

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th 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*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), K. N. R. HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, A. E. S. LEWIS, H. D. BLACKMAN, D. D. GARNER, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING, and V. C. GALE.

Prayers are read.

MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the two previous meetings are not yet ready for confirmation.

ILLNESS OF THE CLERK.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I received a telephonic communication yesterday from the Clerk to the effect that he is ill and is unable to attend the meeting of the House to-day. I have arranged that the Deputy Clerk should act as Clerk and Mr. J. C. Armstrong as Deputy Clerk to-day. It is necessary for some honourable member to make motions to carry my arrangements into effect.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the Clerk is granted leave of absence from to-day's meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CLERK.

On the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the Deputy Clerk is appointed to act as Clerk at to-day's meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DEPUTY CLERK.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Mr. J. C. Armstrong is appointed to act as Deputy Clerk at to-day's meeting.

Mr. ADAMS enters the House and takes his seat.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month ended 30th June, 1948.

PAPER LAID.

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

Message No. 10/1948 from His Excellency the Governor informing the House, with reference to the Address dated 1st June, that he has appointed a Committee to enquire into the alleged grievances of motor bus concessionaires.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Special Resolution under the provisions of section 6 of the Volunteer Act, 1909, as enacted by section 4 of the Volunteer (Amendment) Act, 1948 (1948-11).

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £585 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay a living-out allowance to nurses at the Barbados General Hospital to 31st March, 1949.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to authorise the Governor to enter into agreements with persons to serve in the Maternity Hospital in the office of Matron and in the Barbados General Hospital in any of the following offices, namely, House Surgeon and Anaesthetist, House Surgeon, Matron, Assistant Matron, Sister Tutor and Home Sister, Sister, Radiologist and Radiographer, subject to the conditions set out in the resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £378 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for (a) the repair and purchase of furniture for the quarters of the Staff Officer, Barbados Volunteer Force; and (b) the installation of sanitary facilities in the quarters of the Range Warden of the Barbados Volunteer Force.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £1,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee in connection with the sending of Barbados labourers to Dutch Guiana (Surinam) for an experimental emigration scheme, and to meet incidental expenses in connection therewith.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution for £2,600 to supplement the provision in the Estimates for the year 1948-49 under Head XX, Education, i. Elementary, Item 23, Nutrition for Elementary School children.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution that from the 15th August, 1948, the postage on the special air letter forms provided for that purpose addressed to any destination set out in the schedule to the resolution shall be at the rate of six pence per form.

Dr. CUMMINS: Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911 (1911-5).

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

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money Resolutions, with the exception of the Resolution relating to the Surinam Emigration Scheme, of which notice has just been given.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 to deal with the Resolution for £1,000 relating to the emigration of settlers to Surinam.

Dr. WILSON enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. DOWDING gives notice of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor.*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to enquire from the Vestries of the parishes of this island what sum or sums of money would be required to effect the necessary repairs to houses damaged by the recent winds and rains with a view to sending down the necessary Resolution to the Houses of the Legislature providing funds for effecting the same.

QUESTIONS

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

(1) Will the Government take immediate steps to ascertain the damage done to houses during the wind-storm on the 5th July, 1948, and provide financial assistance wherever the circumstances require it?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to disallow that question, in view of the Address of which notice was given earlier by the honourable senior member for St. George dealing with the same subject.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at its next meeting:

Will the Government take immediate steps to install electricity in the Speightstown Boys' School, St. Peter?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at its next meeting:—

Will the Government make a statement as to the future plans for the re-organization of the Barbados Welfare Limited?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, a Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911 (1911-5) is read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, with leave, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Rules 88 and 89 are suspended to enable the House to deal with the Resolution for £1,000 in connection with the Emigration Scheme to Surinam at to-day's meeting.

INSTRUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case, the House decides that it be an instruction to the Committee of Supply when the House is in Committee of Supply to deal with the Resolution for £1,000 relating to the Surinam Emigration Scheme and also to deal with Resolution No. 3 of Order No. 1.

Mr. BRANCKER enters the House and takes his seat.

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.

Mr. SYMONDS enters the House and takes his seat.

COURSE OF TRAINING FOR OBSTETRICIAN AT THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—The first Resolution with which we shall deal is No. 3 — a Resolution for £1,017 (to be subsequently refunded as a free grant under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act) to meet the cost of a course of training for the obstetrician at the Maternity Hospital. Honourable members will see from the addendum that this amount should have been taken from funds provided for the Maternity Hospital under Scheme D. 414 but the Secretary of State decided that the cost of the officer's training should be confined to a separate Scheme. The obstetrician has been away, taken the course, returned and taken up the duties. The transaction is a proper one and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Before you put the question, Sir, I would just like to say that while the honourable member may be quite correct in saying that this is a proper transaction it is obvious that by this means the Government of Barbados will lose the amount mentioned in this Resolution from the block grant that is now given by Colonial Development and Welfare because if it were a specific scheme that was dealt with before the block grant of £800,000 was allotted to Barbados, we would get back this amount but now that there is a block grant, if we transfer any amount from that, we are going to lose that amount. Not that we are going to use the £800,000 because it does not look so and it may be that in 8 or 10 years' time that will lapse too. However, I would like to point out that by this method we are definitely losing this amount from the block grant.

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

RESOLUTION RE EMIGRATION TO SURINAM

Dr. CUMMINS: The other Resolution with which we shall deal is for the sum of £1,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive

Committee in connection with the sending of Barbadian labourers to Dutch Guiana (Surinam) for an experimental emigration scheme and to meet incidental expenses in connection therewith. It is well known, I believe, to honourable members that the Surinam Commission have arrived in the island and from to-day have entered upon their duties. This £1,000 is to enable us to get on with the scheme. Part of it will be spent in sending the Labour Inspector to Surinam for a short period so that he can acquaint himself of conditions down there and see that the labourers who do go are satisfied. Some of this money will be recovered later on from the Surinam Government. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—While I am very glad to see this scheme going into operation I would like to ask a few questions in connection with it. First of all, I would like to know if the emigrants will be treated under the contract that was arranged by the delegation that went to Surinam sometime ago, in which case the cost of transportation and so on will be paid by the Surinam Government; also whether the land that was agreed upon for the use of the settlers will be still available.

Dr. CUMMINS: As regards the question about transportation, the junior member for St. John will be in a better position to answer that than I am. As far as I know, the things that were formerly agreed upon still hold good. There was only one thing about which the delegation was not satisfied, that is, the question of housing which has since been rectified.

Mr. BLACKMAN: So far as I know, the contracts will be made between the owners of the plantations and the labourers; the Government of Surinam will not be in it.

Mr. LEWIS: I would just like to remark this: It is usual in Resolutions of this kind to state the rates at which these allowances are going to be given to the persons we are sending abroad. I do not see them stated here and I can only say that I hope they will be adequate. What you have to remember is that there is a difference in the currencies of the two countries. This House has discovered that it cannot even leave it to the members of the Executive Committee to get good allowances for themselves and I sincerely hope that they are not sending somebody to Surinam and are not giving him adequate allowances so that he could occupy, in Surinam, the position which a liaison officer should occupy.

Dr. CUMMINS: If honourable members insist on getting that information before the vote is passed I will ask for the postponement of the further consideration of the Resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: I am not asking for that. I only express the hope that the allowances will be adequate, otherwise the Executive Committee may have to send down a supplementary resolution because I feel that our liaison officer should be in a position to maintain his prestige and independence so that he could look after these workers properly.

