

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 6th July, 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, Dr. J. A. LeV. WILSON, Messrs. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, R. G. MAPP, A. E. S. LEWIS, M. E. COX, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE and J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. CRAWFORD, SMITH, GARNER, and FOSTER enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting have not yet been printed and circulated.

PAPER LAID.

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

Statement showing sums advanced to the Colonial Postmaster for the payment of Money Orders up to the 31st May, 1948.

PETITION.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Vestry of the Parish of St. James praying the House to pass a Bill to authorize them to borrow a sum not exceeding £750 for the purpose of erecting and equipping a Dispensary for the said parish. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution to grant the sum of £379. 15. 8. to Messrs. P. C. S. Maffei and Co., Ltd.,

as a refund of the Customs import duty and package tax paid on imported woollen piece goods which were subsequently re-shipped to the U.S.A.

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

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. WILKINSON: A Bill to authorize the Vestry of the parish of St. James to raise a loan not exceeding £750 to erect and equip a Dispensary for the use of the residents of the said parish.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency the Governor

The House would like to place on record its profound aversion to the shooting down in British Guiana of unarmed sugar estate workers who were endeavouring to improve their wages and conditions of work.

The House desires to protest against the disregard of human life on the part of a Colonial Government and urges that a proper enquiry be conducted into the matter with a view to the meting out of adequate punishment to those found guilty of unwarranted or criminal action, irrespective of how highly placed they may be.

The House respectfully requests that steps be taken to have all Police Forces in the British Caribbean colonies equipped not only with lethal weapons but with other facilities for the dispersion of crowds or demonstrating workers who may be apt to become violent, or in any way disturb the peace.

The House further requests that Colonial Governments in the Caribbean be instructed that, in case of labour unrest, strikes or demonstrations by workers, lethal weapons should be used only as a last resort and after other means of dispersement have failed, and expresses the hope that the occasion under reference shall be the last in which workers in the British Caribbean are shot down while attempting to ameliorate their wages and conditions of work.

The House respectfully requests that a copy of this Address be transmitted to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

QUESTIONS.

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

1. Is Government aware that dissatisfaction exists among members of the Police Force in respect of their off-duty days?

2. Is it a fact that at the present time members of this Force are allowed only one day off out of eight instead of one off out of six as hitherto?

Mr. MOTTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

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

In view of the fact that over 100 children from the parish of St. John attend Second Grade Schools daily in the parish of St. Michael, often at great inconvenience, will the Government take steps to establish second grade school facilities in this parish with a minimum of delay?

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

1. Is the Government aware of the bad state of the roads in the Bay Tenantry?

2. Will the Government take steps to carry out some temporary repairs to these roads, pending the laying out of this area?

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

1. Is the Government aware that unskilled workers and casual labourers employed by the various parochial authorities throughout the island are invariably paid less than similar workers employed by the Central Government?

2. Will the Government take the necessary steps to ensure that these workers employed by the parochial authorities are paid at the same wage rates and under similar conditions as those employed by the Central Government?

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

Whether Government is aware of great difficulty experienced by peasant proprietors in this colony in obtaining stockfeed for their animals?

2. If answer to question above is "No", will Government immediately institute a rigid inquiry as to the present method of allocation and distribution locally of animal feed?

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

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

1. Has attention of Government been drawn to certain recent *ultra vires* actions of responsible members of the Traffic Branch of the Barbados Police Force?—

2. (a) In unlawfully refusing to entertain applications for motor omnibus drivers' licences from licensed drivers who are legally eligible for same, by insisting—as a prerequisite—that such applicants must obtain a motor omnibus for them to be tried out on?

(b) In unlawfully refusing to consider applications for licences for motor omnibus conductors on the ground that such applicant has not attained the age of twenty-one years, or on the ground that such applicant could not produce a letter from a Motor Omnibus Concessionaire undertaking to provide employment as a conductor for such applicant immediately on his securing a licence?

(c) In refusing during last month to re-view or re-issue a driver's licence for a driver whose licence has been suspended by the Assistant Court of Appeal, after the period of such suspension had expired?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. WILKINSON, seconded by Mr. S. A. WALCOTT, a Bill to authorize the Vestry of the parish of St. James to raise a loan not exceeding £750 to erect and equip a Dispensary for the use of the residents of the said parish is read a first time.

Mr. SYMONDS enters the House and takes his seat.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the honourable senior member for St. John (Dr. Wilson) be Chairman of Committee for to-day's sitting.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the honourable senior member for St. John be Chairman of Committees for to-day's sitting—

Dr. WILSON: I prefer not to serve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Smith) be Chairman of Committees.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for St. Joseph is not in the House.

Mr. ADAMS: He was in the precincts of the House a short while ago.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no use proposing him if he is not present in the House to accept or refuse the appointment.

Mr. SMITH re-enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the junior member for St. Joseph be appointed Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the session.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the junior member for St. Joseph be appointed Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the session is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

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

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

RENT OF WAREHOUSES.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman,—The first Resolution is for the sum of £3,000 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948—49 under Head VI. Customs, item 23, rent of warehouses. Under section 60 of the Rum Duty Act, 1906—6, rum is required to be warehoused in any spirit bond in the City of Bridgetown on payment of duty. All the space that has been provided by the Government for that purpose has been used on account of the fact that the rum trade has considerably increased in recent years. The object of this Resolution is to place this sum of £3,000 at the disposal of the Government to pay rent for premises which have been converted into spirit bonds to the satisfaction of the Comptroller of Customs and which have been certified by the Commissioner

of Police as not involving fire hazards. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think the honourable member who introduces this Resolution might give us a little more information. If my memory serves me correctly he mentioned, a few months ago when we were discussing some other Resolution, that it was the intention of the Government to rent a building at Kingsland for the purpose of storing rum. When we were considering the Estimates, there was an item under Head, Customs, in respect of the employment of a watchman at Kingsland. I enquired at the time whether arrangements had been completed with the proprietors of Kingsland because it seemed to me peculiar that we were making provision in the Estimates for a certain sum of money to employ a watchman for a place which we did not know had been rented. Perhaps, the honourable member will now give us the particulars, that is to say, whether it is proposed to rent the building at Kingsland as a warehouse for the storage of rum. I have always maintained that it is inadvisable to have too many warehouses in the heart of the City and honourable members will remember that on several occasions I brought that matter up in this House. I am convinced that it is undesirable that rum should be stored in too many buildings in the City and if more warehouse accommodation is needed I agree that the Government should secure a big warehouse or warehouses which are approved by the Comptroller of Customs and are isolated as much as possible from any other building. I have not visited Kingsland for years but if my memory serves me right I should imagine that it would be a very suitable place for this purpose, particularly now the factory is not working. I understand from the junior member for St. John, some months ago, that it was the intention of the Government to rent Kingsland and I would ask him whether this Resolution provides for the rent of Kingsland and, if so, for what period or whether the Government is entering into a lease of the property.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—For some years now, the Government has been finding it difficult to provide accommodation for the storage of rum, on account of the fact that the manufacture of rum and the trade in the export of rum have increased by leaps and bounds in recent years. It is my opinion, Sir, that the Government should not embark on any great expenditure in building large warehouses for the storage of this additional rum because there is no guarantee that the rum trade will continue as it is. At present, we have a boom in the rum trade because of the shortage of whisky, gin, and other liqueurs in other parts of the world and as a result rum is being imported into England and other countries in large quantities. As I have said, it is my opinion that if people want to avail themselves of this opportunity, they should find their own warehouses, suitable places which have been approved by the Government and are under the control of the Customs. I cannot see that the Government should be called upon to spend large sums of money in buying properties and converting them into warehouses or building warehouses for the storage of rum. If people want to engage in the rum trade and store rum so that it can mature and be of the proper standard for export, they should find their own warehouses and under the supervision of the Customs those warehouses could be run in a very efficient manner. That is, and has been,

my opinion, in respect of the storage of rum, for a long time.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is—

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr CHAIRMAN,—Sometime last year, I think it was, the Government appointed a Committee comprised of two members of the Chamber of Commerce, the honourable junior member for St. John and myself to go into the question of providing adequate storage space for rum. Then, as now, it was estimated that we should need accommodation for approximately 1,000,000 gallons of rum and we had space provided for less than half of that quantity. Now, that Committee submitted a report and recommended very strongly that the Government should take steps immediately to provide a building capable of holding this estimated quantity of rum. As a matter of fact, the Government has been offered one or two properties not far from the City—one at lower Cheapside called "Exmouth"—and also land for the purpose of building this warehouse but the Committee recommended that, in view of the fact that the Government owned a considerable area of land adjoining the Public Market in the vicinity known as the Reef, it should utilize its own land and start to build as quickly as possible in order to provide storage for the rum it is estimated we would be producing. Well, over a year has passed, and so far as I know, no steps have been taken by the Government to provide its own warehouse for the storage of rum. Instead, we are being asked to-day to vote £3,000 for the Government to rent warehouses at widely scattered points all over the island in which to store rum manufactured in this colony. From more than one point of view, this is a most highly unsatisfactory state of affairs. In the first place, it is almost impossible to keep proper control over these widely separated warehouses. As a matter of fact it is not generally known that a few Monday mornings ago, the door of one of these makeshift warehouses was found battered. The excuse has been advanced that it was done by a lorry being driven by a man who was not completely sober (Laughter) but people who live in the vicinity have expressed the opinion that there was more in it than that and I want to submit that if we utilize all of these inadequate warehouses all over the island for storing rum, we are going to wake up on a lot of Monday mornings to hear that some of the rum which has been stored therein is missing. Now, since this Committee reported and recommended to the Government to build its own warehouse for storing rum, the Government has already acquired, or negotiated for, the cowpen at Warrens in which to store rum, for the boiling house at Clifton, the boiling house at Bush Hall and the cowpen at Bannatyne. We already rent the boiling houses at Lemon Arbor, Waterford, Ridge, and Staple Grove. We are now trying to get accommodation at other places too. I am going to suggest, Sir, that we should not vote a single cent to-day for the purpose of renting any more of these boiling houses and cowpens. If we had started to build a proper warehouse for the Government, to be owned by the Government, we would be almost near completion now and the money which we are going to put into the hands of private people for renting their cowpens and warehouses would go towards the amortization of the capital expenditure or the cost of putting up the warehouse. We own the land already. The Committee went into the matter carefully, looked at the places that were offered to the Government, condemned them, visited the site at the Reef and made all the necessary suggestions to the Government in respect of the building of its own warehouse—annual expenditure, the time in which the

