians, and not as the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph seemed to imply, that preference be given only to Barbadians. It is a question of giving preference to West Indians as a whole. The honourable member has argued that in the case of the appointment of the Attorney General—I am not saying that I agree with the argument—that a local man is not the most suitable person for this post however eminent his forensic qualifications or however vast his experience may be. But there are other West Indians one of whom at least is a most distinguished legal scholar and, in my view, he should have received this appointment in preference to this gentleman from the United Kingdom. We must face facts; there are countries which were formerly dependent on the Crown but which have now secured dominion status and their independence, and it follows that officials who were formerly employed in these countries will be no longer employed in such countries; so that quite naturally the British Government is trying to find somewhere to place these gentlemen rather than put them on the pension roll of the United Kingdom. If a colony will definitely take this or that official, so much the better it will be for the taxpayer in the United Kingdom. As a matter of fact, there is no difficulty at all in securing officials for any staff because there are these unemployed gentlemen in the United Kingdom who were formerly employed in Ceylon, India, Burma, Pakistan and such places which have secured their independence. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has mentioned a list of the names of people who have secured appointments in the legal service; he has mentioned Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Archer both of whom have secured appointments in Trinidad; Mr. Holder in British Guiana; Mr. Field in the Bahamas, Mr. Bancroft in British Honduras and Mr. Reece in Nigeria. With the possible exception of the post of Attorney General none of these have secured any key position. A magistracy in a country district in Trinidad is not much more than a magistracy in Barbados; it is by no means an outstanding position as compared with positions held by United Kingdom officials in this colony. 'A United Kingdom official would probably scorn a magistracy here; he would have to be broken down in health and sent here to enjoy the climate. The appointments mentioned by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph date back over a long period of years as compared with the long line of highly-placed administrative Officials from the United Kingdom here, officials with whom we had to be satisfied. They have been placed in the key positions in the colony; there is the Colonial Secretary, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, the Assistant to the Assistant Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Attorney General—a long line of administrative officials for whom, despite this expressed policy of the Colonial Office, in actual practice employment is still being found in preference to our people. I cannot believe that we could not find people equally capable if not more capable of filling posts in this colony than many of these United Kingdom officials who come to the colony. As I have already said, it is a question of giving preference to West Indians, but particularly Barbadians of course, in the matter of staffing the public services in British West Indian territories. I must confess that I was

discouraged when I read the reply to my second query: "It is already the policy of the Colonial Office to develop to the full opportunities for West Indians to staff the public services in British West Indian territories," having regard to how that policy is apparently being carried out in Barbados to-day. Of course, the honourable member has referred to the recent appointment of a West Indian here, but that is not a key position. Our people are well qualified, they are on all-fours with the United Kingdom officials and yet we find that they are not given equal opportunity when it comes to making appointments in their own territories. There is no chance of a local man or a West Indian securing any appointment in the service of the United Kingdom. I know that I will be reminded of Sir Frank Newsam, C.B.E., and one remembers that he is a West Indian; that is one case which comes to one's mind whenever one discusses the subject of the interchange of officials. I am not suggesting that we can relieve our unemployment problem by sending a considerable number of our officials to staff the public services in the United Kingdom; in so far as we are concerned there is no opening for us in the public services in the United Kingdom. Therefore the openings in the public services in the West Indies should be filled by British West Indians who have proper training irrespective of class or colour and simply on the ground of merit. We will find it much harder to build up a real West Indian federation if we have to rely all the time on having important posts in the West Indies dominated by United Kingdom officials. When we have West Indian officials filling the important posts in the public services in British West Indian territories with an interchange of officials in the various colonies, the more firmly will we be establishing a West Indian outlook and making our federation plans not merely a question of putting something on the Statute Book but something which will be established in the West Indian public services starting from the Heads down that West Indians are filling important posts and the great majority of the posts in the services in these colonies. The occasions must be very rare when it will not be found possible to find a suitably qualified West Indian for any post in the West Indies. If we cannot find a suitable man after having searched the West Indies, then let us turn our attention to an imported official and give a hearty welcome to the one whom the Secretary of State for the Colonies may be able to recommend. As the Governor of Trinidad has said, let us hesitate long and search our consciences hard before we go outside the West Indies to fill any important post in the public services in these territories. I think I have covered the ground as fully as I might do so and I now remind the House for the last time that my question asked that preference for appointments in the local Civil Service be given to British West Indians as a whole and not be confined only to Barbadians. I think that the majority of honourable members will agree that it is wise to bring this matter forcibly to the attention of the Government more so as the Government said that they had no information on the subject of the issue of this circular by the Governor of Trinidad apart from what they have obtained from Press reports. I trust that since that reply has been laid on the Table of the House, the Government have seen fit to obtain from Trinidad official confirmation of these Press reports which I have no reason to doubt, and they have got information as to why it was necessary———

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but the time has now come for the consideration of Private Members' Business.

Mr. BRANCKER: If Your Honour will give me a minute—

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that there cannot be any further discussion on the matter now.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B)

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (b) so as to resume Government Business. I should like to deal with the Resolution to meet the cost of an investigation relative to the proposal to construct and operate a deep water harbour, the Bill to advance loans and pay travelling allowances to public officers and the Resolution to approve the rate payable to the producer and the rate payable to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board on fancy molasses produced during the crop year 1947-48. I ask honourable members to agree to the suspension of the Rule.