Mr. GARNER: I would rather have this Resolution postponed because there are certain questions which I want to ask and the information, it seems, will not be forthcoming to-day. I think we ought to know more about this scheme before we send labourers down there. I want to know if we are dealing with the Government of Surinam or private employers in Surinam in this matter. I want to know something more about it and if the members who is in charge of the Resolution would get up and

explain the matter I would be willing to let the Resolution pass to-day.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

Dr. CUMMINS: I repeat that if honourable members want further information I am willing to postpone the further consideration of the Resolution and get the information.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not a member of the Government or anything like that; but what I cannot understand is this. If any honourable member wants information, let him get up and ask for it. What is the use of suspending the Rules to deal with this Resolution to-day and then before we get half way in the debate we are asked to postpone the further consideration of it? It looks childish.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not think that any honourable member wants this Resolution postponed indefinitely. Apparently, certain members want a little more information which, I think, is reasonable. An honourable member wants to know what allowance will be made to this liaison officer per day while he is in Surinam and another honourable member wants to know whether the original agreement will be adhered to, that is to say, if the settlers prove to be satisfactory, whether they will be given the option to own land. I do think it is reasonable to postpone the Resolution for an hour or two so as to get the information but not until next week.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Personally I would like to see that this Resolution is passed to-day or even now. But in the addendum to the Resolution mention is made of the sending of the Labour Inspector to act as liaison officer during the initial stages of the emigration and also of provision that has been made to pay expenses on behalf of the Surinam Commission as advances to be recovered later from the Government of Surinam. Surely the honourable member in charge of the Resolution should give us information as fully as possible. I should like the honourable member to tell us something more about these expenses on behalf of the Surinam Commission as advances to be recovered later. The senior member for St. Andrew wants to know whether the contracts are entered into with the Government of Surinam or with private employers in Surinam. Let us hear some fuller information. It is not unreasonable to ask for it.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I happen to be a member of the delegation that went to Surinam and we presented a Report. A copy of that Report was given to every member of this House, and this House passed an Address asking the Governor to give effect to it. As the result, the Governor got in touch with the Surinam Government which has sent a Commission to select the first batch of settlers. A copy of the contract was attached to the Report and that contract shows that it will be entered into by the particular plantation, in this case it is Marienburg Sugar Estate, and the particular settlers. The last paragraph of the addendum to the Resolution states that provision is also made for miscellaneous expenditure and to pay expenses on behalf of the Surinam Commission as advances to be recovered later from the Government of Surinam. I take it that the Barbados Government will be seeing after the putting up of the Commissioners while they are here and the expenses incurred in so doing will be recoverable from the Surinam Government.

Mr. LEWIS: We should not put ourselves in a false position. I understand that this emigration scheme is going to be on the lines of the temporary emigration scheme to the U.S.A., that is to say, we are going to have Government sponsorship but the contracts will be privately entered into. As far as the

last paragraph of the addendum is concerned I would like to say this. If the Surinam Commissioners came here and started to pay their bus fares and motor car hire in guilders I do not think the people would like to take them, so the Government would have to advance them local currency and then there will be an adjustment between this Government and the Surinam Government. If the Commissioners were coming from Trinidad they would bring Trinidad notes but these Commissioners from Surinam will be bringing guilders which the local people would not want to take. If you are going to postpone this Resolution and somebody is going to tell you that the information you want is contained in the Message that was sent to you and in the report that was circulated or in the Address you passed, then I think you will be placing yourselves in a false position. After all, the Commissioners arrived yesterday and already there is the feeling in Barbados that the members of the House of Assembly are willing to have an emigration scheme but are also willing to block it when it starts, if certain people are not in the forefront of it. I feel that if we have forgotten what we have stated about this emigration scheme, it would be well to refresh our memories. So far as I understand the scheme from the beginning, the Authorities in Surinam are going to pay the transportation costs. The only thing which has been left out, as far I can see, is that some of this money is to pay insurance. I do feel that it would be a serious mistake if the people of Barbados, especially their representatives in the House of Assembly, gave the impression, while the recruiting people are here, that we know all about this matter already but we want to stop this emigration to Surinam for some reason other than in the general interest of the labourers who will be going to Surinam. It would be rather unfortunate if we gave that impression.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman,—I am one of those who would like to see this Resolution pass without further delay. But the honourable member who has just sat down has asked if proper provision is made, as regards the allowances to the liaison officer who it is proposed should be sent with the emigrants and following that question other honourable members have asked for further information in the matter. What I want to say now is this: This House is entitled to know how much it is proposed to spend upon this particular officer who is being sent to Surinam. I remember, as a member of the Committee which considered the report of the delegation that went to Surinam, that we urged that a liaison officer be sent to protect our workers in a strange land but I am suggesting that although we are entitled to the information that is being sought, yet the urgency of sending labourers abroad is so great that we should not cause any delay in the carrying out of this scheme. On every hand we have been trying our best to further emigration schemes and even though this be on a small scale I am throwing out the suggestion to honourable members to waive their right to this particular information because of the urgency of the matter. I say again that the junior member for the City is the person who first asked for further information in this matter and he now wants to censure other honourable members for asking for information.

Mr. LEWIS: I did not propose to postpone it until the information is obtained. If the allowance is not sufficient, the officer would make proper representation and I suppose the House would grant the additional amount.

Mr. GALE: I do not think it is necessary to postpone this Resolution. The addendum states

that the Labour Inspector will act as liaison officer during the initial stages of the emigration for a period of two to five weeks and it is obvious that it would be necessary for him to spend more money if he remains in Surinam for five weeks than if he remains for two weeks. As regards paragraph 3 of the addendum, these Commissioners will have certain expenses while they are here; the Government will make advances to them while they are in this island and the money so spent will be refunded when they return to Surinam. I cannot see any difficulty in that; it is really an instance of much ado about nothing.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What really mystifies me is that for some weeks now, the Government knew that the Surinam Commission would be coming this week. The Government also knew that this money would be needed; therefore, what excuse can there be for waiting until the last moment to present this Resolution before this House? Why was not a copy of this Resolution sent to each honourable member so that they could go through the report of the delegation and refresh their memories on the facts of the case and also peruse the terms of the contract so that any points that arise to-day may be fresh in their minds and would be dealt with expeditiously? As the matter now stands, not only honourable members but even the members of the Government themselves apparently have not bothered to refresh their memories as to the facts of the case and they find themselves in the embarrassing position of not being able to answer questions which are asked even by back-benchers. I believe that no harm can be done if this matter is postponed for a week. As a matter of fact the Surinam Commission is now here and it would be apropos if steps were taken to interview the commission on the question of the wages for a Barbadian emigrant. Last year when we sent our delegation to Surinam the Government of St. Lucia also sent one. All the facts I have not here with me but I know that it is correct to say that the St. Lucian delegation reported that the Trade Union leaders in Surinam had particularly asked them not to accept the wage rate of 4/6 a day because if they did so, it would be putting them in a peculiar position, inasmuch as they, in Surinam, were endeavouring to get the wage rate raised to at least 5/6 a day. As a matter of fact Mr. Eleazer who was one of the leaders of the Surinam Trade Union told the St. Lucian delegation that they had their election this year, that they hoped to capture six seats and that they were making the question of an increase in the wage rate for Surinam workers one of the planks in their political platform; that if foreign West Indian labourers are willing to come in to work for less than what the Trade Union in Surinam was demanding, it will readily be seen the position in which they would be placed. On my way from Jamaica last year I stopped in Trinidad and met Messrs. Carasco and Schouten, members of the St. Lucian delegation, and they told me that they were making reference to this state of affairs in their report,—a copy of which I have obtained and I can emphasize the point. No mention of it was made in the report of the Barbadian delegation and I do not know for what reason they did not see fit to make some reference to it because I certainly got the impression that the same representations which were made to the St. Lucian delegation with regard to this important question of wages were also made to the Barbadian delegation. I am not in a position to say to-day, although I possibly would be next Tuesday, whether or not the Election