Government is likely to pay for the building if it constructed one and so on. I must say, Sir, that we really are laying ourselves open to the charge of being irresponsible. If we vote £3,000 to-day it will be put into the hands of the Executive Committee to enable the Government to run around and rent more of these buildings from its friends and pay enormous prices for them. As a matter of fact, the only people who benefit from these transactions are the people who own these buildings. Every cent in revenue from the rum goes back to the owners of these places for rent and it is not without significance that members of the Executive Committee are directly and indirectly interested in some of these places which the Government is renting to store rum. £3,000, Sir, is by no means a small sum of money and it is not a presentation of the real facts of the case to state, as the addendum to this Resolution states, that the revenue for the storage of rum will equate the expenditure. After all, we are looking forward to the manufacture of rum in this island for a sizeable portion of our revenue and if we are going to take the revenue we get from this rum and very generously put it back into the hands of people who are already in the rum business and who make a considerable amount of money out of it, we had better come to the conclusion that the manufacture of rum in Barbados is calculated to benefit only a certain few and nobody else. Apart from the aspects I have mentioned so far, there is the question of the almost complete impossibility for the Customs Authorities properly to supervise these widely separated boiling houses and cowpens. Report has been made to the Authorities that, at least in respect of one boiling house which we are using already, the watchman can never be found any night after 9 o'clock and because that was so widely known in the district the residents expect any morning to hear that the boiling house has been broken open. I want to hear from the junior member for St. John some explanation as to why the Government has completely ignored the report of the Committee and has not seen fit even to begin to implement its recommendations and I also want to hear from any member of the Government whether they think that it is in the best interests of the country or the rum trade to run all about Barbados and select indiscriminately from the friends of the Government who own boiling houses and what not, places in which to store rum. Furthermore, it will be recalled that even when we did advertise for proper places in which to store rum in bulk, we made it clear in the advertisement that those places were to be within the five-mile limit. In order to satisfy the Government's friends, they have forgotten the five-mile limit completely and so long as one of the friends of the Government has a boiling house or a cowpen which he wants to rent, if it is situated fifteen miles from Bridgetown it will be acquired. The five-mile limit no longer applies. I also want to find out why the necessity for the five-mile limit no longer exists. So far as I know, that proviso was never rescinded and people, naturally, who are not on friendly terms with the powers-that-be and who believe that they have more adequate accommodation within the five-mile limit cannot understand why they are overlooked and places outside the five-mile limit are utilized. There is going to be a lot more information asked for in this matter and rather than ask for too much at one time I am going to wait now on the replies to the questions which have, so far, been asked.

Mr. WARD entered the House while Mr. CRAWFORD was speaking and took his seat.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—This Resolution, to my mind, is one of the most pernicious Resolutions that has come from the Government within the last two years. Now, Sir, £3,000 for the rent of warehouses! It seems to me an extraordinary thing that the Government cannot run its business as a rational individual runs his business. A man starting life as a young man rents a house in which to live but as he goes along and accumulates a little of the world's wealth he immediately turns around and buys a house. Why? Because he realizes that during the past years he has only been subsidizing either his landlord or whomever the house which he was renting belongs. This Resolution would be entirely subsidizing all those people in Barbados who have some old ramshackled places and want to make some money out of them. A couple of meetings ago, the senior member for St. Philip sounded a note of warning in connection with the disaster which befell Castries and he claimed that it was time we put our house in order. Right in the centre of the City we have one of our biggest rum bonds and now is the chance for the Government to put on a proper footing, its policy in respect of this matter of finding accommodation for the storage of rum. I know that I shall be told that we cannot build a rum bond because the boom in the rum trade is temporary. I am very sceptical about that because, in my opinion, as long as cereals are in short supply rum will be wanted all over the world and that is going to be so far some years to come. The Government should either buy or build a proper building five miles from the City limit, as has been advertised, for the purpose of storing rum. Some years ago Mount Gay distillery went up in smoke but it did not affect anybody but the owners. We even had a warning a short while ago when a policeman who luckily was awake (Laughter) and doing his duty, pulled a burning object from the window of a bond in Broad Street. We have had all those warnings and on the top of them the Government comes here with this Resolution to perpetuate this farce. Another thing is this. We are always treated like children, as far as the giving of information about these matters is concerned and that has been a bone of contention since I have been in this House. Paragraph 4 of the addendum to the Resolution states "This Resolution is to provide funds for the rental of additional warehouses to provide the additional storage space to the 31st March, 1948." Now, Sir, unless that is a misprint, March 1948 has gone three or four months ago. We do not get enough information about these matters. The junior member for St. John merely read the Resolution and moved that it do now pass and it would appear as though we are not going to get any more information about this matter. It would appear as if this money has been already spent. Under these conditions, Sir, I think there is only one thing for us to do, that is, to reject this Resolution and let the Government formulate a policy in the matter of providing accommodation for the storage of rum, that is to say, let it build a bond house or buy a property for the purpose and even if the rum trade slumps, the building will replace all these half-rotten warehouses they have in the City. I beg to move that this Resolution be rejected.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do think that we are entitled to replies to our questions, otherwise we are going to vote against this Resolution.

Mr. WARD: I am not in agreement with the honourable senior member for St. Andrew because

if he were to read the Rum Duty Act he would see that the Government is supposed to furnish space for the storage of rum. Now, Sir, it has been a very long time now, since the rum dealers were telling the Government what the position as regards the rum trade is going to be in the future. For many years now, the Government knew that the rum trade would be increased and that it would be obliged to provide additional space for the storage of rum in Barbados, owing to the fact that the importers of rum were claiming that they wanted rum which was three years old. The Government charges rent for the use of these warehouses so that although the Government may be renting these warehouses it is not losing anything at all. It has been suggested that the Government should build its own modern warehouse or proper warehouses but I think the correct thing for the Government to do is to rent warehouses temporarily because none of us know how long this boom in the rum trade will last. I do not think it would be wise for the Government to spend a large sum of money in purchasing or building warehouses and then those buildings become white elephants on our hands (Cheers). At the same time we should do everything we can to encourage the expansion of the rum trade especially in view of the fact that the Government would be losing nothing by that expansion. Far from losing I am sure that the Government would get handsome returns by way of taxation and rent of warehouses. I feel that the Government is quite wise to rent every place available before it goes in for the heavy expenditure that would be entailed in the buying or building of warehouses, especially, I repeat, as no one knows how long this boom in the rum trade will last. I do not think there is much more for me to say but if honourable members have the interest of this country at heart, they would do all that is possible to have this Resolution passed. (Cheers).

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, — The reason why the Government is renting warehouses has been given by the senior member for St. Lucy. I will give honourable members the list of the warehouses that the Government is renting, inasmuch as somebody has undertaken to say that members of the Government are interested in the renting of these warehouses and I will also tell them the owners of the places that are being rented. We are renting one on the Wharf from Knights Ltd.; we are renting one in Hincks Street from Barbados Shipping and Trading Co. Ltd.; we are renting one in Bush Hall from Martin Doorly & Co., one at Waterford from T. Sydney Kinch, one at the Ridge from S. P. Musson, Son & Co. Ltd., one at Staple Grove from S. P. Musson, Son & Co. Ltd., and one at Lemon Arbor from S. P. Musson, Son & Co. Ltd. Two are being prepared for rent—one at Wakefield and the other at Lancaster belonging to the Renown Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Those are the names of the places which, and the owners from whom, the Government is renting.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but he has not told us whom Wakefield belongs to.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I thought I did. The Ridge, Staple Grove, Lemon Arbor, and Wakefield belong to Musson, Son & Co. Ltd. I happen, as one of the members of the Government, not to be a partner of any of these firms and, therefore, as far as I am concerned nothing comes to me from them. As I said, the senior member for St. Lucy has told the House the reason why the Government has not built or purchased a warehouse or warehouses, that

reason being that it does not know how long this boom in the rum trade will last.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to say that I compliment the Government on getting warehouses out of the City of Bridgetown and its immediate suburbs but what I would like the junior member for St. John to answer is this: It would appear as if some of these rum shippers are the persons who are renting the warehouses to the Government and what I would like to ask is this: Can any rum shipper use what seem to me to be virtually private rum bonds? For instance, S. P. Musson, Son and Co. Ltd. have now gone into the rum trade and I have heard that what is known as the "Big Six" has also taken it up because it is now a lucrative trade. Will the small rum shipper who cannot rent a warehouse be kept out of space or will he be allowed, now that the Government is renting these warehouses, to store his rum at Lancaster or at any of the other warehouses? I would also like to know if a proposition has ever been put up to the Government by rum shippers to build their own warehouse for storing rum and whether it has been turned down by the Government or Government officials. I am asking this question advisedly because I have been told by people in the rum trade that they have put up that proposition to the Government and the Government has turned it down. I understand that the Government has a different story to tell and I want it publicly told. Those are the questions I would like the junior member for St. John to answer, not only for my personal information but also in view of what has been said by the Chamber of Commerce and then watered down a bit by an ex-President of that organisation. What I would like members of this Government to know and realize is that they are being blamed for keeping back trade, for keeping people out of work and for preventing money from being put into the Treasury; that it is time they get up and take notice of what is stated in the Press and elsewhere and put their house in order because I am not going to be a party to it. I want to know whether the Government is to be blamed, whether it is keeping back this business or not. If that is not so, let it be publicly said that it is not so and if the newspapers can publish what is said at the Chamber of Commerce, let them publish what is said in this House.

Mr. BLACKMAN: So far as I know, there is no rum shipper who has put up any scheme to the Government for the building of any rum bond; at least, no proposal of that sort has been before the Executive Committee since I have been a member of it. Storage accommodation in warehouses that are rented by the Government is given to people by the Comptroller of Customs; he can have things stored in any of the warehouses that are rented by the Government. That is the view I take of the matter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am sorry that the junior member for St. John has not answered my colleague's question. My colleague asked whether a scheme has been put up to the Government and the question has not been answered. The honourable member says that as far as he knows, no scheme has been put up to the Government and I believe him sincerely when he says that he does not know. Everybody has seen the published statement in the newspapers that a deputation waited on the Government and put up a certain scheme. Either the honourable member is lying or he really does not know and I believe that he does not know. But we want to know whether it is so or not. My colleague has asked the members of the Government to make their position clear, in view of what has been published in the newspapers. When the junior member for St. John says that he does not know I believe that he was not present at the meeting of the Executive Committee—

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member but if the junior member for St. John tells you that as far as he knows, no scheme has been put up to the Government, do you want him to tell you something that he does not know?