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

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, MAPP, COX, FOSTER, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, GARNER, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD and MOTTLEY—14.

Noes: Messrs. BRANCKER, CRAWFORD and HAYNES—3.

Mr. SPEAKER: When Government Business was last being considered, the House was in Committee of Supply.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committtee of Supply, Mr. MAPP being in the Chair.

COST OF INVESTIGATION RE CONSTRUCTION OF A DEEP WATER HARBOUR

Mr. ADAMS: I propose to deal with Resolution No. 6. This is a 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. As honourable members will see from the addendum to the Resolution, the Report of the Consulting Engineers who are preparing a scheme for the construction of a deep water harbour is not yet to hand. The Report is expected shortly and it is on the assumption that the scheme will be generally accepted that the Executive is asking for this money I want to point out to honourable members that they have got to face the fact that it is likely as far as we can guess from informal and quite unofficial statements which are supposed to have been made by Mr. Lawson who was out here, that the scheme will cost three million pounds. It is therefore very essential that we get somebody who can help us where the expending of this money is concerned. After all, even in rich Barbados the sum of three million pounds is a lot of money and it is absolutely necessary that we should have somebody to assist us especially where revenue is concerned. We need very special advice in this matter of possible revenue seeing that we are likely to spend at least three million pounds. For that reason I hope that honourable members will see

how necessary it is to have a first-class man to give this advice. I am not asking honourable members to accept this information as being official: I am merely saying that in one direction we might have to spend three or three and one-half million pounds and the Government will probably recover an amount of land which would be in the vicinity of one hundred acres. That would be a very valuable return for the expenditure of this money. Inasmuch as we are spending this large amount of money I think hon. members will agree that it is essential to have this man to guide us aright even although we are accused of rushing to bring out experts. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. GALE: I beg to support this Resolution. This harbour scheme is necessary for Barbados and I feel sure that it will be a great boon to shipping in this colony. It will attract direction to this colony and it will provide employment for a very large number of our people. (Hear, hear). We do not want to waste any time going into the merits or demerits of a deep water harbour for this colony; all that has been gone into already. I feel sure that the House will pass this Resolution to-day.

Mr. WILKINSON: I, too, wish to support this Resolution. I quite agree that we cannot properly go into this harbour scheme unless we consider the economic position. We cannot go into details until we have this Report and consider the economic aspects of the scheme. It is essential to have these things otherwise we cannot really consider what we should decide.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I need hardly remind honourable members that I am wholeheartedly in support of the proposal to construct a deep water harbour here and until I see evidence to the contrary I propose to stick to that conviction. I supported a Resolution earlier in the session for bringing out an expert to make a survey of the possibilities of constructing this harbour. To-day we are asked to vote £1,250 for the purpose of bringing out another expert to examine the economic aspects of this deep water harbour and I think we are really making fun. We had a harbour engineer with proper qualifications to come out here and report on the possibilities of constructing this harbour: we expect his Report and now we are asked to spend another £1,250 to bring out another expert to examine the economic aspects of the scheme! Let us see what this phraseology actually means. If we have to spend this money this person will come and tell us whether or not the proposed scheme is an economic proposition. No expert from London or Timbuktu will have any knowledge in this connection that local people have not got. This is unnecessary expense. The expert who comes here will interview the Chamber of Commerce, the Harbour Authorities and the Steamship Agencies so as to get the necessary statistics and prepare his Report: and do you mean to tell me that we have nobody in this colony capable of doing that? I quite agree that when it was a question of preparing a scheme for the construction of a deep water harbour we had to bring out a man; but this is now a question of accumulating a few figures, getting the necessary data, finding out how many ships come here every year, the tonnage and all the relevant figures. Any clerk in Bridgetown should be able to do that. It is true that when it comes to detailed knowledge as to the administration of the harbour, that is a question on which we need expert advice; but, after all, we are not making Bridgetown, Liverpool or Hamburg or Alexandria. The volume of shipping which will come here will not necessarily be increased to any great extent because we have a deep water harbour. We might get more shipping but it does not appear to me that we are justified in bringing out an expert here merely to tell us whether or not it is an economic proposition to have a deep water harbour in Bridgetown. I have no recollection of the Trinidad Government, for instance, taking this step when it was proposed to construct a deep water harbour in Port-of-Spain. They had the same firm of engineers to construct their harbour; Mr. Lawson went down there and the local harbour authorities presumably with the assistance of the commercial bodies concerned, investigated the economic aspects of the matter. Paragraph 2 of the addendum says this: "Enquiries have been made through the Secretary of State and it is understood that there should be no difficulty in finding a suitable person to advise on these questions." We all know that there are suitable persons available for these special holiday trips to the West Indies. For the last three years we could not find a man for a junior post in the Department of Highways and Transport, but whenever it comes to giving some official and his family a vacation trip to the West Indies you can always find a suitable man. I do not think it is absolutely essential for us to spend this money; I am second to nobody in this island in my desire to see a proper deep water harbour constructed here if it is a practical proposition. When it comes to a question of conducting an enquiry into the scientific possibilities of the scheme I am quite willing to agree to the proposed expenditure; but I certainly do not think, although I am 100% behind the scheme, that we are justified in spending this money merely to get results which, in my opinion, it is comparatively easy to get here. When this expert comes here, he has to get every bit of information he wants locally. I do not believe that we could not get somebody locally to correlate all the available data: I am sure that there are quite a few capable people in this colony, people who are unemployed and who could prepare the report which this Resolution envisages. I am of the opinion that when it comes to the administration of the harbour itself, we shall have to bring out an expert for a few years; we shall need some proper qualified official to take charge of the port and he should have a detailed knowledge so as to administer the harbour properly. I think the Secretary of State for the Colonies must really chuckle when we admit our incompetence to this extent. This is not a question of detailed, scientific knowledge or engineering ability beyond the scope of local people; there is no highly specialized knowledge necessary for the preparation of this report; I think we should first get the Report from the Consulting Engineers, and it is highly possible that this Report in itself might deal with the question of the administration of the harbour even in passing. I think we had better stop our initial expenditure at this juncture; let us get the Report in our hands and then if people feel that this step is necessary to be taken, let them go ahead with it. I, personally, do not see that this expenditure is justified at present.