came off and what were the results but I do know that representations were being made in St. Lucia with the view to seeing to it that the accepted wage rate by the St. Lucia Government does not conflict with the wage rate which is being demanded by the Trade Union in Surinam and this Government would be putting itself in a very invidious position if it accepted a wage rate which has been publicly declared to be less than what the workers in Surinam were demanding and possibly less than what they are getting now. In view of this and other points which have been raised I think that no harm would be done if this Resolution was postponed for another week. I really have some important facts which have recently come into my possession in connection with the entire question of emigration to Surinam and if I had the faintest idea that this Resolution would have been before us to-day I would have had those facts here. It is not fair to us. It is not a case of a situation arising overnight; it is a situation which the Government knew weeks ago would arise and there is absolutely no excuse at all for sending this Resolution to us only to-day and expecting us to vote this money without any further ado. I submit that now the Commission is here is the time for us to clarify the question of wages and even allow the Government to take up these matters with them. We are looking for trouble if we send Barbadian workers down there and say we are going to accept the wage rate against which the Trade Union in Surinam is making the most strenuous protestations.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I cannot see my way to put any stumbling block in the way of this Resolution but, Sir, I am very disappointed at the way the Government members are handling it. They can answer no questions at all that are asked. I think it is a disgraceful state of affairs that a matter like this should be placed so suddenly before us and they can answer no questions at all about it. Most of us are only too sorry that there are not 500 or 5,000 families going to Surinam instead of only fifty. I certainly would not agree to put off this Resolution for a week because these gentlemen may leave Barbados and go somewhere else and get fifty families. The question which has been asked on this side of the table seeks to obtain protection for each man, woman and child that are going to Surinam and I consider that it should have been answered much better than it has been answered. We are only trying to protect the emigrants by seeing that they are not called upon to sign the wrong contract. Do not let anybody get the impression that any of us on this side of the House do not wish this matter to go through. I shall support this Resolution.

Mr. COX: It is remarkable at times to see the attitude of some members of this House. As we all know, the question of emigration is a burning one in Barbados. We know, Sir, that on many occasions Addresses have been introduced into this House hurriedly in the endeavour to do something to get some of our surplus population out of the island but you will notice, Sir, that the attitude of some members is just like that of the old sailor who was looking for work but at the same time was praying to God that he would not find any. The position is that the Surinam Commission came here and discussed the question of emigration with members of the Government as well as with members of this House in their private capacity. An Agreement was reached and an Address was passed by this House asking the Government to send a delegation to Surinam to investigate the possibilities of sending some of our people there. The delegation was sent and has reported and its report, as far as

I can gather, is favourable to many of the members of this House. But what happens now? After certain provisions were made, the Surinam Commission has again come to this country to recruit some of our people as settlers in Surinam and I would like to say that whether they be one or 50 or 50,000 settlers, it is a help to this country. Well, the Government immediately sends this Resolution to this House. I took it that we were all agreed upon emigration; that we were all conversant with the recommendations of the delegation to Surinam and I felt that we were all too glad to get these people out as quickly as possible, realizing what conditions are in this country. Now we find to-day some members who are supposed to be champions of emigration are telling us that this matter should be postponed. For what reason they alone know but I feel that no time should be wasted in passing this or any other Resolution which will result in immediate relief being brought to the many unemployed in this country. We all know that a short time ago it was expected that 1,000 of our workers would have gone to the U.S.A.; that has fallen through. Now the time comes when we are absolutely sure of getting 50 families out. Why not let us do our best and use up as little time as possible to try to get these people out? I think, Sir, that the attitude of certain members is really queer, when we remember that from the housetops and platforms all over this island, the question of emigration is raised. The Government is accused of doing nothing in the matter and yet when the Government does something and presents something tangible you find people who claim to be interested—and to be even more interested than the Government—being the first to get up to try to block the passage of it. That, in itself, should convince the public that these people who try to make them believe that they are interested in getting them out are the least willing to do so.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not want to prolong this debate but I should like to say that if this Committee has any willingness to postpone this Resolution, the people who will benefit from this scheme have no willingness that it should be postponed. Too many people have been making enquiries of me about this matter and it grieves me to see the shameful conduct of some people. I am surprised to hear the senior member for St. Thomas intimate his willingness to postpone this Resolution. We suspended Rules 88 and 89 so that this matter could be dealt with to-day and a few minutes after, we are suggesting that it be postponed. I will say this for the benefit of those honourable members who seem to be paying no attention to what has been done in this House. We passed an Address to the Governor after the delegation returned from Surinam and presented its report. The question of wages was mentioned in the report and the Address to the Governor asked the Government to implement the recommendations of the delegation as contained in its report. We have already gone on record as having approved of the wages and now members are saying that they want further information on that question.

A question was asked about the allowances to the Labour Inspector who is being sent to Surinam as liaison officer but the honourable member who asked that question has stated that he is not willing to have the Resolution postponed to get the information. The senior member for St. Philip asked certain questions and presses his request for the information. The senior member for St. Andrew asked whether the labourers would be employed by the Government of Surinam or by private employers in Surinam and the junior member for St. John answered that question. But if honourable members know anything about international labour organization, they would know

that even if the labourers were employed by private employers in Surinam, this Government would have to come in to see that the contracts are proper contracts to be entered into in a foreign country. Members of the House are wasting time asking a lot of nonsensical questions, instead of getting through with this scheme which is for the benefit of people whom they represent. I challenge honourable members who would postpone this Resolution because they know the consequence of postponing a measure like this.

Mr. GARNER: I do not want to carry on this debate but I fail to see how any one member can prevent me from asking for information which I want. It is our duty as representatives of the people to find out the terms and conditions under which these emigrants will be going to Surinam. I am not one of those who say "emigration for emigration sake." This emigration scheme must mean something for the people who avail themselves of it. We may be sending these people into a death trap. I have my own conscience which guides me and I am nothing to do with what any other honourable thinks or does. I want to know whether these labourers will be insured by this Government or by the Surinam Government. What protection are they getting by way of insurance? This matter has been thrust upon me only this morning and I did not have time to study it. I do not want to be a stumbling block in the path of emigration but at the same time I do not want to see emigration take place at any price. I want to know that these labourers are going under the safest conditions possible. There is a further question which I would like to ask. It is all right for persons who sit here to be able to drive in their cars and live in comfort. It is stated, Mr. Chairman, in the addendum that the Labour Inspector is being sent to act as liaison officer during the initial stages of the emigration for a period of two to five weeks. These labourers are going to a country where a foreign language is spoken and I want to know if an interpreter will be placed at their disposal. We have to get something more tangible than what is stated on this piece of paper before us. So when I said that this Resolution should be postponed I was not opposing for the sake of opposition. I have the interest of the people who are going to Surinam at heart. Another thing is this. In previous cases, the amount of the subsistence allowance has been mentioned on every occasion but in this case, it is not and I would like to know something about that. Another thing I would like to know is this. In the Address which we passed we stated that we would like an effort to be made to get a little more money for the labourers who are going and I would like to know if that has been done and if it has been done, what is the outcome. You do not take up people and send them out of their country in this uncertain manner. Who knows that to-morrow morning people will be approaching me and asking me questions about this emigration scheme and I would not be in a position to answer them? I do not know the Government's policy. The Government has failed up to now to put certain facts before us. Has the Government been successful in getting for these labourers an increase of the wages which have been offered? I want some facts about that and if I do not get answers to my questions I will talk all day. I do not care who says that I am holding up this matter but I want to know that all the points which I have raised have been settled.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Unlike all the other members of this House I was not a sitting member when the report of the delegation that went to Surinam was laid on this table but I have been led to understand that the question of wages formed part of that report

and this House agreed to the passing of the report. I do not, therefore, see the wisdom in holding up the passing of this Resolution if honourable members have already had the information about the wages that are offered to these emigrants. It seems to me that we are acting like children, if after we have had the information on the question of wages we go and blame the Government for accepting too low wages for these emigrants. As far as hinting that Surinam will probably prove a death trap is concerned, again I understand that the report of the delegation covered the health conditions in that country and, therefore, I do not see that honourable members have any excuse for holding up this Resolution. I am one of those who invite criticism as far as this Government is concerned but the junior member for St. Philip certainly seems to be rather wide of the mark when he spoke about insurance of these labourers because again I understand that no mention was made about the question of insurance. The honourable member is just trying to be wise after the event. I repeat that I see no reason why we should hold up the passing of this Resolution since we all claim that we are interested in finding outlets for our surplus population. This Resolution should be passed now.