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is very easy for him to know. What I am saying is this: I feel that after reading in the Press that this representation was made by such a responsible Body as the Chamber of Commerce, surely some reasonable explanation should be given to this House. The junior member for St. John, I repeat, says "as far as I know." Surely he can get the information and give it to the House.

Mr. ADAMS: When a member waits until the last moment to ask, from the floor of the House, a question, the answer to which may not be within the knowledge of the honourable member in charge of the particular measure, what good purpose does it serve for him or other members to shout at the top of his or their voices? Last night was the first time I heard from the junior member for the City that rum shippers are saying that a proposal was put up to the Government and it was turned down. I am sure that from the time I have been on the Executive Committee that has not happened and I call on the junior member for St. James who was on the Executive Committee before I was to say whether big shippers or small shippers of rum ever put up a proposal of that sort to the Government and the Government ever said "No; we are not accepting it". I do not agree with the Government merely collecting rent on each cask of rum that is stored in any of its warehouses; it should make more revenue out of this business. It is only since this tremendous increase has taken place in the rum trade and the Government cannot find accommodation for the storage of the additional quantity of rum, that people have been writing to the Government stating that they have a warehouse at such and such a place and asking whether the Government will approve of it. The Comptroller of Customs and the Commissioner of Police visit the place and if the former is satisfied that it is suited for the purpose and the latter is satisfied that there are no fire hazards, then it is approved for the storage of rum and the Government charges rent at the rate of 6/- on every cask of rum that is stored therein. This is a simple matter and it is nonsense to talk about the rejection of this Resolution. By law, accommodation for the storage of rum has to be provided but I am not giving any legal opinion at the present moment because it is a matter for the Crown Law Officers as to whether the law is to be interpreted to mean that the Government must provide that accommodation. But even if the Government must provide the accommodation, there is no law which says that the Government must build. It is a matter for the Government's judgment to decide whether it is going to erect a building which, if the rum trade slumps in three years' time, is going to be a magnificent white elephant, to use the words of the senior member for St. Lucy. If I am goaded I will give figures to show how certain people are making fantastic profits out of the rum trade, people who would not take the risk to build a warehouse that would be a white elephant if the trade slumps in three years' time but want the milch cow, the Government, to take it. I wish to say, in the most emphatic terms officially, that this Government has no intention whatever of helping any one man against another. If a man in the street has 50 casks of rum to be stored and he comes to the Government and says: "I have a warehouse at Government Hill, will you approve of it for the storing of rum?" and the Comptroller of Customs and the Commissioner of Police approve of it, that ware-

house will be accepted and that man will be granted permission to use that warehouse for the storage of rum. I want to state that emphatically because the feeling has gained ground that the little man is not being helped by the Government but that the Government is helping its friends—just what the senior member for St. Philip said and what I expected to hear. If an energetic businessman goes around, sees some unused plantation building, cares to rent it and then comes to the Government and tells it "I can get a warehouse at Wakefield or Lemon Arbor, will you approve of it? and if the Comptroller of Customs and the Commissioner of Police approve of it, automatically the Government says "Yes." Some of these so-called small men—they may have been small men 4 or 5 years ago—are elephants in the rum trade to-day, as far as their profits are concerned—in some cases \$30,000, in others \$50,000. I am repeating now what I have often said when I was not a member of the Government. It is this: We are making the mistake of not getting sufficient revenue out of the rum trade. I would not merely charge for storage to cover the cost of rent, watchman and so on but I would put on a tax on each gallon of rum, such as, I think, was put on in 1942. To say that the Government is helping its friends is most untrue. The junior member for St. John who is in charge of this Resolution has given the Committee the list of places and the owners of those places which the Government is renting and are being prepared for renting for the storage of the additional quantity of rum and I should like to say that accommodation is required for an estimated 1,084,000 gallons. I am glad that this debate has taken place. I am glad to hear the views of the senior member for St. Andrew—views which coincide with mine and which are to the effect that the Government should make more money out of this rum business; that is what I understand the honourable member to say. Those have been my views from the time I have been in this House and if an expression of opinion along those lines has been given from that side of the House, it will fortify the hands of the Government, just as the hands of the Government are to-day fortified by the expressions of opinion from the junior member for St. Michael and the senior member for St. Lucy respectively that it should rent rather than build or buy warehouses. Let me repeat that there is nothing to prevent any human being who has rum to store from coming to the Government and asking it to approve of a building which he has secured for the purpose. If you, Mr. Chairman,—forgive me for being personal—go into the rum business in a small way and you have an unused garage in which you want to store rum, so long as it meets with the approval of the Comptroller of Customs and the Commissioner of Police, the Government will accept it and allow you to store rum in it. I never thought that the Government would have been accused of widely separating these warehouses. I thought that would have been regarded as the safest policy to adopt. The question of renting Kingsland has been mentioned but I hope that that point would not be carried too far because I would have to say some things which some people would not be too pleased about. Personally I do not know and I do not think any of us know who owns Kingsland. I know that certain negotiations went on with Mr. Deane and subsequently a letter was received from Mr. K. R. Hunte. But whether Mr. Deane or Mr. Hunte or anybody else is the owner of Kingsland, it is a suitable place and the Government is of the opinion that the rent is reasonable.

Mr. LEWIS: In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, this method of collecting rent is the snag in this matter. The Government does not build distilleries to

distil rum; they control them. Call the bluff of these rum shippers. Come out in the open and tell them to build warehouses to the satisfaction of the Government and the Government can treat those warehouses as if they belong to it by telling the owners "you cannot go in unless we go in with you." I am not of the opinion that the Government should either build or rent warehouses. Let the Government, I repeat, call these people's bluff, tell them to build fireproof warehouses and it can make regulations for the management of them in the same way as it does at the very source of the making of the rum, that is, the distillery. I am expressing that opinion because I do not like the idea of the Government renting warehouses. Another thing is this. The Government rents warehouses and does not pay occupancy tax. If the Government makes these people rent the warehouses, it will find their friends selling the buildings to them in a documentary way; no occupancy tax is paid on them because the Government is renting them. That is one of the secrets of the whole matter. I know all these tricks. Let the Government provide a warehouse for little fellows like you, Mr. Chairman, and me if we go into this trade,—fellows who cannot stree more than 25 casks at a time but when people go in for it in a big way, tell them to build their own warehouses. When, however, the latter is done, the Government must not collect rent; it must not put on an export tax because that will only mean that the shippers would have to charge more and the bottom would drop out of the rum trade. Let them sell direct and undisturbed and if the Government has not the brains to take it away from them at the other end I will show its members how to do it. If these people are making profits, those profits should be taxed. If the Government believes that they are making a super amount of money, let it put on a super tax. Do not put on an export tax because it will kill the trade. Of course, if the Government knows nothing about super tax and excess profits tax and if all that it knows about is an export tax, then let it put it on. We want a system of public auditing so that business people cannot get away with murder and will not be able to hide profits and things of that kind.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The senior member for St. Joseph takes himself seriously, so, therefore, we have to take him seriously even when he is arguing against himself. He says that he has figures to show that a lot of the new-comers in the rum industry have made fortunes overnight; that they are making money quickly. We are not to try and get anything from them; we are to let them go on making this money. They rent warehouses and we get nothing at all from the warehouses and they make money both ways. The honourable member went on to say that under the law, the Government is compelled to provide warehouses; still he said that the rich would not build warehouses because they do not want to have white elephants on their hands.

Mr. ADAMS: If I used that expression I promptly correct it because I realize that that may give the impression that the Act says so. It says nothing of the sort; it puts it the other way about, that is, that people must store rum in places approved by the Government. I am not giving any legal opinion as to whether the Government must provide the storage or not.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We do not know whether the Government is to provide the storage accommodation or not but what we do know is that the rich would not do it because they do not want to have white

elephants on their hands. Now, the junior member for St. John, like a drowning man, got up and caught at the remarks of the senior member for St. Lucy who stated that we do not know how long the boom in the rum trade would last and who asked what is the use of building a building which is likely to be on your hands in four years' time? The senior member for St. Lucy is a manufacturer of rum and it suits him to-day to make a statement of that sort. But other manufacturers of rum who were on the Committee with the junior member for St. John and myself went into the matter thoroughly and we came to the conclusion that it would be in the Government's interest to build its own warehouses. It is very likely that the junior member for St. John has the report of the Committee in the file before him now and I would be glad if he would read it because this whole matter was gone into with people like Mr. Bryden who know it from beginning to end and have just as much experience about it as the senior member for St. Lucy has and they also know that although it is problematical whether whiskey will supplant rum in the next five or fifteen years, yet the conditions, at the moment and in the immediate future, are such as should make the Government come to no other conclusion than that it would be in the interest of the government of the country, the trade and the colony itself, to provide its own storage and to earn the revenue from the rum trade which those people in the rum business who, we have been told by the senior member for St. Joseph, are getting rich overnight, are earning and will continue to earn. I do not remember whether or not the Committee's report was ever published but I sincerely hope that the Government would make it available to the public now because it would answer a lot of the questions asked here to-day. Many of the points which are still within the realm of doubt were thoroughly investigated by the Committee and a final conclusion reached. To say that any of the smaller men in the rum trade could secure accommodation such as the bigger men secure is as far from the facts of the case as the North Pole is from the South Pole. That is the burden of complaint in Bridgetown, namely, that because a firm like Musson, Son & Co. Ltd., can spend £400 on a cowpen, they can get accommodation to store rum and the smaller people in the rum trade cannot get any. As a matter of fact, it is only because one of the persons who have recently gone into the rum trade has threatened to have one of the biggest scandals this colony has ever had that this step is now being taken by the Government, but all along the trouble has been that so long as the "Big Six" can get the storage accommodation they want, the small fellows must get along as they can. If the Government built its own warehouse, space would be provided for anybody who wants it and there would be no justification for the accusation that there is discrimination with regard to the providing of storage accommodation for people in the rum business. The remarks of the senior member for St. Joseph can be picked to pieces because he knows, as well as we all know, that none of the small grocers or shopkeepers in this country can get into the rum business. If they want to get into it, the manufacturers of the rum would not sell them the alcohol. It would be interesting to find out how much money has been spent on the rental of accommodation for the storage of rum during the years since we have had this boom in the rum trade. This £3,000 is for the rental of additional warehouses to provide the additional storage space to the 31st March, 1948; in other words, even if we vote this amount we are still in debt for April,

May and June and in another three months or six months or year we will be voting further sums of £3,000 each for this purpose—throwing money away, putting it into the hands of the people who are already getting rich in the rum trade, instead of building our own warehouse with it and providing work for people. Apparently, honourable members are going to vote this money to-day—I am not voting for it—but unless honourable members express clearly to the Government what they think about the matter, it will come back in the next six months' time for a further sum of £3,000 to pay for the rent of warehouses and would not have started yet to build its own warehouse. We would be hearing the old story: "We do not know how long the boom in the rum trade will last; therefore, we are not spending money to erect a warehouse." But even if the rum trade slumps and the Government has built its own warehouse, we need warehouse accommodation for other things and if the time came when there was not enough rum to be stored, we could store other articles in that warehouse. As it is now, we are throwing thousands of pounds of the taxpayers' money down the drain to no advantage and we are not even having a white elephant to show for it. We are simply putting more money in the hands of people who, we are told, are making handsome profits out of this rum business.