Mr. MOTTLEY: There are some aspects about this Resolution which must be considered. It is true that some of us view this getting of experts on every matter as being not at all essential; but in this matter I feel that an adviser on economics is very essential more especially in connection with a new venture such as this. Let me say this at the outset; I see it stated in the addendum that action should be taken relative to the appointment of a qualified person to examine the economic aspects of the scheme, and I hope it does not mean that this expert is expected to tell us whether a deep water harbour is a paying concern or not. If that is the idea behind it, that would be purely an idea to wreck the scheme. I hope that

nobody expects any sort of expert to be able to say whether this scheme can be a paying concern or not. My point is this; it is necessary to have a deep water harbour here whether it is a paying concern or not. There are those of us who still remember when the Chamber of Commerce discussed this matter in 1932; I remember that the late Col. Bowring and Mr. Inniss stood out for this harbour scheme. I suppose it was felt in those days that if we had embarked upon a scheme of this sort, there would have been the question raised about the unemployment of quite a number of waterfront workers. We are bound to face facts and we might as well face them now. We have heard about the possibility of reclaiming about 100 acres of land if this harbour is constructed and we know that there must be some recommendations from the point of view of financing this scheme. It is true that information must be collected in the colony but that is going to take some time and the question of the control of the warehouses must be gone into. With 100 acres of land reclaimed after the construction of the deep water harbour there will be the big question as to whether the warehouses should be the property of the Government after spending this three million pounds, or whether they will be controlled by businessmen. That is going to be a big issue and I feel that that in itself is a question on which an expert is needed. I do not know that a local person would be courageous enough to say with this 100 acres reclaimed, and new bonds erected whether these bonds should be the property of the Government or not. I have listened very carefully to the honourable senior member for St. Philip and at first I thought this expenditure was unnecessary; but on reflection, I say I am convinced that in this particular matter we should have somebody to go into it. I repeat that this is a matter in which I do not think it would be very safe to trust merely the recommendation of local people. Besides the financing of this scheme and the recommendations for the administration of the harbour, there is a lot which must be gone into, and I feel that this Resolution should be passed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to say that I should be very surprised to see the honourable senior member for the City supporting in this Chamber legislation which would authorise the Government to own and control the warehouses or otherwise merely because some commissioner came down here and said that that should be done. I submit that there would be quite a lot of considerations which would finally influence the honourable member's decision, chief among them being what his constituents want in the matter, not what a commissioner or expert from England suggests should be done. If what the honourable member says is the only ground on which he is supporting this Resolution I think it is a very weak ground. I repeat that I am in agreement that we should have a deep water harbour, but I also re-emphasize my conviction that this present expenditure is unjustified. I do no more than register my conviction. I make no motion lest it be misunderstood; but if we are minded to fritter away the money which is in the Treasury in this fashion when there are so many other pressing things to be done with it, and when there are so many people who are deserving that money should be spent on them—if we are minded to do this, it is a question for honourable members to decide.

Mr. MOTTLEY: My voting might surprise a lot of people on different occasions. I think that we are aware that the Engineers' Report will be favourable in connection with the construction of this deep water harbour. The next step it to get advice as to the financing of the scheme, and how many people in the Executive can tell you about doing that? They cannot even finance their own business. If you go to the Chamber of Commerce I do not see what they can tell you. I feel very strongly in this matter; with 100 acres of land being reclaimed there will be questions raised as to leasehold and freehold and whether you will have to carry your warehouse farther from or nearer to the wharves. Only a blind person could not observe that these questions will have to be discussed, the most important being the reclaiming of this land, getting the warehouses erected in relation to the wharves and whether they will be under the control of the Government or not. While my voting may depend upon what my constituents want, it might surprise some people at some times.