Mr. BLACKMAN: So far as the wages are concerned I would like to say this: If the senior member for St. Philip had told us that the delegation from St. Lucia had been able to secure better wages than the delegation from Barbados secured I would have been able to see something in his argument but he has not attempted to do that. The delegation from Barbados went into the wages question while we were there and it was found by Mr. Chase who knows a lot about that phase of the question and who went into the books of the plantations that it was impossible to pay more than the wages which were offered at that time. I do not know anything about plantations but Mr. Chase went through the books and was satisfied about the wages that were offered. As regards the language spoken in Surinam, we all went into several schools and there was not a single person in those schools who does not speak English. Unlike Barbados, the people in Surinam know English just as well as they know Dutch. I have not met a single person in Surinam who does not speak English; therefore, the question raised by the junior member for St. Philip about these labourers not being able to understand the language spoken in Surinam does not arise. As regards the senior member for St. Philip, he said that some Trade Union leader in Surinam had approached the delegation from St. Lucia with respect to the question of wages. That gentleman also approached the delegation from this island but I did not feel that it was any part of the business of the Barbados delegates to assist the Labour Union in Surinam in fighting the employers there. I felt it was far more important for us to get persons who are unemployed in Barbados out of Barbados than to go about fighting people about wages in other countries. That is the way I feel about that phase of the matter.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,— I never thought that I would sit here and listen to the type of remarks made by an honourable member in the position of the honourable member who has just spoken as I have heard to-day. With regard to the question of wages, the junior member for St. John who was Chairman of the delegation that went from this island to Surinam said that they were approached by the Trade Union leaders in Surinam on the

question of wages but that he did not think it was their business to help to fight the battle of the workers in Surinam; that what was their business was to get work for unemployed Barbadians. He further stated that Mr. Chase went into the question of wages and into the books of the plantations and found that it was impossible for them to pay more. Well, well, well! Mr. Chase knows more about plantations in Surinam than the Trade Union leaders in Surinam! What the honourable member wants to tell us to-day is this: We are to pick up Barbadian workers and send them to Surinam to be strife makers, to be black-leggers. The Trade Union in Surinam is fighting for more wages. The Trade Union leaders in Surinam, Messrs. Eleazer and Vaneer, made it their business to go to both of the delegations and tell them they were fighting a general election on this question of wages. In their report the St. Lucian delegates stated that the only important reservation which the Trade Union leaders made was that the rate of 4/6 a day should not be accepted. Messrs. Eleazer and Vaneer told the delegations that they were planning to get all the agricultural workers in the Agricultural Workers Union; that they were also hoping to secure about six seats in the 1948 Election; and that they were not prepared to accept a wage rate that is less than the equivalent of approximately 5/6 per day in British West Indian Currency. Now we are going to send workers into Surinam to work for less than the Surinam workers are demanding, simply because the junior member for St. John did not think it was the business of the Barbadian delegation to go into the question of wages and because another wonderful member of the delegation went into the books of the plantations and discovered that the owners could not pay more. I am saying this advisedly: When it comes to getting thousands of workers out of this country, a lot of people who can assist sit on the fence but when it comes to a small experimental scheme like this—it may not be anything larger—a lot of people want to take the credit for it. I am prepared to say this: If Surinam could have got workers anywhere else they would never have come here at all and after the remarks of the junior member for St. John I am definitely going to vote against the passing of this Resolution to-day. I can see where we are heading for. I can see that we are heading to send workers down there because the Surinam plantation owners want to get them to work for smaller wages and to use them as a threat to the workers of that country. That is the whole thing and unless these workers go under a proper guarantee and proper protection there is going to be a lot of trouble when they get there. I can well imagine what is going to be said—Barbadians coming in to work for 4/6 a day and we are trying to get more; coming into our country to keep our wage rate low; coming into our country to work for less than we are getting. It is a very serious state of affairs. The Surinam Commission went to Jamaica but they reported that they did not want Jamaican workers at all because while they were there, there was a lot of discontent among the workers. The workers were on strike and the Police were using tear gas and the delegation reported that they did not want workers from Jamaica. It was also reported that in so far as Barbados is concerned, workers from this country should be taken only if they cannot get workers from somewhere else and the delegation also stated in their report that they would not be surprised if the Barbadian workers introduced discontent into Surinam. As a matter of fact, this is what the Commission that came here reported:—

“Not under any circumstances does the Commission think it advisable to recommend—

The CHAIRMAN: Is that something you are reading from?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: When you are finished, you will have to pass it on to the Clerk as a document of the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Certainly, if you want it—with pleasure. As a matter of fact you will notice that I took the precaution to secure a copy for you. The Commission state in their report “not under any circumstances does the Commission think it advisable to recommend large scale emigration from Barbados until small scale experiments have been conducted over a certain period (e.g.—three to six months) and make it possible to draw firmer conclusions than those which the Commission can reach at present.” They went on to state:—“It is the Commission’s opinion that it would be unwise to discard the possibility of emigration from Barbados as long as it is not sure whether sufficient skilled labour can be obtained from elsewhere.” In other words, if they find that they can get labourers somewhere else they would discard Barbados; if they find that they cannot get them elsewhere, only then will they take them from Barbados. Their report goes on:—“The men who were partially or totally unemployed and went to U.S.A. have now become unsuited to life on the Surinam plantations, first because of local conditions there and, secondly, because of the large differences in wages. Surinam is destined to receive people who work on sugar plantations and, at present, have either no full daily employment or very irregular employment. When they are employed they work only four days a week. To adapt themselves to a regular schedule of five days a week throughout the year will probably cause difficulty. Only practical experience will show whether these people are again capable of working regularly. Further, it must be noted that the Barbadian may not be an easy-going type of individual. Deeply attached to his country, with city life at hand, and accustomed to beautiful roads, absence of mud and non-existence of malaria, he may think emigration not worth while. When the Barbadians who resolve to emigrate remember the easy life they had at home, they may grow dissatisfied with what Surinam has to offer. And, as stated above, there is a chance that their leaders will support them in this view. It is therefore, a possibility that immigration of Barbadians on a large scale may introduce discontent into Surinam. From the point of view of the Surinam immigration plan”—and this is what is called the *pièce de resistance*—“the St. Lucian is more suitable than the Barbadian. He is of a more sober disposition, less organised, less educated, accustomed to lower wages,”—do you see what I tell you? They are looking to see if they can bring in workers for less than what is paid in Surinam—“and a lower standard of living. Nevertheless it is doubtful whether he will adapt himself to Surinam conditions.” And very much more in that strain. Now, Sir, the Commission have practically admitted that they are only recruiting here because they cannot get workers elsewhere and the junior member for St. John who was Chairman of the Barbados delegation has had to admit that the Trade Union leaders in Surinam raised the question of wages with his delegation, although not a single word was said about it in their report. If I had not read the report of the St. Lucian delegation I would not have known anything about it. Not a single reference to it in their report! The first time I heard it was when I met Messrs. Carasco and Schouten at Queen’s Park in Trinidad last August.