Mr. WARD: I am sorry to think that people should come to this House and make such reckless statements. There is no bluff to be called in this matter nor is there any enormous sums of money being made overnight. This £3,000 will be recovered; it is not being thrown away. There is no bluffing, I repeat, in the matter. If honourable members want to reject the Resolution it is a matter for them but they must speak truthfully and state the facts correctly if they know them. The cause of this boom in the rum trade is the black market which started in England. People who were in the know got in touch with importers, found out that they could make money out of this business and they did so. There is nothing wrong in that. No small man can get into that black market; a firm has to be big English buyers in order to get into it. I know an English buyer who used to buy hundreds of gallons of rum and he was shut down. Here it is we are selling rum to the English market at a certain price and that same colonial alcohol, as it is called, can be obtained by the buyers in England from Cuba at a cheaper price. Well, the exporters of rum knowing that the Government did not have accommodation to enable them to store rum for three years, naturally, as businessmen went ahead and tried to get storage accommodation themselves. I would like to know from the senior member for St. Joseph or the senior member for St. Philip the date when that meeting was held with Mr. Bryden and other gentlemen because this boom in the rum trade only started within the last 18 months. Mr. Bryden and the other gentlemen were correct at that time when they recommended to the Government to build its own warehouse but since then, Kingsland Factory has been closed down, Wakefield Factory has been closed down and these buildings became available for this purpose. In the days when the Committee sat, these buildings were not available. The Government would do nothing in the matter of providing the additional accommodation for the storage of rum and these businessmen went ahead themselves and secured the necessary space for the storage of their rum. I know that some of these export merchants paid a lot more for renting some of these buildings than the Government would pay.

Why? Because they were making money out of the black market. I will not unduly criticize the Government because I know that it is not in any way tied up in anything that is illegal.

The senior member for St. Philip said that no small man can get into this rum business. That is not true because I sell small men casks of rum and they take them to the Government Spirit Bond to be stored. The Government would not rent a building to lose money on the transaction when it knows that the people who store rum in that building are going to make money out of it. If one small man is not in a position financially to rent a building to store rum, let 8 of 9 small men get together and put up a reasonable proposition to the Government and I have not the slightest doubt that the Government would accede to their request. What I blame the Government for is this: The Government has been approached on more than one occasion by private individuals who asked to be allowed to build storehouses for the storage of rum but the Government said that they must collect the warehouse rent from those places and the persons refused. No individual would build a building at a cost of, say, £10,000 or £12,000 to get no profit on his money. I believe that what should be done is that the Act should be so amended that private individuals will be allowed to build their own warehouses for the storage of rum. You cannot expect an individual to spend £10,000 to build a warehouse for the storage of rum and then let Government collect the rent at the rate of 6/- per cask containing 64 gallons.

Mr. ADAMS: It is a matter for the junior member for St. John to reply to such points as have been raised and have not yet been replied to but as far as the accusation about the Government helping its friends is concerned, do honourable members forget that the Government put an advertisement in the local newspapers calling on people throughout the island who have suitable places to send in their applications?

I know that Dr. Saint tried his best to secure one or two places, and even the Acting Attorney General mentioned one or two persons whom we might approach. How can the Government, therefore, be accused of trying to help its friends? As I said, the junior member for St. John will deal more fully with some of the points that have been raised but I would just like to tell this Committee that a decision was arrived at at a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 24th July, 1947, when the senior member for St. Philip was a member of that Body, that decision being that, as a temporary measure, dealers in rum should be invited to rent suitable buildings to the Government for use as additional rum bonds. As a result of that decision, all these alleged amazing rentals have taken place.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable member may have also added that the Committee recommended in its report that the Government should start to build its own warehouse for storing rum. But the Government has not yet started to provide additional accommodation for storing rum. I also agreed to that and I am saying to-day that it should have been done. The senior member for St. Lucy said that he does not agree that the Government is losing money by renting warehouses and not building its own. I really cannot understand what he means by that. The Government is going to spend £3,000 on renting buildings; obviously, if the buildings were its own, it would not have to pay this money to anybody else. What the honourable mem-

ber fails to understand is that a lot of these cowpens are costing almost nothing to the people who are renting them. A man rents a building which holds 500 casks of rum at \$30.00 per month; he then rents it to the Government at \$60.00 per month and pays the owner \$30.00 per month. Is not the Government losing money while the man who is storing the rum in the building is making money both ways? He is making money on the actual renting of the building from the owner as well as he is making money on the rum he stores in it. That is the position. I sincerely hope that in fairness to what has been said earlier in this debate, the junior member for St. John will, in the first place, read that part of the report of the Committee recommending that the Government should provide its own warehouse for the storage of rum and, secondly, that the report of the Committee will be made public in the very near future.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—Before the junior member for St. John replies and although I may appear to be out of place, in that I am not supposed to be handling this portfolio, yet, Sir, I would like to say that I sat and listened very patiently to the remarks of previous speakers and although at the present moment I happen to be a member of the Government, yet I can only be a member of the Government by representing a particular parish of this island in this House. I heard the name of Kingsland mentioned and I can only say that I am gratified that the member who is handling this measure is leaving no stone unturned to see that Kingsland and Wakefield will be included in this Resolution which is being passed to-day,—a Resolution for £3,000 whereby additional storage capacity will be granted so as to facilitate the rum trade which is at present taking place in this island. No sane and sound member can be heard to say that the settled policy of the Government to provide accommodation for people in the rum trade is a wrong one. It has been argued, though unconvincingly, that small dealers have had difficulty in getting their rum stored and if I could be given full information and relative evidence to prove that the small rum dealers have been debarred the right to store their rum, then I certainly could not go along with the Government. However, this £3,000 has not yet been spent and could not have been spent unless the Auditor General is not doing his work. Everything must be done in a constitutional and legal manner. The senior member for St. Philip has forgotten that this Resolution was introduced on the 11th May, 1948; that does not mean that something in this respect was done before March, 1948.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of explanation. I read from the addendum to the Resolution which says:—"This Resolution is to provide funds for the rental of additional warehouses to provide the additional storage space to the 31st March, 1948."

Mr. ADAMS: "1948" is a misprint. If the honourable member would look at the back of the Resolution he would see that the Resolution was introduced by the junior member for St. John on the 11th May, 1948. Personally I feel very satisfied with the policy of the Government in renting buildings for the storage of rum and I thoroughly agree with the remarks of the senior member for St. Lucy whom I regard as an expert on matters of this nature. I think the House would be well advised to adopt the policy which he has suggested,

that is, to continue to rent as many warehouses as possible, so that the rum trade will be secured for this country in the next 4 to 5 years.

Mr. DOWDING: Unlike the senior member for St. Lucy I am not an expert on rum. I am a reasonable expert on milk. The senior member for St. Joseph referred to the Government as the poor milch cow and he gave me the impression that under the existing Act, that poor milch cow has to be milked by the various firms that make colossal profits—according to his statement—out of this rum. Now he is the chief herdsman and we as his co-herdsmen should not allow any circumstances to exist whereby the main bag can be invaded from outside and I should like to let him hear my opinion as regards this matter. There should be, as far as I am concerned, one of two things: either warehouses built by the Government and run completely by the Government or warehouses completely run by private individuals,—one or the other but not this present system of mixing both.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULES 61 (a) AND 61 (b).

On re-assembling,

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

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment for lunch the House was in Committee of Supply.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE *re* RENT OF WAREHOUSES.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply before the adjournment we were considering a Resolution for £3,000 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-49 under Head VI, Customs, Item 23, Rent of Warehouses.

Mr. WILKINSON: When we adjourned for lunch I was about to speak again. When I spoke on the first occasion I asked for an assurance that Kingsland would be included in the list of Rum Bonds. I asked the honourable junior member for St. John for a list of the places which the Government propose to rent. I understood the honourable member to say that Kingsland was under repair and the honourable senior member for Christ Church said that he was glad to hear that Kingsland was included in the list. So am I. All the places which the honourable junior member for St. John has read out have apparently been rented by large firms, and it seems to me that the small men will be excluded from them. The honourable junior member for St. Michael said that it would be very easy for four or five small men to get together and rent places for rum storage but unfortunately that has not happened. I would not like

to see the small men excluded from this business. I quite agree with the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that we should encourage this business; my only anxiety is that it should not be confined to a few exporters. I would like the honourable member to again assure me that some arrangement has been made whereby the small men will not be excluded. I understood whether rightly or wrongly that Kingsland is to be rented by the Government and not by any special firm. I do not know whether that information is correct or not and I would like an assurance in the matter.