Mr. ADAMS: I just want to explain that Mr. Lawson has not yet reported to his firm and when that is done the firm will pass on the Report to the Colonial Office or the Crown Agents. Before Mr. Lawson left here he said that it is likely that the scheme which he might recommend might cost three or three and one-half million pounds. He considered two sites and mentioned that this acreage will be reclaimed but nothing official has been done. I repeat that the Report has not yet been obtained and the local Government has no official information as yet. In reply to the honourable senior member for St. Philip I say that the Government has considered all these things and has put its views to the Colonial Office. We have got to remember that if we are going in for an expenditure of three and one half million pounds, the Colonial Office has to O-Kay it and in this case they are not persuaded by the reasons suggested that we should get local people to give such advice as they can give. Both the Government and the Colonial Office considered that there were important advantages to be gained by getting somebody with special knowledge from outside: All these things were put up to the Colonial Office and they agreed with them and that is why they were done. It is not to be supposed for a moment that the questions raised by the hon. senior member for St. Philip were not considered by the Head of the Administration and by the Colonial Office before we, in the Executive Committee, decided that the course which has been taken was the better one to take.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I just want to clear the atmosphere and to say that I do not agree with the hon. senior member for the City that the policy under which these warehouses will be run is a question for any commissioner to decide. That, in my opinion, is a question for the Government; they will have to decide whether or not they are going to own the land and the warehouses or lease the land and the warehouses. No commissioner can dictate or advise on this question and expect to have his advice followed. It is pre-eminently a question for the Government which is in control of the country to decide.

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

The Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Mr. TALMA the CHAIRMAN reported the pasisng of one Resolution in Committee and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PUBLIC OFFICERS LOAN AND TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Governor-in-Executive Committee to advance loans and pay travelling allowances to public officers required to travel for the due performance of their duties.

Mr. TALMA: This Bill seeks to remedy a long-felt grievance suffered by Government employees through the receipt of small salaries in many cases and having regard to the cost of motor cars to-day. I refer to Government employees who, by virtue of their duties, are called upon to travel. This Bill, which received the assistance of the Whitley Council as far back as January, 1947, provides for the making of loans and the payment of travelling allowances to officers required to provide means of transport for the due performance of their duties. The amount, terms, and conditions of repayment of such loans, the rates and conditions of repayment of travelling allowances, and the officers to whom the provisions of the Bill will be applicable may be prescribed by Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and laid before both Houses of the Legislature. I hope that this Bill will be passed this afternoon so that a long-felt grievance or hardship suffered by officers who are called upon to travel will be removed once and for all. In the first Schedule of the Bill an alteration has been made whereby no differentiation will be made between an officer, who is in the higher bracket and who receives an amount not exceeding £350 by way of a loan for purchasing a car, and an officer who is in the lower bracket; because in order to secure a car which will stand up to what is required of it, the officer will have to purchase a proper car. The term for the repayment of loans has been increased from three to five years and certain officers have been included in the first Schedule which will be gone into as the House go into Committee on the Bill. This Bill has received the full sanction of the Whitley Council, an Association which knows all the grievances and troubles and aspirations of members of the Government service. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: What I feel about this Bill is that the principle does not go nearly as far as I would like it to go. As hon. members must observe, the Bill deals with a number of big Heads of Departments and apart from the humble people like the road overseers, one does not see that sufficient consideration has been given to the poorer paid members of the Governmnt service whose duties require them to have some vehicle for travelling. For instance, the average postman cannot do his work without the use of a vehicle and I think that provision should have been made to assist subordinate officers in the Government service to purchase bicycles just is it has been made for the Heads of Departments to purchase motor cars. I have looked in vain for such a comprehensive principle. If there are people whose duties require them to have some transport and their salary scale does not put them in line for motor transport, then provision should be made for giving them bicycles. I repeat; however humble the office of these people might be, there should be a means of helping them to purchase their bicycles just as the higher paid officers are assisted to purchase their cars. In my opinion this Bill should be made so comprehensive that any member of the public service of this island whose duty requires him to have some form of transport, should be assisted in paying for that form of transport whether it be a motor car, motor cycle or bicycle, having regard to the type of vehicle which he would normally try to purchase and which he would not be able to purchase without assistance. He should be assisted in the purchase of his vehicle just as these officials mentioned in the first Schedule are to be assisted in purchasing their vehicles. I commend this point of view to the attention of the Government in order that this Bill might help everybody and not merely those persons who are mentioned in the Schedule. Anybody in the public service of this island who requires some form of transport so as to perform his duty and is unable to buy it cash, should be assisted by the Government to purchase it and be not obligated to obtain a loan from some private individual for that purpose. Unless we have the assurance that another Bill will be introduced so as to deal with these employees who are in the lower scale, who are in the category of travelling by bicycles, I think that they should be included in this Bill.