I came back expecting to see something about it in the delegation's report and I saw nothing about it. When I received a copy of the report of the St. Lucian delegation, they emphasized it in their report and now we are being told to-day that Mr. Chase who, perhaps, has never been to Surinam before in all his life, who, perhaps, knows as much about plantation work in Surinam as he knows about plantation work in the Philippines, went into the books and satisfied himself that the plantations in Surinam cannot pay more than 4/6 a day. As a matter of fact the St. Lucian delegation reported that the cost of living in Surinam was much higher than it was in St. Lucia and that is one of the reasons why they could not accept that wage rate. Finally, Sir, some other honourable gentleman wants to claim that people want to oppose this Resolution or this scheme merely with the purpose of embarrassing the Government; he seems to suggest that the best attitude to adopt would be to sit and say nothing, let the Government go ahead and when the scheme blows up in the air in a short time from now we will be able to see where we are. If anybody wanted to embarrass the Government, we would say nothing at all; we would accept the situation, let the labourers go on down and if when they land there they get into a fight immediately with the Surinam workers, then we will see where we are. We can rest assured that if we allow them to go under the conditions proposed here to-day, if there is no change in the situation we can expect to have a lot of trouble coming out of Surinam. I sincerely hope that now that honourable members have heard for themselves what is the exact position with regard to the question of wages, they will be able to appreciate what a wonderful job the delegation which went from this island to Surinam did in compiling its report.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I do not want to keep members of the House long on this matter but I am going to appeal to honourable members not to postpone this Resolution. Let us get on with it. The arguments raised by honourable members showing up the difficulties in the arrangements are things which were discussed in Select Committee and to which special reference was made in the Address which we passed to the Governor. I think it was stated in the Address that some attempt should be made to see if better wages could be obtained. We have the assurance that that attempt has been made (Cheers). In this island to-day with unemployment on a large scale, even the sending of fifty families out of it will be an immediate relief. I take it that we will all be watching the development of this scheme and wishing it every success and if there are difficulties now, as we go along we will do our best to remedy them. (Cheers). I appeal to honourable members to pass this Resolution to-day.

Mr. ADAMS: I wish to congratulate the honourable member who has just sat down on looking at the interest of the community and not playing politics. One is amazed to think that the senior member for St. Philip should read what he has read. He knows all of that; all of it is accurate and yet he takes the stand he has taken. I hope I do not have cause to regret saying any of the things I am going to say because there are occasions when absolute silence is the only method to adopt to get things done. When I was in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in September last year I was given the assurance from a first-class source that the activities of an officer of the Barbados Workers' Union in Surinam were likely to break down the Surinam negotiations on this very matter of wages. We have been told plainly and bluntly what the honourable member has just read; that the St. Lucians are docile and

would be satisfied with less wages than the Barbadians; that the Barbadians are organized and are likely to give trouble; that if we persist on the question of increased wages the Surinam people can get labourers outside Barbados. What is the point in the honourable member knowing all that and yet trying to suggest that the Government has ignored the question of wages or anything of the sort?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I will not have the senior member for St. Joseph misquote me. Throughout my remarks my censure as regards the question of wages, was directed towards the delegation which went from this island to Surinam.

Mr. ADAMS: I will take that out of its place and answer it. What does the delegation say in its report on the question of wages? It says this:—"The actual cash payment—4/6 a day or 1.75 guilders—cannot be regarded as attractive as it will just cover household expenses." The delegation knew very well that that is a low wage but it goes on to state:—"but when to this is added—"

Mr. CRAWFORD: Again, on a point of explanation, I did not quote the wage rate and say it was a low wage rate. What I did say was that the wage rate was lower than what the Surinam Trade Union was asking for—an entirely different thing.

Mr. ADAMS: The delegation was accused of mentioning nothing in its report about the question of wages.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I never accused the delegation of stating nothing in its report. I accused the delegation of not reporting that the Trade Union leaders in Surinam approached and asked them not to accept the 4/6 wage rate because they were trying to get a 5/6 wage rate—an entirely different matter. I am not going to sit here and allow myself to be misquoted. The delegation mentioned the question of wages and the cost of living but no where in their report did they state that the Trade Union leaders in Surinam approached and asked them not to accept the 4/6 wage rate.

Mr. ADAMS: The point is that the delegation in its report gives a different interpretation of the attitude of the Surinam Trade Union leaders from that which they really showed to the St. Lucian delegation (Mr. CRAWFORD: Yes). The honourable member says "yes." I am not going to accuse of lying the honourable member on my immediate left (Mr. Blackman), Mr. Chase, Dr. Weatherhead and the two Barbadian peasants who went to Surinam, came back and stated that they were satisfied and signed a report to that effect. I prefer to accept their word in a report than even the honourable member's word on oath. The delegation stated that they had interviews with these people who told them that they were extremely glad that their Government was bringing in labourers from abroad, a far different thing from bringing in labourers as black-leggers. When one makes accusation against people one should be sure of one's facts. All I merely wish to point out is this: All of us forget, if we do not have the opportunity to refresh our memories and honourable members may be pardoned for forgetting the terms of the contract. At the time when the report of the delegation was before the House, the junior member for St. George supported the recommendation of the Select Committee who considered the report, that a liaison officer should be sent to Surinam and suggested that we should endeavour to secure increased wages for the labourers. The honourable member on the right of the junior member for St. George did likewise. That is say, he congratulated the Government and the delegation for what they had done. Both of them, as well as other honourable members, expressed

the hope that we would get on with the scheme and the Government acted as speedily as it could to implement the scheme. Reverting to the question of wages, I will continue to read from the report of the delegation as follows:—"But when to this is added (a) the wife's earnings, (b) free housing for the worker and his family, (c) free medical care for the worker and his family, (d) $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land on the estate for his own use, (e) regular employment for 5 days every week, (f) pay for overtime work, (g) facilities for keeping live stock, (h) the use of playing fields free, (i) the use of dance halls, (j) the service of shops in which there is a sufficiency of food, clothes and household supplies, the price of which is Government controlled, (k) cheap cinema shows—10 cents, the amount of his real earnings would be greater than what he could hope to earn in Barbados doing agricultural work." All of that was stated in the Report and the House, in its Address to the Governor, added the suggestions about the appointment of a liaison officer and trying to get a higher wage than 4/6 a day. The answer to the latter suggestion need not be given by me; it has just been given by the senior member for St. Philip. I repeat that the Surinam people told me as bluntly as they could "We are not paying one cent more than 4/6 a day. If you are making a noise about it, we can go elsewhere. The St. Lucians will take it." Faced with that situation—and this is one of the things I regret saying—is it not better for our labourers to go there, keep quiet for a time and then raise Haedes in trying to get increased wage rates? The question of Trade Unionism was taken up by Mr. Springer and myself and as soon it was raised one of the Surinam people pricked his ears and said "What! Members of the Barbados Trade Union coming to operate in Surinam?" We said "No, but are you going to allow facilities for the Barbadian labourers in Surinam to join the Union in Surinam in order that they may get higher wages?" That question was put plainly to Mr. De Groot and we saw one glance at the other. That question was also put to the Dutch representatives at the Caribbean Congress because our experience is that the Dutch are the worst people in the Caribbean area when it comes to promoting the existence of Trade Unions and recognizing them. The Caribbean Labour Congress has had to fight the battles of Trade Unionists in Curacao and Aruba. Honourable members will remember that the Honourable T. A. Marryshow, that distinguished West Indian politician, was asported from the airport in Aruba when he visited that country faster than he got there. Many of our workers who have gone there are still active members of the Barbados Workers' Union and one, at least, was dismissed from his job because he was fighting the battles of those workers and was sending us letters and getting communications from the Union here. As soon as you come to the question of Trade Unions fighting for higher wages, you get the Dutch giving you more trouble than any other Nation in this area. We are conscious of all that and, therefore, in our considered judgment, it is far better to send labourers from this overpopulated island to a place where conditions are not as bad as they appear at first sight. If you tell a labourer that he is going to get 4/6 a day in a foreign country, certainly he would say that that is nothing but it is not so bad when you take into consideration that in addition he will be getting free medical attention, free housing, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land for his own use and at the completion of his contract—two years for a single man and three for a family—he will be entitled to settle on $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land free of rent for the first six years and after that at a rental of \$6 a year indefinitely. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do feel