Mr. BLACKMAN: As regards Kingsland, the Government has not yet finished its negotiations in connection with that place. The Government is in possession of the Spirit Bond at the Public Market and as regards the small bonds, the small men will be given the preference of them. The bigger men will be able to get their own bonds and the small men will be given preference in respect of the Government bonds. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has referred to a Report which was signed by himself and by me and he wanted to hear the first paragraph of that Report read.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I did not say that I wanted to hear the first paragraph read; I said that I wanted to hear the honourable member read the parts of the Report with reference to whether or not we thought that the rum boom would continue and the part about the Government building its own warehouse.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Well, there is nothing about any rum boom here. The first paragraph of the Report says that the Committee appointed to consider, in collaboration with a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, the Report of the Comptroller of Customs regarding the accommodation for the storing and bottling of rum recommended the erection of a bottling bond on the Reef land aback of the Police Post and the extension of the existing rum bond to accommodate 10,000 casks. That was the recommendation which was made and signed by the honourable senior member for St. Philip and myself on the 3rd of July, 1947. Then on the 14th of July the Architect and Planning Officer said that he did not consider the Reef land suitable for building purposes as it is scheduled as a public open space in the proposed Town Plan; and on the 24th of July the Executive Committee decided to invite people to rent suitable buildings to the Government for use as additional rum bonds on the understanding that they would have the first claim on the storage accommodation so provided. All that happened during the month of July, 1947, when the honourable senior member for St. Philip was a member of the Executive Committee. Therefore all that I know about the matter he should also know about it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: After all, the position is that you have to rent accommodation until you can build a warehouse and you cannot build that overnight. What I am complaining about is that they have not yet started to build any warehouse.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, LEWIS, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, GARNER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING,

GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD and Dr. CUMMINS—18.

Noes: Messrs. CRAWFORD and HAYNES—2.

The Resolution was passed.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE DONE TO MESSRS. DACOSTA & CO'S LAUNCH

Mr. TALMA: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of £108. 7. 1. at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to compensate Messrs. DaCosta & Co., Ltd., for damage done to the launch "Trojan" by the Government Dredger.

The Addendum sets out the matter fully. It says this:

"On the 17th February, 1948, the bucket on the Government Dredger swung outboard and caused considerable above-water damage to the launch "Trojan", the property of Messrs DaCosta & Co., Ltd.

2. The Harbour and Shipping Master has made full enquiries and is satisfied that the swinging of the bucket outboard was due mainly to the Acting Engine Driver having accidentally brought the rotating machinery of the Dredger into operation.

3. A survey of the damage was made at the time by the Government Surveyor of Shipping. The actual cost of repairs was £108 7.1.

4. This resolution is to enable payment to be made to Messrs. DaCosta & Co., Ltd., to the extent of the cost of repairing the launch."

The matter has been gone into by the Government. The Government Surveyor of Shipping has assessed the damage which was originally fixed at £100 but when a further investigation was made, the sum of £108. 7. 1. was arrived at. The matter does not really need any argument; if there is any further information wanted by any honourable member I am quite willing to supply it. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I hope that the Government is taking steps to see that a similar occurrence does not take place again. It seems to me that there has been some negligence in this matter and I feel that the people's representatives should ask the Government to apprise people of the fact that they should handle the Harbour Craft with more care.

Mr. DOWDING: I am not quite sure as to whether the Government carries some type of insurance on the water craft or not and I would like to get some information on the matter.

Mr. ADAMS: I personally do not know whether the Government has the water craft insured. I know that Government buildings are insured and doubtless there must be some type of insurance on the water craft. I will make a note of what the honourable member has asked and bring it to the notice of the Government and also the matter of taking steps against a repetition of this sort of occurrence.

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

The Resolution was passed.

REFUND TO MESSRS. D. M. SIMPSON & CO, LTD.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman,—The next Resolution is one to grant to Messrs. D. M. Simpson & Co., Ltd., the sum of £6. 14. 0., the Customs' import duty and package tax paid on a hand spraying

machine imported for the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. George.

This machine was imported for the purpose of applying colas to the roads of the parish of St. George. Duty and package tax amounting to £6. 14s. was paid on the equipment and under the Customs Tariff Act 1921 (1921-3) no provision is made for the free entry of equipment for the purpose mentioned. The object of this Resolution is to refund the duty which was paid on the equipment. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The Resolution was passed.

RESOLUTION POSTPONED

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—I ask leave to postpone the consideration of Resolution No. 4, relative to the acquisition of two motor launches for the Harbour Police to replace three of the large four-oared boats now in use.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to postpone consideration of the Resolution.

COST OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF A FIRE BRIGADE OFFICER

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution is one to place a sum not exceeding £328 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of the engagement for two periods of three and six weeks respectively, of a Fire Brigade Officer from Trinidad.

Honourable members will remember that a few months ago a similar Resolution for a greater sum was placed before this House for the purpose of getting a Fire Brigade expert from England. In view of the feeling of the House as regards that Resolution, the Resolution was withdrawn and the present one has been brought before the House in its stead. We are informed that the Officer whom it is proposed to get from Trinidad is also a very experienced man in fire fighting and he has served in England during the Blitz. This Officer can only come to us for two short periods, the first being for three weeks and the other being for six weeks later on in the year. This sum of money is estimated to cover his salary, return passage and subsistence allowance. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that. I should just like to mention that in the first instance when the Government asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies about this matter, we were given the name of someone who had reached the top of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade service of London and we could hardly have got a better man. That is why the sum which we had asked for was so large. This gentleman was on the eve of his retirement. When Colonel Etherton passed through here, as far as I know no member of the Government knew until he mentioned it how eminent Major Cox was. He told some of us that what Major Cox did not know about fire fighting nobody knew, and that he was his right hand man in the Battle of London. We tried to get the Trinidad Government to release him and they agreed to do so for a period of three weeks in the first instance and later for a period of six weeks. That is why we have tried to get this gentleman on the recommendation of Colonel Etherton that it would be hard for us to find anybody in the West Indies who is as good as he is.

Mr. LEWIS: In a matter of this sort I think that the Government should ask the Fire Insurance

Companies to assist in defraying the cost of the investigation. While it is true that we might get expert advice as to the saving of property, the fact remains that any improvement in fire-fighting equipment is a means of saving money in the pockets of the Fire Insurance Companies. My opinion is that these Companies should be taxed specially to provide for the upkeep of the Fire Brigade instead of sending a requisition for the amount to the Vestry. In that case the Fire Insurance Companies would not sit down and let the Government have obsolete fire-fighting equipment; they would see that the Government bring this equipment up to date all the time. I repeat that this is a matter in which the Fire Insurance Companies should be brought. In my opinion the Government cannot supply fire-fighting equipment for everybody; there are those whose houses are situated in the remote parts of the island and who are bound to lose them in case of fire. A long time will elapse before the Government will be able to give assistance to people in those areas; so that this equipment is for an area in which the Fire Insurance Companies are making money. Why should the Fire Insurance Companies not have a hand directly in keeping the Government's fire-fighting equipment up to date?

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

The Resolution was passed.

COURSE OF TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR AN OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of £425 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of sending an Officer from the Labour Department to attend a Colonial Service Training Course for Labour Officers in the U.K., and to pay the salary of the Officer's locum tenens during his absence from the Island.

Information has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that it is proposed to hold in the Spring and Autumn of each year, beginning from April 1949, systematic courses in the United Kingdom for the staffs of Colonial Labour Departments; and this Resolution is to provide the passages to and from the United Kingdom, subsistence allowance and contingencies for the officer selected. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to make a few remarks in connection with this Resolution. This is a matter which deals with a Civil Servant. The Civil Service Association has had the blessing of the Government or at least the Governors of this island, there is such a Body as the Whitley Council of the Association which deals with matters affecting Civil Servants, and I think that in a proposal of this sort inasmuch as the Government has to depend on the Civil Service Association for its good relations with the Civil Servants, it would be a good idea to refer this matter to the Association. This matter has been drawn to the attention of someone as near the top of the Civil Service as it is possible for an individual to get. It seems to me strange that on one occasion we were asked to vote money to send out somebody from the Labour Department for training to make him a super officer in that Department and when the Labour Commissioner goes away the Government looks for one

of the busiest officers and puts the Head of it to act as Labour Commissioner. If there is nobody available in the Colonial Secretary's office they go to an office in which the Head of it should be in it from the time it is opened until when it is closed. That is the Post Office, an office which needs constant attention. The Postmaster is made to act as Labour Commissioner and the Government refuses to give the person who was sent for training an opportunity to act as Labour Commissioner for any time! If you are willing to train people and then you are not willing to give them the opportunity to act, then the training is only given as an eye-wash. Now we are asked to vote more money to send another officer from the Labour Department for training! I do not know whether these courses are open to other Departments or not. However, I ask the Government not to offer any gratuitous insults to the Civil Service Association which is, after all, the Trade Union of the Civil Servants; but pay the Association the courtesy of submitting these proposals to it and perhaps get some very valuable suggestions therefrom. I merely throw out that suggestion.

Mr. CRAWFORD: There are other aspects of the matter which do not commend themselves to me. We have already sent an officer, namely, Mr. Niles, from the Labour Department for training and if we are going to spend £425 for training another Civil Servant, it does appear to me that we should select one from another Department. We have important public works being held up in this colony because we have not got engineers; we have at the Waterworks Department an executive post which has been vacant for the longest time because there is nobody to fill it. Certainly we should select an officer from another Department for training rather than select two officers from the Labour Department especially in view of the fact that when the Head of the Department goes on leave the officer who has been trained is never asked to act as Head of the Department; but they go over his head and bring in somebody from outside. It is asking too much of honourable members to ask them to provide this money for the training of another officer from the Labour Department and I beg to move that this Resolution be rejected.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If honourable members are going to pay serious attention to any statement which is made, they should consider what a Labour Department means to a place like Barbados. I can speak with some authority because I have more dealings with the Labour Department than any other member of this House; and I know the work which the Civil Servants in that Department have to do. I agree with the honourable junior member for the City that you should not train people unless you are going to use them in their capacity in any Department where you can get the best out of them; but in so far as the rejection of this Resolution is concerned, I should like to point out that in this colony which has a population of 200,000 there is a large working population and we have only one Labour Inspector. When you compare Barbados with some other British West Indian Islands like Trinidad, British Guiana and Jamaica, you will find that the Labour Departments in those colonies have bigger staffs and they make provision for more Labour Inspectors. Apart from giving officers of the Labour Department proper training, we have come to the stage where we want more Labour Inspectors. We have already passed the Factories Act and when it is proclaimed as law