Mr. COX: This is one of those Bills for which the Government must be highly commended in bringing before this House even although, as the hon. junior member for St. Lucy says, it is not as comprehensive as it should be. This bill brings relief to many people who find it difficult at times to purchase vehicles for carrying out their daily duties. Like the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, I feel that some provision should be made for people in the lower brackets to own their vehicles. In the case of officials who are in the higher brackets the greatest consideration has been given to them, but those in the lower brackets are hardly remembered. I quite agree that assistance along this line should be given to each and every individual in the service of the Government, who is performing dutes like those of postmen and others. In so far as this Bill is concerned, it has to be remembered that there are people in the employ of the Government who are asked to go around day in and day out and they find it difficult to obtain vehicles; they have to credit them at 6 per cent interest and so forth. As far as I can see, there is no interest payable on loans under this Bill and I am glad that the Government is lending this money to its employees free of interest. This is a very good Bill indeed although I would like the hon. senior member for Christ Church to try and insert some amendment whereby the people in the lower brackets will also be assisted in this way.

Mr. MAPP: The principle of this Bill must commend itself to hon. members. I see in the "Objects and Reasons" that the Bill is the result of a recommendation of the Whitley Council which is a very responsible Body, but I cannot imagine the reason why people like postmen and others have been left out. (A MEMBER: This is for the purchase of motor cars). A motor car is not the only means of transport. I repeat that the Whitley Council is a very responsible Body of people and there must have been some shortcoming on the part of those who have not made any protest. I do not know whether the Whitley Council is unmindful of its subordinates, I do not know whether there has been an oversight on their part or what. I am surprised to see that people like the postmen have been left out. Of course the Schedule can be added to, and I hope that the members of the Executive will make strong representations on behalf of those subordinate employees who have to use bicycles and who may not have the

capital with which to buy the bicycles. When we were considering the Estimates I questioned the allowance of 5/- or 6/- a month which is given to postmen and my feeling in this matter is that you are either making provision for a man who has to provide himself with a means of transport or you are not. If that provison is not going to be adequate you had better not make any at all. It has been suggested that postmen should have Government bicycles but the other people have not got Government cars; they have private cars which the Government has helped them to buy and the same principle shou'd be employed in the case of the postmen. It is time that we stop treating workers in one section as being inferior to those in another section; all workers are entitled to due consideration, and if you help one class of people to buy their means of transport you should also help another class of people to buy their means of transport. The staff side of the Whitley Council does not have a reputation for ignoring the claims of the subordinates, at least that was not so when I was there.

Mr. CRAWFORD : I think the point taken by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has a lot to commend it. The assistance which it is proposed to give in this Bill is obtained in the neighbouring West Indian colonies and therefore it may be regarded as being overdue here. It has been admitted that this Bill is the result of a recommendation made by the Whitley Council and as the Whitley Council is the mouthpiece of the Civil Service Association, it is to be assumed that the recommendation was satisfactory to the majority of the civil servants. It does appear, however, that the subordinate employees in the Government service are lacking in proper representation on the Whitley Council; because on more than one occasion important Bills have come before this Chamber and proper provision was not made for giving assistance to subordinate employees as was given to employees in the higher brackets of the Government service. Honourable members will remember that the Pension Bill which we passed earlier this session omitted to pay attention to some of the subordinate employees in the Government service. It does appear therefore, that the Whitley Council as at present constituted, does not pay sufficient attention to representing the subordinate employees and when it makes these errors by default, it is well and good that there should be somebody to call due attention to the fact. I do not think that any harm can be done if we postpone further consideration of this Bill for a week in order that the Schedule may be revised and those employees to whom reference has been made, be included in it. Sir, it should be obvious to everybody that these employees are really more in need of assistance than many of those who are provided for in the Bill, those whose emoluments are higher and their credit in Bridgetown is infinitely better. Should not consideration therefore be given to extending assistance of this sort to these subordinate emp'oyees? I think, Sir, that we should begin from the bottom and go up rather than begin from the top and stop half way or three quarters of the way down. I beg to move that further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second that. I feel that while this is a very good Bill yet something has been left out. I expect that the consideration of this Bill will be postponed and there is one hint which I would like to throw out to the Government. It is this: the amount of profit made on the sale of motor cars nowadays is tremendous and I am wondering if the Government has made any particular arrangement with any one firm for the purchase of these cars. We cannot afford to take money out of the Treasury and give these people to buy cars and then the agents for these cars make a big profit out of the Government. Everybody knows that big profits are being made on the sale of cars nowadays. I quite agree that these people should be assisted in purchasing cars but the Government must fix a ceiling price for these cars. They must see that some arrangement is made whereby a part of the profits will be passed on to the Government. I know that some people will take advantage of this scheme and it is well that the Government make a step in this direction.

Mr. ADAMS: Before the question is put, I should like to say that no member of the Government would object to postponing consideration of any matter on which there may be some grievance. But I should like to ask honourable members, who apparently have been criticising the Government, this question; when a representative body is asked to work out a scheme and the Government agrees on whatever scheme that representative body has worked out, what more can it do? I understand that in so far as the postmen are concerned there is a pool from which they borrow money if they want to buy bicycles. That might be the explanation as to why it was not recommended that they be included in the Schedule. If honourable members would like the matter further considered by the Whitley Council, we do not want to oppose that; but I merely ask if, for instance, the Teachers' Association is asked to make a recommendation to the Government and the Government puts it before the House must the Government then be told that teachers' wives have been forgotten? Is it not to be taken for granted that they were not put in because the Teachers' Association did not want them put in? I agree with the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. Philip that the Government should consider putting a ceiling price on these cars: because it is almost a temptation to a firm selling cars to push up the price as soon as a civil servant comes along. That is a point which shou'd be considered.