that the Government should thank those honourable members who are not members of the Government or the Barbados Labour Party for having put this matter above Party. I would just like to remind the Committee that all the land in Surinam is owned by the Government of Surinam. They have reached that socialist paradise, although from the point of view of their attitude to Trade Unionists they are not so socialist minded. It is right for me to say, on behalf of the Government, that we are grateful to those members who are not members of the Government for taking the broad view that it is our duty to get half a loaf rather than no loaf at all, when we are trying to get people out of this island under an emigration scheme.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sure that the Committee appreciates that both the Barbadian workers and the Surinam workers will receive the same wages. All the workers, whether they are Dutch or not, will get their free housing and free medical care but in spite of that, it is well for a protest to be made against the 4/6 wage rate; that is all I am saying. With regard to the statement that if we make a fuss all the Surinam people would do is to leave us out. and take labourers from St. Lucia, the honourable member knows that that is not accurate because he knows that the Surinam Commission reported that St. Lucia could not supply the number of workers they want; therefore, it is not true to say that if we raise any fuss against the wage rate offered, they would leave us out and go to St. Lucia. I do not intend to return the compliment which the honourable member paid me as regards how much credence is to be placed upon my word. But this I do know; that if we were to hold a plebiscite in Barbados to ascertain the number of people who prefer to take my word without being given on oath than the word of the honourable member on oath, he would find that the result would not be in his favour; so it is merely a question of what he thinks as against what the majority of the people in this country thinks. And finally on the question of Trade Unions, the Trade Union officials in Surinam were opposed to any Trade Union official in Barbados trying to get representation in the Trade Union there; they said that they were not going to allow Barbadian workers to come to Surinam, work for Dutch money which could be spent in Surinam to promote the interests of Surinam workers and then their Trade Union officials pick up Trade Union fees and send them back to Barbados; they were not going to be prepared to allow money which they wanted in Surinam to be picked up and sent back to support workers in another country and let certain people sit down and live like parasites. They were quite willing to have control by a private body under Government's supervision in Surinam and let the fees remain in Surinam; that was their objection with regard to the Trade Union question. There is not a single point raised to-day in connection with this matter which is not justified and we are going into this matter with our eyes wide open. The only regrettable thing about it is that the people whom we are going to expose to the forefront, in case conditions do not turn out to be what we hope for, will unfortunately not be the people who are responsible for putting them in their plight.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of two Resolutions and the postponement of two in Committee of Supply.

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case, the two Resolutions which were passed in Committee of Supply are read a first and second time and are agreed to.

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

On re-assembling,

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 56 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (a).

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to resume Government Business. Some honourable members have intimated that they would like to deal with one or two Vestry matters and I propose to continue Government Business until about 4.30 o'clock and then allow honourable members to deal with the Vestry matters. I hope that honourable members will not be asked to sit later than 5 o'clock.

Mr. DOWDING: I object to leave being granted to move the suspension of Rule 61 (b).

Mr. ADAMS: I am hoping that the honourable member will withdraw his objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable junior member for St. Philip wants to deal with a matter under Private Members' Business and I think it is better for us to suspend Rule 61 (a) only.

Mr. SPEAKER: I suggest to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that he should deal with the suspension of the Rules separately.

Mr. ADAMS: I am quite willing to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business. If there is no objection the honourable member will be granted leave. (After a pause). There being being on objection, the honourable member may make the motion.

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

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 2 on the Order Paper as the next Order of the Day.

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

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: When the House was last in Committee on this Bill, Clause 190 renumbered 188 had been passed.

Clause 191 renumbered 189 was passed.

Clause 192 renumbered 190:—

190. (1) Any notice, order, consent, demand or other document which a Sanitary Authority are authorised or required by or under this Act

to give make or issue may be signed on behalf of such Sanitary Authority by their clerk, or by any other Officer of such Sanitary Authority authorised by them in writing to sign documents of the particular kind, or as the case may be, the particular document.

(2) Any document purporting to bear the signature of an officer expressed to hold an office by virtue of which he is under this section empowered to sign such a document, or expressed to be duly authorised by the Sanitary Authority to sign such a document or the particular document, shall for the purposes of this Act, and of any regulations bye-laws and orders made thereunder, be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to have been duly given, made or issued by authority of the Sanitary Authority.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 192 renumbered 190 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the word "clerk" occurring in line 5 of Sub-clause (1) be deleted and the word "secretary" be inserted in place thereof.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

The question that Clause 192 renumbered 190 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 193 renumbered 191 was passed.

Clause 194 renumbered 192:—

192. In any proceedings under this Act a document purporting to be certified by the Clerk of a Sanitary Authority as a copy of a resolution or order passed or made by that Sanitary Authority on a specified date, or of the appointment of, or of any authority given to, an officer of that Sanitary Authority on a special date, shall be evidence that that resolution, order, appointment or authority was duly passed, made, or given by the Sanitary Authority on the said date.

Dr. CUMMINS: In this Clause I ask leave to make a similar amendment as was made in Clause 192 renumbered 190, namely, that the word "Clerk" be deleted and the word "Secretary" be inserted in place thereof.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 194 renumbered 192 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clauses 193 to 196 as re-numbered were passed. Clause 199 re-numbered 197:—

197. No matter or thing done and no contract entered into by a Sanitary Authority or other person whomsoever acting under the direction of such Sanitary Authority, shall, if the matter or thing were done or the contract were entered into *bona fide* for the purpose of executing this Act, subject them or any of them personally to any action, liability, claim, or demand whatsoever; and any expense incurred by any such Sanitary Authority, member, officer or other person acting as last aforesaid, shall be borne and repaid out of the funds applicable by such Sanitary Authority to the general purposes of this Act;

Provided that nothing in this section shall exempt any member of any such Sanitary Authority from liability to be surcharged with the amount of any payment which may be disallowed by the auditor in the accounts of such Sanitary Authority, and which such member authorised or joined in authorising.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 199 re-numbered 197 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: With regard to the proviso in this Clause, an auditor might take it upon himself to denote what might be allowed by law; he might not take into consideration any legal opinion and might very well take it upon himself to say that something should be repaid. I do not think it would be right to leave this matter entirely to an auditor. The Auditor will not of necessity be a legally-trained man and it should not be left to him alone to say that an act was illegal. I beg to move that after the word "auditor" in line 15, the words "with the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee" be inserted. The opinion of the Crown Law Officers would be taken as to whether the auditor is right or not.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

The question that Clause 199 re-numbered 197 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 198 to 201 as re-numbered were passed.

Clause 204 re-numbered 202:—

202. (1) Where any Sanitary Authority have incurred expenses, for the payment whereof the owner of the premises for or in respect of which the same are incurred is made liable under this Act or by any agreement with the Sanitary Authority, such expenses may be recovered, together with interest at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum from the date of service of a demand for the same till payment thereof, from any person who is the owner of such premises when the works are completed for which such expenses have been incurred, and, until recovery of such expenses and interest, the same shall be a charge on the premises in respect of which they were incurred. Such charge shall be deemed to be prior and preferential to all existing or future charges or encumbrances thereon, save and except charges for debts due to the Crown and charges thereon in respect of other rates, charges, or sums of money due to the Vestry of any parish.