we will need more Inspectors. There is the Shops Act which is in operation and I am sure that it is a physical impossibility for the officers of the Labour Department to carry out the inspection which is necessary to be carried out. I give an instance: I had to bring to the attention of the Labour Commissioner that a certain merchant was breaking the law by switching one group of clerks from one shop during one part of the day over to a country shop during another part of the day and giving them some sort of remuneration but the working hours were in excess of those which we agreed to here. That was a case of exploitation and taking advantage of the situation having regard to the class of people employed. We have to make people respect the law so that the clerks will not suffer. Even from the point of view of being cautious and feeling for people we have to go slowly; if we reject this Resolution on the ground that we want to give training to somebody else because the Government would not use to act as Head of the Department the person from the Department who has been trained, the same thing will apply to other Departments. When it comes to the case of the Waterworks Department I know that there is somebody who can fill the post which is now vacant; he has the qualification for it but it is a question as to whom the Head of the Department recommends for the post. I think that honourable members should try and separate the administrative from the political side of this matter; we know that from the administrative point of view it is purely a matter for the Head of the Administration to take a man from one Department and put him to work in another Department. Until we have responsible Government when each member will be responsible for the working of his Department, the members of this House cannot be blamed for these things. From the experience which I have as an Officer of the only Union which really represents the people of this island, a Union which deals with the Labour Department, I say that the Labour Department is doing a fine job and I think that as many people as possible should be trained in all branches. If we reject this Resolution we will be destroying what we have placed on record, namely, our desire that people should be trained. I say that there are intelligent young men in the Labour Department and I feel sure that this Government will not be wasting any money in giving them further training. The Labour Department is an asset to this island. Despite the fact that Mr. Niles has been trained and has not been allowed to act as Labour Commissioner, he has nevertheless been carrying out the duties of the Department and his services to the colony are the same. As regards what the hon. junior member for the City said in respect of the Civil Service Association we have to bear in mind that if Mr. Niles had been appointed to act as Labour Commissioner people would say that he was promoted above the heads of others; and the Civil Service Association would not go on record for having recommended Mr. Niles to act in that capacity above others. I am convinced that we should train as many officers in as many Departments as we can; I cannot agree that we should select one Department and say that officers from that Department should be trained. Our policy should be that wherever we have an officer to be trained we should train him. In this case why should this officer suffer because something over which we had no control has happened? I feel that this House would be well advised to pass this Resolution. Having regard to the legislation which we have passed and the necessity for increasing the staff

of the Labour Department, we might even have to appoint a Deputy Labour Commissioner and we can stipulate that people who have been trained should be given the opportunity to fill the higher posts.

Mr. ADAMS: As a result of constant attacks being made on the Colonial Office, as a result of the constant criticism which is made in this place and in other places in the West Indies as well as other parts of the British Empire, the Colonial Office is adopting the policy of asking the Colonies from time to time to send out people for training. What is before us in the result of a specific request contained in a circular which has been despatched to all the colonies in connection with Labour Departments; but this does not prevent us from getting people sent for training from other Departments. As a matter of fact, the Government has in mind certain other Departments, or rather the legislative side of the Government has made the suggestion and the administrative side of the Government is as anxious as the legislative side to see that people from other Departments have a chance of being trained. Before the Resolution dealing with the engagement of a Fire Brigade Officer from Trinidad was passed, the honourable senior member for St. Thomas was about to say what we propose to do in respect of the Fire Brigade, namely, to send somebody, preferably a sergeant, for training. But what I would like to ask is this: after we get the Colonial Office to say that we can send up people for training do we seriously suggest that this Resolution should be rejected?

Dr. CUMMINS: The most of what I intended to say has already been said by the honourable member who has just sat down. I am glad that the honourable senior member for St. Peter has had the opportunity of addressing the Committee, because he has had more dealings with the Labour Department than many of us have had. What I want to make clear is that the Colonial Office has stipulated that somebody from the Labour Department should be sent for this training and we cannot take somebody from some other Department and send him out for it. As the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said, the Government has under active consideration—and I believe it will materialise in the not too distant future—that people from other Departments should be selected for training. I have taken note of the criticisms made by certain honourable members in connection with Mr. Niles not being given the opportunity to act as Labour Commissioner after he had been trained. As it has already been pointed out we are not responsible for that, but I say that I will draw to the attention of the Administration the criticisms which have been made. Two wrongs do not make a right; Mr. Niles has had a certain amount of training and he has not been nominated to act as Head of his Department; but, as the honourable senior member for St. Peter has pointed out, when the occasion arises Mr. Niles does the work of the Department and does it most efficiently. I should like to say that the officer whom it is proposed to send out on this occasion is the Labour Inspector so as to give him the opportunity of getting this training. I am quite sure that this will be beneficial to the island and when other Labour Inspectors are appointed this Officer will be able to give them the benefit of the training which he has received. I appeal to honourable members not to reject this Resolution; it is for the benefit of another officer of the Labour Department and I do not think that this Committee would wilfully and deliberately do anything which would cause

him to lose the opportunity which the passing of this Resolution would give him.

Mr. WARD: I must agree with those honourable members who are of the opinion that this Resolution should be rejected. I have listened to the arguments of honourable members and I ask: why do we not send individuals to be trained as Colonial Secretaries? (Mr. ADAMS: Who said that they are not going to be?) We may send this gentleman to be trained and after he has been trained they might send him to South Africa or somewhere else; we cannot say that he must return to Barbados after he has received this training. I do not see why we should train people from the Labour Department every year for the purpose of running that Department when we have a qualified Head who should know all the labour laws; I feel that the Head of the Department should be capable of running the Department. If the Labour Union want their men to be qualified so as to deal with Labour matters, then it is their duty to train their own men in order that they can be able to co-operate with the Government. We have just qualified Mr. Niles; he has not been given the opportunity to act as Labour Commissioner or to use any of the knowledge which he has gained by having been trained and I am not agreeing to the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I am not one of those who would stand in the way of any Government Officer obtaining training in Great Britain. It seems to me that something is seriously wrong in our Civil Service set-up if after we have spent money in sending an officer of a Department to England and having him trained, when the Head of that Department happens to be absent, the person who has been trained and is on the spot is not put to act, but somebody else from some other Department is brought in for that purpose. That does not make any sense. If we do not agree with certain things, then we should do something to put an end to the system. As I understand the position, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has requested that somebody be sent up for training in this particular branch; and the last speaker but one has emphasized that the Administration was responsible for the nomination of the person to be sent up. I want to issue a word of warning; it has been said that in the selection of persons to be sent abroad there has been some favouritism shown and that is the crux of the whole matter. Honourable members have these things in their minds but they should be spoken. It has been both privately and publicly said that in the selection of persons who are to be sent abroad for training some favouritism has been shown; I do not want to be any party to the maintenance of such a system of patronage. I repeat that I do not want to stand in the way of any officer being trained and I intend to support the passing of this Resolution this afternoon. I hope that in future when these Resolutions come before this House they will come with the blessing of the Civil Service Association so that no honourable member of this House will be able to tell us that the Civil Service Association is not in favour of the manner of the selection of any candidate who has been selected for training. We are spending the taxpayers' money in sending candidates for training abroad and patronage and favouritism ought not to appear to be shown in making the selections. The Labour Department in this colony needs every assistance in the smoothing out of the many knotty

problems which arise from time to time between employer and employee, and it seems to me that the granting of specialized training to officers of the Department will be doing a definite service to this community. It is on that account that I am going to support this Resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to throw out a hint which I hope will be sufficient to the wise. If these courses for Colonial Civil Servants are going to be carried out we have to be very careful that whenever the people in England are offering a course in Labour training they do not ask us to send somebody from the Labour Department because the post of Labour Commissioner in these parts will become like a hot brick. They are appointing a lot of West Indians as Labour Commissioners whereas when we want somebody to fill the post of Income Tax Commissioner or Comptroller of Customs they may not be so willing to remind us that these courses are going on. I am asking the Government to see that whenever these courses are open other officers are invited and sent for training.

Mr. BRANCKER: I feel that we should let it be known that this House is of the opinion that the Secretary of State for the Colonies should be informed that we would appreciate if people from the various Departments could be invited to attend these courses. Honourable members of the Government have said that this is not a case of the Secretary of State for the Colonies saying that any member of the Barbados Civil Service will be trained, but that it is a case of somebody from the Labour Department being invited for this training and there is no alternative. What I would like to urge is this: when the invitation was received by the Government they could have said: "We approve of that but we would like you to help us in the training of an officer from the Waterworks Department or the Highways Department instead." The Government recently had somebody from the Labour Department trained; they have cold-shouldered that and they have appointed to act as Labour Commissioner somebody who did not have that training. The Government could not find anybody for the post of Executive Engineer and in respect of this invitation they might have said that they would accept it if there was nothing else to be offered but inasmuch as they have already trained an officer from the Labour Department, they would be glad to have an officer from some other Department trained. That is why, although I am not voting for the rejection of this Resolution, I feel that a little time should elapse and let the Government find out from the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there is any course which he would offer us in respect of another Department and which we would accept in preference to the course which has now been offered. I feel that the correct thing for us to do is to postpone the consideration of this Resolution. These courses are due to start in April, 1949, and the object of the postponement would be to afford the Government the opportunity of enquiring from the Secretary of State for the Colonies if there are similar courses available for officers in other branches of the Civil Service. If, for instance, we have a choice as between sending an officer from the Waterworks Department for training and sending one from the Labour Department, in view of the fact that we have already sent an officer from the latter Department for training we can

give preference to the training of an officer from the Waterworks Department. There is no reason why we could not enquire of the Secretary of State for the Colonies as to whether he could give us a choice in respect of another Department. If we can get both courses then we will take both of them; if it is a case of our choosing one or the other, we will choose that in relation to the Waterworks Department. I think that we should postpone the further consideration of this Resolution so that enquiries can be made along the lines which I have indicated. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. ADAMS: By a pure coincidence I happen to have before me the uncorrected proof of one of the debates in this House relative to question No. 15 put by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy as to the appointment of West Indians to senior posts in the Colonial Service. During that debate I quoted a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which he pointed out that West Indians are not given certain appointments because they are not trained for them and that provision has been made for training West Indians in different branches of the Service especially for filling the higher posts including the administrative posts. As regards this particular matter before us I do not know if the honourable junior member for St. Lucy thinks that these courses have been put on a shelf and we can make our choice. A despatch which was laid on the Table of the House and from which I read, clearly stated that the grievances of West Indians that they are not getting senior posts in the West Indies have been considered by the Colonial Office and the Secretary of State for the Colonies asked every Governor in the West Indian area to send a list of all the holders of senior posts in these colonies together with their origin. That is to say, in our case, whether the holders of these posts are imported people or whether they are Barbadians. The Secretary of State for the Colonies in that despatch specifically stressed that the higher administrative posts will be open to West Indians when they have been trained. Why have honourable members forgotten that? Do they think that if we can get courses of training for every Department we will not get them? There are certain Departments of the Civil Service from which we are going to send people to be trained.