The question that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The further consideration of the Bill was postponed.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to proceed with Order No 22 as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

ORDER DISCONTINUED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the day therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church:— To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) Order, 1948," made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under the provisions of sections 3 (1) (c) and 4 (3) of the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) Act, 1947 (1947-13).

Mr. TALMA: This is the usual Resolution which comes before the House every year. It is a Resolution whereby an equitable arrangement is made among

the producers of fancy molasses, the growers of sugar cane and the manufacturers of sugar. The matter receives the expert attention of the Director of Agriculture and is worked out by the Fancy Molasses Board (A MEMBER: This is not the Resolution dealing with Fancy Molasses). I ask leave to discontinue the consideration of this Order.

There being no objection leave was granted the hon. member to discontinue the consideration of the Order.

FANCY MOLASSES PRODUCTION RATES.

Mr. TALMA: I ask leave that Order No. 31 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

There being no objection, the honorable member was granted leave to proceed with the Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day now stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the rate payable to the producer and the rate of tax payable to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board on fancy molasses produced during the crop year 1947-48 fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board in accordance with the provisions of regulations 5 and 6 of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Porduction and Export Regulations, 1938.

Mr. TALMA: This is the usual Resolution which is dealt with by the House every year. The figures set out in the Resolution are worked out by the Fancy Molasses Board under the Chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture. As I have mentioned, this Resolution comes up for consideration by the House each year and it is a means whereby an equitable arrangement is made among the growers of sugar cane, the producers of fancy molasses and others engaged in the industry. The figures are worked out very carefully each year so that the industry as a whole might be protected and the rates are set out after careful consideration has been given to them. There are quite a lot of figures here, figures with which the planting element will be very familiar, and they deal with the value of a ton of sugar with special preference, the Canadian benefit and other matters with which the average producer of fancy molasses is already familiar. There is the question of the Canadian exchange and if any honourable member would like to understand the matter any clearer and would like to go through any complicated set of figures, these figures are all available. This is however a matter which, I am afraid, very few honourable members will thoroughly understand and any comment or any further explanation can be given by honourable members who are members of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board and who are conversant with the entire matter. I know that those honourable members will assist the Government in this intricate matter because the members of this Labour Government have not yet owned any plantation. With those remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: This is a matter which is of very great importance. As the honourable senior member for Christ Church has said, it is a matter which concerns the planting community. It will be noticed that a good many members of the planting community are not here this afternoon owing to their having to attend a funeral, and I am moving that this matter be postponed until next Tuesday when there will be a full House, or otherwise I shall move an amendment to the Resolution. I think it is fairly reasonable to ask that those honourable members who have something to say about this matter should be present when the matter is being discussed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion for the postponement has not been seconded and therefore I shall put the question. The question is that this Resolution do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

REVERSION TO PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not propose to proceed with any further Government Business. I understand that there is a matter under Private Members' Business with which honourable members would like to deal and we can now revert to Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member having intimated that he is not desirous of proceeding with any further Government Business, the House will now revert to Private Members' Business.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on the motion that this House adjourn for 5 minutes in order to consider that in the opinion of the House the failure of the Government to formulate and declare its policy with regard to the assistance it is prepared to afford new industries is disadvantageous to the best interest of the Island. I think that the honourable senior member for St. Philip has the right to speak now if he wants to do so.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I really wanted to deal with the Order with which we were dealing on the last occasion, namely, the Bill to authorise the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank to grant a gratuity to the legal personal representatives of Norman Lisle Roach, deceased.

Mr. SPEAKER: As soon as the consideration of Private Members' Business is resumed, the first Order of the Day under this Head is called and if an honourable member wants to proceed with another Order he has to move the suspension of Rule 60.

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER stated that it had been drawn to his attention that there are only eleven honourable members present in the House, and directed that the Bell be rung.

On the Bell being rung, a quorum was again obtained.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, Rule 60 is suspended to enable the honourable mover to take Order No. 73 under Private Members' Business.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK (ROACH GRATUITY) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order is to resume Committee on the Bill to authorize the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank to grant to the legal personal representatives of Norman Lisle Roach, deceased, a gratuity.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee on the Bill, Mr. Mapp being in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee debating this Bill, Clause 4 was under consideration.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I am not quite clear about this Bill and, therefore, I cannot vote for this Clause or at least for the Bill as it is. On the last occasion, the