(2) Where expenses are recoverable by a Sanitary Authority under and by virtue of any provision of this Act which contains provisions other than or different from those contained in subsection (1) of this section, the provisions of the said subsection (1) shall be read and construed subject to any modification expressed in such provision.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If I recall aright, this Clause is in some conflict with an existing Statute. Sub-clause (1) says that where a Sanitary Authority have incurred expenses for the payment of which the owner of the premises in respect of which the same are incurred is made liable under this Act, such expenses may be recovered and until the recovery of such expenses the same shall be a charge on the premises in respect of the premises in respect of which they were incurred; and then the Clause goes on to say that such charge shall be deemed to be prior and preferential to all existing or future charges except charges due to the Crown and charges due to the Vestry. I should like to know how this Clause would apply in relation to an Act like the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act in the matter of preference. The Bank has preference to the settlement of mortgages and so forth on any property. The owner of a property of say, over ten acres, may be subject to the terms and conditions under which he has been borrowing money from the Bank. According to this Clause, the Sanitary Authority would have priority if you owed away money; but there is an existing Statute which has preferential treatment. This is a Clause which should be submitted to the Attorney

General for his opinion. I hate to ask that the consideration of any Clause be postponed but I am afraid that I shall have to ask the honourable member in charge of the Bill to postpone the consideration of this Clause so that the Attorney General will be able to go into the matter. There cannot be two Statutes having preferential treatment. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Clause be postponed.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Dr. CUMMINS: I agree to the motion for the postponement of the consideration of this Clause.

Clause 204 re-numbered 202 was postponed.

Clauses 203 to 205 as re-numbered were passed.

Clause 208 re-numbered 206:—

206. (1) The Director, on being satisfied that any Sanitary Authority have made default in doing their duty under any of the provisions of this Act or of any instrument made thereunder, or in enforcing any of the provisions of this Act or of any instrument made thereunder which it is their duty to enforce, may make an order limiting a time for the performance of their duty in the matter of such default. If such duty is not performed within the time limited, the Director may appoint some person to perform such duty or may institute any proceedings and do any act which the Sanitary Authority might have instituted or done for that purpose.

(2) Where under subsection (1) of this section the Director has performed or caused to be performed any duty of a Sanitary Authority or has instituted any proceedings or done any act which the Sanitary Authority might have instituted or done for that purpose any expenses incurred by him in so doing shall be paid in the first instance out of moneys to be provided for the purpose by the Legislature; but the amount of those expenses (not being expenses recovered from any other person or expenses incurred in any unsuccessful proceeding) shall be recoverable by him from the Sanitary Authority as a debt due to the Crown, and that Sanitary Authority shall have the like power of calling for the money required as they have of calling for money for any purpose mentioned in section twenty-two of this Act.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as in any way affecting the provisions of paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) of section one hundred and twenty-five of this Act.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 208 re-numbered 206 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I suggest that this Clause be read so that it can be studied carefully.

The Clause was read.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I would not agree that this Clause be deleted; I have thought of it carefully. It is quite true that in some parishes the Sanitary Authority might be a bit lackadaisical in performing any duties which they might be called upon by the Director to perform. I think that we should be careful about putting all the power into the hands of one man. At the end of Sub-clause (1) it is stated that the Director may appoint some person to perform a duty which has not been performed within the time limited or he may institute any proceedings and do any act which the Sanitary Authority might have instituted or done for that purpose. I say that all these matters must be subject to the approval of somebody; we might have here a Director of Medical Services like a former Chief Medical Officer whom you could only find at one place. This Bill must be passed and the powers of the Sanitary Authority and the local Authorities must be

curtailed. Some power must be put into the hands of one man but he should not have absolute power. I beg to move that after the word "Director" occurring in line 9 of Sub-clause (1) the words "subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee" be inserted.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

The question that Clause 208 re-numbered 206 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 209 renumbered 207:—

207. The Director may, in addition to the powers and authorities otherwise conferred on him by this Act, exercise all the powers and authorities vested in a Sanitary Authority by this Act within the Parish of such Sanitary Authority.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 209 renumbered 207 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As regards this Clause I think that we can wipe out the whole Bill and have such a Clause. In other words, we should either do that or pass the Bill without having this Clause in it. We have to put a certain amount of power in the hands of a technically-trained man but, as I have already said, we must be cautious in doing so. We might not have a Chief Medical Officer like the last one we had. I appeal to honourable members to see that if we pass this Clause, then the amendment which we have made to the last Clause will be of no avail. I beg to move that this Clause be deleted.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second that. I have studied this Clause and it does seem to me that it is the snag in the Bill in that it creates a dictatorship. From what we have experienced in the past I do not think it would be safe to leave this overlapping Clause in this Bill. It gives the Director too much power and it makes him the embodiment of the Act in other words. While we need an expert to carry out sanitation in this island we do not want to give one man such power as to be the embodiment of the Act. I am therefore supporting the motion for the deletion of this Clause. I repeat that after what we have experienced in the case of certain Directors, I do not think that we can leave this Clause in this Bill. It tends to give dictatorial powers to one man. Not long ago we were in a mess with a Director and while I pay homage to the Chief Medical Officer who has just left us—he is a man of sterling qualities—we may not repeat his like in this island. We might have an untamed Englishman coming to these shores. (Laughter). I have had to work as a Sanitary Commissioner for a very long time and I know what I am talking about. I do not think that any of the people who expect to comprise the Sanitary Authorities in this island would pay us any respect if we, as a legislative Body, pass this Clause as it is. (Mr. ADAMS: I shall make an amendment). I am glad to know that an amendment is going to be made; therefore I will not say anything more until a statement has been made in the matter.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know whether the Legal Draughtsman intended this Clause to mean all that it seems to mean or not; but I do not think that the Director would interfere with the Sanitary Authority unless they fail to perform their duty. Clause 206 refers to a specific matter and Clause 207 gives the Director all the power which the Sanitary Authority have; but I think we should limit the exercise of those powers to the occasions where the Sanitary

Authority did not perform their work. Clause 206 says that if the Sanitary Authority do not see after any matter, the Director can appoint somebody to see after it and collect the money for seeing after it from the Sanitary Authority; but the next Clause is not the same, it goes further and it gives the Director all the powers which the Sanitary Authority have. I do not differ from those honourable members who say that this Clause is very wide; but I repeat that we should confine it to occasions on which the Sanitary Authority may fail to perform their work. If the honourable mover is authorised to give an assurance that this Clause will be construed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee only to be applied in cases where a Sanitary Authority fail to do their duty, I do not think that any harm can be done by passing it. Perhaps it is better to add, as the honourable senior member for the City pointed out earlier, the words "subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee".

Mr. MOTTLEY: We have to read all the Clauses from 206 to 214 so as to understand what the position is, and what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has suggested as an amendment is already in Clause 210. Clause 210 says that the Director may make bye-laws for any purpose for which a Sanitary Authority are authorised to make bye-laws and they shall not have effect until they have been approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee; and of course I am going to make an amendment there too. How on earth can we say that in addition to all the powers conferred on the Director by this Bill, he must still have power to exercise all the powers vested in a Sanitary Authority? If we pass this Clause, the Director would not have to call upon any Sanitary Authority to do anything. He can go to the parish of St. Joseph, for instance, and do everything which is vested in him to do; nobody in this honourable House can interpret this Clause to mean anything else. If all this power is vested in the Director, he can walk in any parish and do anything without asking the Sanitary Authority a word. And as the honourable junior member for St. Philip has said, the Director might be an untamed Englishman. We once had in this island a Chief Medical Officer and it would not pay us to have one like him again. I cannot see any possible amendment to this Clause which would justify its remaining in this Bill. I say again that I agree that the Director of Medical Services will be a trained man and he must have some authority; but I do not think that we can pass this Clause whereby the Director can walk in any parish and do whatever he likes.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I agree with the honourable member who has just sat down. Under Clause 208 the Director can make bye-laws which the Sanitary Authority can do with the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee. If we leave Clause 207 in this Bill the Director can walk in any parish and do whatever he pleases to do without asking the Sanitary Authority anything. I do not see how we can pass this Clause.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not see how the Draughtsman of the Bill could mean what honourable members have said: I should like to point out that there is such a thing as permissive power. If the Committee want to be very careful then I suggest that we use the same language which has been used in Clause 206. Under Clause 206, if the Sanitary Authority fail to perform any specific duty the Director can say that such and such a thing must be done within a particular time although he is not actually given the powers of the Sanitary Authority.