Mr. GARNER: I feel that the best thing for me to do in this case is to offer an amendment to the Resolution. In the second paragraph of the Addendum this is stated: "It is proposed to select an officer from the Labour Department and to send him for training." I think that the word "her" should be used instead of the word "him." (A MEMBER: You cannot amend the addendum). We can have a lady as Labour Inspector. There are women who work in the field, there is nobody to protect them and I think we need a lady for this training on this occasion. (Mr. ADAMS: The masculine includes the feminine according to the Interpretation Act). The dispute seems to be in relation to the candidate to be sent for this training and I suggest that we send a lady because some of us seem to be perturbed over somebody not being given a square deal. Perhaps it would be a good idea if the amendment which I have proposed could be made. We have already had a gentleman trained and it seems to me that a lady should be trained this time. I hope that the Government will take that idea into consideration.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am going to withdraw my motion for the rejection of the Resolution and second the motion of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. I am doing that because I understand that the matter is being taken up with the Administration by the Council of the Civil Service Association which feels that it has been overlooked.

Mr. LEWIS: On a point of order. If the honourable member has a motion before the House and he wants to withdraw it, he can only do that with the permission of the House. If the honourable member wants to second a motion which is contrary to that which he has made, he should wait until the House has given him permission to withdraw his motion.

Dr. WILSON: I beg to second the motion for postponement of the Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: I was saying that we should support the motion for the postponement of this Resolution because I have been informed that the entire matter is now the subject of discussion between the Council of the Civil Service Association and the Administration. The Council feels that it has been completely overlooked, that no reference was made to it in the selection of the candidate and no mention was made of the fact that the Government was sending another officer of the Labour Department to England for training. While it is true to say that the Colonial Office has specially offered this course of training in connection with the Labour Department, the impression among the members of the Civil Service Association is that owing to the fact that an officer of this Department has already been trained, it is high time that if we are going to spend money again, we should spend it in training an officer from another Department. I need not say that in several of the other Departments there is a very pressing need for the training of the personnel. After all we have only a few factories and foundries in Barbados and, in my opinion, it is far more important to spend this money in the training of an engineer of the Waterworks Department or of the Highways Department than in spending it in training a man to inspect a few factories and foundries. We have to furnish the money; it is not a question of a scholarship being granted. The money is not going to be refunded; if we are spending money for training an officer in the Government service, let us spend it for training one from a Department which I consider to be of greater service to the community than that from which it is proposed to send this officer.

Mr. COX: I did not want to say anything in connection with this matter, but the more I listen to honourable members, the more I feel that I should say a few words. I think that every thinking member of this House as well as of the public will agree that the question affecting labour is today the biggest one not only in Barbados but in the world. Since we have passed laws governing the activities of labour, I feel it is highly important that we should have trained officers in this island. The honourable senior member for St. Peter referred to the Shops Act; we all know that the Order relative to this Act was passed sometime in 1946, an Order requiring that shops be closed at a certain hour, and it is within my knowledge that on Saturday nights you can still find people shut up in shops up to 9 and 10 o'clock. There seems to be nobody to see that the Shops Order is complied with. The position before us now is that we have been offered a course of training for an officer of the Labour Department; and, in my opinion, that does

not prevent the Government from obtaining similar courses in respect of other Departments. I should like to say that we should send somebody from the Lunatic Asylum to be trained in dealing with mental diseases. Whether the Civil Service Association is satisfied or not with the selection which has been made in this case, I say that it will be a sorry day for the Government when it is forced by any of its subordinates to change its decision. This is an important Resolution, a Resolution by which an individual is to be trained so as to see that the Rules and Regulations which we make are carried out, and I see no reason for its rejection or postponement.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I spoke in connection with this matter because I know a lot about the Labour Department and I deny any allegation that a Labour Inspector has to inspect sugar factories only. We not only have sugar factories in Barbados but we have other places like the Rum Refinery and the Biscuit Factories where machinery is used. During this year the Barbados Workers' Union reached an agreement with the Sugar Producers' Federation and when officers of the Labour Department have to visit nearly every estate in this island in carrying out their duties the Department is left stranded.

Dr. CUMMINS: I want to say that the postponement of this Resolution might result in the officer selected not being able to attend the course at all. As a matter of fact we are now late because the Secretary of State for the Colonies should have got a reply from us since the 30th of June as to the officer who has been selected for this training. I hope that I am not giving away any secret but it has been decided that Mr. Springer should attend this course. There is nothing to be gained by postponing this Resolution; this course of training is in connection with the Labour Department and the Government has under active consideration the sending out of persons from different Departments for training.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. CRAWFORD, SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, GARNER and Dr. WILSON—5.

Noes: Messrs. HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, LEWIS, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WARD, Dr. CUMMINS and Mr. SPEAKER—17.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has been resolved in the negative, five honourable members voting "Aye" and seventeen honourable members voting "No."

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative on the following division:—

Ayes: Messrs. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, HUSBANDS, FOSTER, MAPP, LEWIS, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, DOWDING and Dr. CUMMINS—14.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. CRAWFORD, GARNER, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WARD and Mr. SPEAKER—8.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of five Resolutions in Committee, the postponement of three and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the Day is to resume Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts of this island relating to Public Health.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the last occasion when the House was in Committee on this Bill we had passed Clause 127 re-numbered 125.

Clause 128 re-numbered 126:—

126. (1) A Health Officer, or a medical practitioner authorised by the Director in that behalf, may at any time enter and inspect premises in which he has reason to believe that any infectious disease exists, or has recently existed, and may examine any person found on such premises with a view to ascertaining whether such person is suffering or has recently suffered from any infectious disease. He may also examine any dead body found on such premises, and for the purpose of examination may cause to be removed the body of any person suspected to have died of any infectious disease.

(2) If a Health Officer, or a medical practitioner authorised by the Director in that behalf, suspects that any person suffering from an infectious disease has contracted that disease by consuming infected food or drink he may enter any premises on which the suspected food or drink was prepared, handled or sold, and he may make such inspections and examinations as he may deem necessary of the premises, of their water supply, of any articles of food or drink, of any furnishings, equipment or utensils, or of any persons or animals employed or kept on the premises for the purpose of tracing the source of infection.

(3) A Health Officer or medical practitioner acting under the powers conferred by subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section may question any person for any of the purposes of such subsection, and if any person so questioned shall refuse to answer or shall wilfully or recklessly give any answer which is false in a material particular he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

(4) If the source of infection is discovered to the satisfaction of the Health Officer or medical practitioner, such Health Officer or medical practitioner may, subject to any directions of the Director, give such orders and take such measures as he may deem necessary for its removal, including, if necessary, the exclusion from the premises for a specified time of any person, animal or thing that may in his opinion be a source of infection.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 128 re-numbered 126 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the word "registered" be inserted before the words "medical practitioner" wherever they occur in this Clause. I know a medical practitioner who defies all the laws of the island. He has performed *post mortem* examinations and he has never registered. We have medical practitioners and medical practitioners; and if you read the Bill, you will find that this the only Clause in which the word "registered" in relation to a medical practitioner is omitted. We must insert the word "registered" because, as the position is now, a person can land in Barbados from Timbuctoo and he can practise to all intents and purposes.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In Sub-clause (2) it is stated that if a medical practitioner suspects that a person

suffering from an infectious disease has contracted that disease by consuming infected food or drink, he may enter any premises on which the suspected food or drink was prepared and make inspections of the premises, of the water supply, of articles of food or drink, of any furnishings or of any persons or animals employed on the premises for the purpose of tracing the source of infection. What I want to point out is that diseases from which animals are suffering are diagnosed by veterinary surgeons, and I am wondering whether we should not use the words "veterinary surgeons."

Mr. GALE: All that Sub-clause (2) can mean is that the medical practitioner may suspect of having an infectious disease animals on the premises which might be in a dirty condition. People might be living on dirty premises and the medical practitioner will not examine the animals for the disease but the persons.

Mr. ADAMS: The whole point is that the medical practitioner will examine somebody whom he suspects of having an infectious disease. If he discovers that the person is suffering from the disease, he will look around to see if animals are being kept in a dirty condition on the premises. You do not want a veterinary surgeon to examine the animals any more than you do not want a tinsmith to inspect the utensils.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: In Sub-clause (1) it is stated that a Health Officer or a medical practitioner authorised by the Director may at any time enter and inspect premises in which he has reason to believe that any infectious disease exists. I beg to move that the word "reasonable" be inserted after the last word "any" occurring in line 2. As this Sub-clause reads a Health Officer or medical practitioner can enter any premises at any time. (A MEMBER: He can give notice that he is coming).

Mr. SYMONDS: I beg to second that. If we empower a Director of Medical Services to control our health services we cannot later complain if he takes up an Act which we have passed and seriously proceeds to carry it out. If a reasonable House pass this law, it means that the law should be carried out, and I can well see some unreasonable Health Officer coming at midnight to the premises of some person with whom he has had some dispute to the annoyance of the person. Where people have power they very often make petty annoyances; we have had an example of that only a few weeks ago when another Director used his power harshly in relation to taxpayers of this island. There are some honourable members who claim to be in defence of the poor but they hate to hear a word being spoken on behalf of the poor. I have seen example after example where people who are in power have taken advantage of law-abiding citizens. If you give a Health Officer this power he might enter somebody's premises at any time; much to the inconvenience of some defenceless person his premises might be entered at midnight by some Health Officer who might have some axe to grind. I suggest therefore that we do not put the inhabitants of this island to the inconvenience of having to employ some lawyer to defend them against the action of some unreasonable Health Officer or Director.

Mr. COX: It is difficult to understand the arguments of the honourable senior member for St. James and the honourable junior member for St. George. The use of the word "reasonable" has no significance since the Health Officer has to be satisfied as to what is a reasonable time. If honourable members are asking for the insertion of the word "reasonable", that can only mean that more time

should be given for the further spreading of the disease. We want to isolate an individual who is suffering from the disease as quickly as possible.