further consideration of this Bill was postponed for the purpose of reconsidering the amount stated in the preamble, to be paid to the legal personal representatives of this gentleman who is dead. Well, Sir, I have not heard anything up to now as to the attitude which the senior member for St. Philip proposes to take up in the matter. I am thinking that before anything further is done we should be told what is the intention of the honourable member as regards the amount to be paid to these legal personal representatives. The preamble states that the late Norman Lisle Roach had been a Clerk in the service of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for seven years; that he died while in the service of the Bank and that the Bank was seeking authority to grant to his legal personal representatives from its funds a gratuity of an amount not exceeding one year's salary, namely, £450. This House has adopted the principle—I am sure that that principle was adopted when the senior member for St. Philip was a member of the Executive Committee—of granting one month's salary for every completed year of service. In this case, the question of departing from that principle was raised by the senior member for St. Peter and indeed the Bill would have been passed had it not been for the vigilance of that honourable member. The proposed departure from that principle having been drawn to our attention I agreed to the postponement of the further consideration of the Bill and was prepared to vote against the third reading if it reached that stage. Since 1946, the Government approved of that principle. Before that time, grants were made, whether the employee served for 10, 40 or 50 years, on the basis of one year's salary but members of this House, more especially the junior member for the City, fought relentlessly against that method and the Government eventually approved of the principle of granting one month's salary for each completed year of service. The House observed it in the case of their Official Reporter who retired about two years ago and only recently it observed it in the case of James Goring who was the porter at Queen's College. Why should we depart from that principle now? Honourable members on the other side of the table know that this is a departure from that principle and I am not going to support it even if I have to walk out and leave the House without a quorum. Goring who worked as a porter at Queen's College for years and other people who have laboured for the Government for many years at miserably low salaries had to be content with small sums based on that principle. Why should we go out of our way now to give the legal personal representatives of this gentleman something like £900 more than the amount to which they are entitled? It would not be done to an individual who might be more deserving. Only a short while ago, we voted a gratuity for an old agricultural labourer who had been working at Codrington for many years on the same basis of one month's wages for each completed year of service and we have done likewise in the case of others since that principle has been adopted. I am not going to be a party to making exception of any particular person and if this Bill is to be passed as it is, it will not be passed this afternoon because I will walk out of this Chamber leaving the House without a quorum.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank advised its Solicitors to prepare a Bill to grant the legal personal representatives of the late Mr. Roach a gratuity and those Solicitors have drafted this Bill along the lines laid down in Section 13 of the Pension Act of 1925. That is the position in which the Bank stands at the moment in regard to this matter.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman,—I have already said that I am not going to support this Bill and I do not intend to do so even though the honourable member has tried to explain it. I quite appreciate what has been said but at the same time I am not going to make bread of one and stone of the other. I did not see the honourable member or anybody else fight for the poor, unfortunate people as he is fighting for this gentleman's legal personal representatives and in spite of what may be said I am not going to support this Bill as long as it is contrary to the principle which has been adopted by this House,—the principle of granting one month's salary for each completed year of service which, I repeat, was adopted when the senior member for St. Philip was a member of the Government.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As a Director of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank I would like to say that I do not think this Bill could be worded more clearly than it is. The position is this. The late Mr. Roach was employed by the Bank and died in its service. The Bank would like to give his legal personal representatives a gratuity; it asked its Solicitors to prepare the necessary Bill for permission by the Legislature to do so and the Solicitors drafted this Bill, along the lines of Section 13 of the Pension Act of 1925. Mr. Roach was not in the Government Service. If he had been in the Government Service there would have been no question of coming to the Legislature to get an Act passed at all. The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act does not give any right to grant a gratuity, although it gives the right to give a pension. Whatever any honourable member may say, the law provides that a gratuity of an amount not exceeding one year's salary may be granted to the legal personal representatives. There has been some policy of the Government by which it grants one month's salary for each completed year of service, that is to say, if an employee put in 10 years' service, he receives the equivalent of 10 months' salary or if he put in 12 years' service he receives the equivalent of 12 months' salary. I cannot understand that. If an employee puts in 15 years' service, are you going to give him 15 months' salary when he retires? Until the Act is amended you can give the equivalent of only one year's pensionable emoluments.

Mr. COX: There is one point I want to make clear. Under the Act, this gentleman was not entitled to a pension because he served only seven years Why give him the maximum if he has only given seven years' service? I should like to see the Act amended so that all these persons who are entitled to gratuities can be treated alike.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not propose to answer the accusation that I am fighting for this particular clerk's legal personal representatives. When it comes to the underprivileged I have been fighting for them a long time; a good many will fight and go out and I shall be here to continue to fight for them. I quoted the Pension Act of 1925. The senior member for St. Michael referred to an amendment to the Pension Act recently passed by the House, presumably last year, and that amendment provides that an officer is entitled to a gratuity of an amount not exceeding his annual pensionable emoluments. Well if honourable members are going to quote legislation and do not remember exactly what that legislation is, I am not responsible for that. I merely want to say that this Bill was presented early in 1947. Mind you, Mr. Roach died in 1946 and I want to know how in the name of Heaven one is going to bring a Bill to the Legislature to give a gratuity to his legal personal representatives in terms which were not existing at

the time when one brings in the Bill. This Bill was prepared in 1946 before the Act was amended in 1947. Could it have been possible to have inserted words that are contained in the 1947 amending Act? After all, one would expect a certain amount of reasonableness to be shown by people who come to this House and deal with important matters before it. No sane person could expect that when the Solicitors were asked to draft a Bill to give a gratuity to the legal personal representatives of this gentleman, they could have drafted it under an Act which was not among the Laws of the island.