Mr. SYMMONDS: We realise the necessity of protecting people in the community. The honourable member who interrupts me whenever I am speaking cannot appreciate a point, and I should like to say that neither the interruption of the senior member for St. Thomas nor that of the senior member for St. Michael can prevent me from making the point which I am making. The liberty of people has to be fought for and we are giving the peoples' liberty to the Directors. Every time that an attempt is made in this House to preserve the rights of people in this colony, there are those who support the Government (A MEMBER: The amendment is going to be accepted). I am very glad to hear that.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept the amendment.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: Again in Sub-clause (2) if a Health Officer or medical practitioner authorised by the Director suspects that any person suffering from an infectious disease has contracted the disease by consuming infected food or drink, he may enter any premises on which the suspected food or drink was prepared. I beg to move that in line 5 the word "reasonably" be inserted after the word "may".

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment also.

The question that Clause 128 renumbered 126 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 129 renumbered 127:—

127. (1) Where in any Parish a person who is suffering from or suspected to be suffering from any infectious disease is without proper accommodation or lodging or is so lodged that proper precautions cannot be taken for preventing the spread of the disease he may on a certificate signed by a Health Officer or by a medical practitioner authorised in that behalf by the Sanitary Authority, be removed at the cost of such Sanitary Authority to any suitable hospital or place for the reception of the sick which is maintained from public funds, with the consent of the medical practitioner immediately in charge thereof, and such person may be detained in such hospital so long as he continues to be a source of infection.

(2) (a) In the event of consent to removal or detention under subsection (1) of this section being refused the Sanitary Authority may apply to the Police Magistrate, having jurisdiction in their parish who, if he shall consider it expedient so to do, may issue a warrant for the removal of the person to such hospital or place.

(b) A warrant under paragraph (a) of this subsection may be addressed to any member of the Police Force or to any officer of the Sanitary Authority, and on such warrant being exhibited any person who wilfully obstructs or attempts to obstruct its execution or who refuses to obey his instructions shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to insert the word "registered" before the words "medical practitioner" wherever they occur in this Clause.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 129 renumbered 127 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 130 renumbered 128:—

128. (1) Whenever, owing to the spread of any disease, it shall be necessary to provide temporary

hospitals the Director with the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, may order that any public elementary school in the Island shall be closed, and that the buildings used in connection with such school including the quarters, if any, occupied by a teacher, shall be placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Authority of the Parish in which such school shall be situate, to be used as a temporary hospital, provided always that when such buildings shall be subject to the control of the Wesleyan, Moravian, or Roman Catholic Bodies, the consent of the Body having control shall first be obtained.

(2) The order of the Director shall be signed not only by the Director but also by the Colonial Secretary when it has been approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. A copy of such order shall be served upon the supervising minister, or other person for the time being having control of the school. If any person after the service of such order as aforesaid, shall refuse to deliver possession of the buildings to the Sanitary Authority of the Parish, or shall obstruct such Sanitary Authority in taking such possession, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds to be recovered in a summary manner before a Police Magistrate.

(3) When the buildings delivered to the Sanitary Authority as aforesaid shall cease to be used a hospital, they, and the furniture and fittings thereof, shall be thoroughly disinfected by and at the cost of the said Sanitary Authority, in such manner as the Director shall direct, and shall then be re-delivered to the supervising minister, or other person for the time being entitled to the possession thereof.

(4) Whenever the quarters occupied by a teacher shall be taken by the Sanitary Authority of any parish under the provisions of this Act, such teacher shall receive from such Sanitary Authority such compensation as the Director may allow.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 130 renumbered 128 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: In Sub-clause (1) it is stated that whenever, owing to the spread of any disease, it shall be necessary to provide temporary hospitals, the Director with the approval of the Governor-in-Executive may order that any public elementary school in the island shall be closed, and that the buildings used in connection with the school including the quarters occupied by a teacher shall be placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Authority to be used as a temporary hospital. I do not think that it is reasonable to take away the quarters from the teachers. If the quarters are joined to the school buildings then that would be all right; but in some instances the teachers' quarters are not joined to the school buildings and I do not see why, in such cases, these quarters should be taken away from the teachers. I beg to move that the word "the" occurring in line 6 of this sub-clause be deleted and the word "attached" be inserted in its place.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The latter part of Sub-clause (1) says that when the buildings which are to be used as a temporary hospital shall be subject to the control of the Wesleyan, Moravian, or Roman Catholic Bodies, the consent of the Body having control shall first be obtained. I beg to move that in line eleven of this Sub-clause the word "Anglican" be inserted before the word "Wesleyan". What I am pointing out is that the Anglican Body still has schools under its control similar to the Wesleyan, Moravian and

Roman Catholic Bodies, and we should insert the word "Anglican" in this Sub-clause. There are some schools which are owned by the Government and controlled by the Anglican Body.

Mr. ADAMS: The Education Board has the normal control of the Anglican schools whether they are owned by the State or otherwise, and the only object of putting in these denominations is to be able to distinguish them one from the other. Any Anglican school which is owned by the State is controlled separately by the Education Board; but the Wesleyan, Moravian or Roman Catholic Schools are distinguished in that their Governing Bodies may be Wesleyans, Moravians or Roman Catholics.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I still thought that the Anglican schools were controlled by the Incumbent of the Church as I have not seen any law which alters that position. There are over 100 elementary schools in this island controlled by the various Bodies and I think that we should either cut out these denominations or put in the word "Anglican".

Dr. CUMMINS. I do know that some schools are Anglican schools, the buildings and the land being owned by the Church, and there are other schools which are controlled by the Anglican Body and owned by the Government. I will accept the amendment, namely, the insertion of the word "Anglican" in Sub-clause (1).

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: Sub-clause (4) says that whenever the quarters occupied by a teacher shall be taken by the Sanitary Authority such teacher shall receive from the Sanitary Authority such compensation as the Director may allow. I think that that is a little hard on the teacher because the Director may offer him \$5 or \$10 as compensation. I think that there should be some Authority to whom an appeal from the decision of the Director can be made. I beg to move that the words "subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee" be inserted before the last two words of the Sub-clause.

Mr. MOTTLEY seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In case an epidemic breaks out and we want to use the schools as temporary hospitals I do not think that anybody should be allowed to object to their use as such. I beg to move therefore, that from the words "provided always" in Sub-clause (1) to the end of the Sub-clause be deleted.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to know how Sub-clause (4) reads now.

The Sub-clause was read.

The question that Clause 130 renumbered 128 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 129 to 139 as renumbered were passed.

Clause 142 renumbered 140:—

140. (1) Where either—

- (a) the body of a person who has died of any infectious disease is retained in a room in which persons live or sleep.
- (b) the body of a person who has died of any infectious disease is retained, without the sanction in writing of the Health Officer or any medical practitioner, for more than forty eight hours, elsewhere than in a room not used at the time as a dwelling place, sleeping place, or workroom, or

(c) any dead body is retained in any house or room or ship under circumstances which if continued, may endanger the health of the inmates thereof, or of any adjoining or neighbouring house or building, or

(d) any dead body is unclaimed or no sufficient person undertakes to bury it,

the Police Magistrate having jurisdiction in the Parish in which such dead body lies may, on a certificate signed by a Health Officer or other medical practitioner, direct that the body be removed, at the cost of the Sanitary Authority, to any available mortuary, and be buried within the time limited by the Police Magistrate; or if he considers immediate burial necessary, direct that the body be buried immediately without removal to the mortuary.

(2) If any person obstructs any person acting in the execution of any direction given by a Police Magistrate under this section, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 142, renumbered 140 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the words "forty eight" occurring in line 5 of paragraph (b) of this Clause be deleted and the words "thirty six" be inserted in place thereof.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

The question that Clause 142 renumbered 140 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 141 to 150 as renumbered were passed.

Clause 153 renumbered 151:—

151. Should cholera, small-pox, or yellow fever appear in any part of this Island, it shall be lawful for the Director to establish dispensaries in such localities as he may deem expedient, and to have the same properly supplied with medicines and other necessities for the use of the sick, and to certify the expenses to the Governor-in-Executive Committee, who is hereby authorised and empowered to issue warrants to the Colonial Treasurer for payment of the same.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 153 renumbered 151 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I do not think it is right for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to sign the cheques when the Director certifies the expenses. (Mr. ADAMS: Read Sub-clause (2) of Clause 154). I would like to know if the amount voted in the Estimates cannot be exceeded.

The question that Clause 153 renumbered 151 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 154 renumbered 152:—

152. (1) All expenses incurred by a Sanitary Authority under this Part of this Act shall be defrayed by them out of the funds at their disposal for sanitary purposes.

(2) All expenses incurred by the Director under this Part of this Act, shall be paid out of moneys to be voted for the purpose by the Legislature on the Annual Estimates.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 154 renumbered 152 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The wording in Sub-clause (2) is what we on this side of the House wanted on the last occasion and we were defeated. The hon-

ourable senior member for St. Joseph was very strong on the point that if the amendment which was proposed by me went to the Other Place it would be sent back to the House because it would look stupid. I think therefore that we should delete the whole of this Sub-clause, because if this is right then the other Clause is wrong.

The question that Clause 154 renumbered 152 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 155 renumbered 153 was passed.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS PROGRESS.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

THE ORDER PAPER.

Mr. ADAMS: In fixing the Order Paper to resume Committee on the Public Health Bill will be the first Order of the Day and then to resume Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I suggest that the honourable member should also move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the Resolution of which he gave notice today.

Mr. ADAMS: When the time comes for fixing—

Mr. SPEAKER: What I am pointing out is that there are two or three Resolutions which have been left over today and I think that the honourable member should also move the House into Committee of Supply to deal with the Resolution of which he gave notice today.

Mr. ADAMS: Before the House resumes Committee of Supply we will ask that it be an instruction of the House to the Committee to deal with that Resolution.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Thursday next, the 8th day of July, 1948, at 12.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn to Thursday next, the 8th day of July, 1948, at 12.30 o'clock in the afternoon was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, LEWIS, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN and Dr. CUMMINS—11.

Noes: Messrs. BRANCKER, SYMMONDS, GARNER, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT and WARD—9.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye" and nine honourable members voting "No". This House now stands adjourned.