Mr. ADAMS: While I do not like the idea of members walking out of the House when issues are to be decided, yet if I were in the shoes of the senior member for St. Michael I would take the stand which he threatens to take if this Bill is to be passed as it is. I appeal to the senior member for St. Philip to further postpone this Bill and I promise him that as far as I am concerned I would see the Auditor General and the Colonial Secretary in the meantime because I am not going to take part in establishing a precedent which might comflict with what we have done on previous occasions. I cannot think off-hand of more than one person who did not come under the Pension Act and who died in the Service. We have been acting on the principle of one month's salary for each completed year of service in the case of persons who have retired or were not eligible for pensions. Not knowing off-hand the principle which the Executive has established in the case of representatives of people who were not eligible for pensions and died in the Service I would be justified in not voting for or against this Bill. I promise the honourable member that I will get the information and let us know where we are on Tuesday next when I shall be perfectly prepared to sit here as late as he likes and finish the Bill.

Mr. TALMA: This case is not on all fours with cases with which we have dealt in the past. It is not a case of one who has retired but is not eligible for a pension and who by virtue of some rule of thumb gets a gratuity based on one month's salary for each completed year of service; this is something which has been evolved around this table and is very unsatisfactory. The honourable senior member for St. Michael will say that the amount of gratuity computed on that basis for these legal personal representatives would be too little and that that principle, should be changed. If we are trying to change that principle, we are appearing to be acting very niggardly by reducing this amount which has been put forward by the Bank. The honourable member is saying that people like Goring should get more. If therefore we are going to make a change, let us start now. This case is specificially provided for under the Act and if the Bank thinks that this late employee is deserving of one year's salary as a gratuity I do not see how we can alter that; the Directors of the Bank are more conversant with the gentleman's services than we are.

Mr. COX: I cannot appreciate either the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip or those of the honourable senior member for Christ Church. The legal personal Representatives of this gentleman are entitled to $1,260 and we are giving them $2,160! It is all very well and good for the honourable senior member for Christ Church to say: "Let us create a precedent so that others can follow," but as the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said, it would be a dangerous precedent to create; it might only work in this particular case or in a similar case, but it might not work when it comes to people who really deserve greater assistance. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has referred to the 1947 amendment and suggested that we should pass this Bill as it is; but we are discussing this Bill in 1948 and the necessary amendment should be made to it in accordance with the amendment which we passed in this House in 1947.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Section 13 of the Pension Act of 1925 says this: .When a public officer who is not serving on promotion or agreement and who has served in the public service for not less than five years, dies while in the public service of the island, it shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to grant to the legal personal representatives a gratuity of an amount not exceeding one year's pensionable emoluments." Then Sub-section 1 of Section 2 of the Act says: "For the purposes of this Act, 'public officer' includes every person, lay or ecclesiastical who receives the salary or allowance attached to his office from the Public Treasury." This gentleman did not receive his salary from the Public Treasury and therefore he was not a public officer. Consequently, his legal personal representatives are not eligible for this gratuity.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The honourable junior member for St. John misunderstands the whole position. Legislation has been enacted for the establishment of this Board and it is set out what the Board shall do. Under the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, the Bank cannot grant this gratuity and therefore it has to come to the House and ask for permission to do it. Something should be done in connection with the present existing Statute; if something is going wrong, it is not the fault of the Board. The honourable junior member for St. John should appreciate the fact that we are only dealing with a principle and what is the principle? You appoint a Board which is now asking you to grant this gratuity because the Board could not do it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I have no special concern in this matter either in one way or the other; I have been asked to introduce this Bill as a member of the Bank. If Mr. Roach has served the Bank and his widow or his family is entitled to some sort of gratuity, justice demands that is should be given in the same way as a porter's or a gardener's widow would get a gratuity. I do not propose to answer the second childish argument that because Mr. Roach was not a public servant he was not entitled to a gratuity at all. I did not say that Mr. Roach was a public servant but the Bank is using the public Pension Act for the purpose of computing what it should pay a servant whom it considered to have been loyal and devoted in his service. When the Rip Van Winkles awake from their slumber they should awake long enough to listen to all that has been said. If it is the desire of the Committee that the matter be further postponed, by all means let it be postponed; but I feel that Mr. Roach died since 1946 and his family is entitled to some consideration by 1948. It is reasonable to assume that since Mr. Roach died his family might have made commitments on the ground that they could reasonably expect to receive a gratuity of an amount which the existing Pension Act permits them to receive. His widow might have borrowed money on the grounds that he was entitled to receive a certain amount. In this case, the solicitors could not do otherwise than draft the Bill along the lines of the existing Act; and if the matter is referred to the Colonial Secretary or the Attorney General, I am sure that neither of them can give any information other than what has been given.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not think that we should be asked to do something which is not according to precedent because whenever this House is asked to grant a gratuity, honourable members will be in a position to say that the House did so and so in 1948 and we should follow that. I do not think we should allow that situation to arise. I take it that the Committee agrees that an adjournment of the matter for a week longer cannot do any harm.

At this stage, the CHAIRMAN reports to Mr. SPEAKER that there was not a quorum present in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair and directed that the Bell be rung.

The Bell having been rung and no quorum having been formed, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House until Tuesday next, the 27th day of April, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.