At this stage, it now being 3.30 o'clock, Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair and stated that it was now time for the consideration of Private Members' Business.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B).

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (b) so as to continue Government Business. I was told by the honourable junior member for St. Philip that there was a Vestry matter with which he wanted to get through, and I had that in mind, along with a matter of which the honourable senior member for the City spoke to me last Thursday, when I asked leave to move the suspension of the Rules earlier today. I have given the assurance that we will stop the consideration of Government Business some time before 5 o'clock so that these Vestry matters could be got through by 5 o'clock. I have no desire to keep honourable members here longer than that hour; I am quite willing to meet honourable members halfway.

Mr. DOWDING: I have to object to leave being granted the honourable member to move the suspension of the Rule.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (b). An objection having been taken, I shall have to put the question. The question is that leave be granted the honourable member to move the suspension of the Rule. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

The following division was taken:—

Ayes: Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, LEWIS, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, GALE, WILKINSON and Dr. CUMMINS—13.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, HAYNES, DOWDING and S. A. WALCOTT—8.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, thirteen honourable members voting "Aye", and eight honourable members voting "No". The honourable member may therefore make the motion.

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

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: When Government Business was last being considered, the House was in Committee on the Public Health Bill.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When we were last in Committee on this Bill, Clause 209 re-numbered 207 was under consideration.

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest that we reconsider Clause 208 renumbered 206 so as to make matters abundantly clear. By inserting two paragraphs in Sub-clause (1) we can make it clear that the Director will not exercise the powers of the Sanitary Authority except when they are in default. I think that honourable members will agree to that. I beg to move therefore that Clause 209 renumbered 207 be deleted with the idea of recommitting Clause 206. (Mr. GARNER: I do not think that will meet the case.) The Sanitary Authority have to do their job but where they do not do it, the Director will step in and do it. The Director cannot do that if he has not got the powers under the Act to do it. If honourable members want further protection we can begin Clause 206 by saying that subject to the approval of the

Governor-in-Executive Committee, the Director may do so and so.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept the amendment, namely, that Clause 209 renumbered 207 be deleted.

Mr. ADAMS: I now beg to move that Clause 208 renumbered 206 be reconsidered.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that after the word "may" occurring in line 6 of Sub-Clause (1) the letter (a) be inserted and that at the end of the Sub-clause the following words be added: "and (b) in addition to the powers and authorities otherwise conferred on him by this Act exercise all the powers and authorities vested in a Sanitary Authority by this Act within the parish of such Sanitary Authority." Under these amendments the Director can act only if the Sanitary Authority default in their duty.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept those amendments.

Mr. GARNER: This amounts to the same thing; it is just an incorporation of Clause 207 in Clause 206 as renumbered.

Mr. ADAMS: I have already pointed out that the provisions of this Clause will apply only if the Sanitary Authority make default and these matters will be subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

The question that Clause 208 renumbered 206 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 210 renumbered 207:—

207. (1) The Director may make bye-laws for any purpose for which a Sanitary Authority are authorised to make bye-laws under this Act, to have effect in the Parish of such Sanitary Authority.

(2) Bye-laws under this section shall not have effect until they have been approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 210 renumbered 207 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sub-clause (2) says that bye-laws made under this Clause shall not have effect until they have been approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. As regards the Regulations relative to the parking of cars in the street, everybody is asking about them. I feel that these bye-laws should also be submitted to the Legislature. In this Bill there are various Clauses which refer to the making of bye-laws and in some cases we have agreed that they should be made by the Director subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee and they would not come before the Legislature; but in this case I see no reason why these bye-laws should not be subject to the approval of the Legislature. I beg to move, therefore, that the words "subject to the approval of the Legislature" be added at the end of Sub-clause (2).

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

The question that Clause 210 renumbered 207 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 208 to 211 as renumbered were passed.

Cause 215 renumbered 212:—

212. All bye-laws made by a Sanitary Authority under this Act shall be submitted as soon as possible to the Director and to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for approval and on being so approved shall immediately have the force and effect of law, and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 215 renumbered 212 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: What about the bye-laws made under this Clause? Is it that the House will leave nothing to do with them? Are they going to be treated like the Regulations?

Dr. CUMMINS: These are bye-laws made by the Sanitary Authority themselves.

The question that Clause 215 renumbered 212 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 213 and 214 as renumbered were passed.

Clause 218 renumbered 215:—

215. In addition to any powers of entry conferred on the Director or a Health Officer by or under any other provision of this Act, the Director or a Health Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises

- (a) for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is, or has been, on or in connection with the premises any contravention of or failure to comply with the provisions of this Act or of any instrument made thereunder;
- (b) for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not circumstances exist which would authorise or require the Director to take any action under this Act or under any instrument made thereunder;
- (c) for the purpose of taking any action or executing any work authorised or required under this Act or under any instrument made thereunder;
- (d) generally for the purpose of examining and inspecting such premises and for the performance by the Sanitary Authority Officer of his functions under this Act or under any instrument made thereunder.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 218 renumbered 215 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Reading from Clause 214 as renumbered it must be obvious that the powers of entry must be vested in the Sanitary Inspector. I beg to move that after the word "Officer" in line 3 the following words be inserted: "or any person authorised by the Director".

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

Mr. MAPP: Clause 214 as renumbered deals with the powers conferred on the Sanitary Authority.

The question that Clause 218 renumbered 215 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 217 renumbered 214 be recommitted.

Mr. MAPP seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 217 renumbered 214:—

214. In addition to any powers of entry conferred on a Sanitary Authority by or under any other provision of this Act, a Sanitary Authority may at all reasonable times enter any premises

- (a) for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is or has been on or in connection with the premises any contravention of or failure to

comply with the provisions of this Act or of any instrument made thereunder, being provisions which it is the duty of the Sanitary Authority to enforce;

- (b) for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not circumstances exist which would authorise or require the Sanitary authority to take any action, or execute any work, under this Act or any such instrument;
- (c) for the purpose of taking any action or executing any work authorised or required under this Act or under any such instrument to be taken or executed by the Sanitary Authority;
- (d) generally for the purpose of examining and inspecting such premises and for the performance by the Director or a Health Officer of their functions under this Act or under any such instrument.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that after the word "Authority" in line 3 the following words be inserted: "or any person authorised by them."

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept the amendment.

Clause 217 renumbered 214 as amended was passed.

Clause 219 renumbered 216:—

- 216 (1) Where by virtue of any provision of this Act a Sanitary Authority have power to enter any premises they may exercise such power of entry by any of their members or by any person authorised by them.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) a person shall be deemed to be authorised by a Sanitary Authority if such person is in possession of a document signed by the Clerk of the Sanitary Authority, for and on behalf of such Sanitary Authority, authorising such officer, either generally or specially, to enter for the purpose for which entry is claimed.
 - (b) a document purporting to have been signed by the Clerk of a Sanitary Authority shall be deemed to have been signed by him unless and until the contrary is proved.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 219 renumbered 216 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This Clause provides for the entry into any premises by any of the servants of the Sanitary Authority. It seems to me that we have already made amendments which have been covered in a later Clause of the Bill.

The question that Clause 219 renumbered 216 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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.

REVERSION TO PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I do not intend to proceed with any further Government Business at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member having intimated that he does not intend to proceed with any further Government Business at this stage, the House will now revert to Private Members' Business.

ADDRESS *RE* REPAIRS TO HOUSES DAMAGED BY WINDS

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move the passing of the Address of which I gave notice earlier today. The matter is a non-controversial one and I think that honourable members will agree that it should be dealt with this afternoon.

Mr. ADAMS: I object to leave being granted the honourable member. I have already intimated that the Government has already made a decision in the matter and we are waiting for an estimate of the damage done. We are prepared to come to the House and ask that a Resolution be passed in this connection but we are awaiting accurate figures as to the extent of the damage done.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I beg to support the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. George.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to move the passing of the Address of which he gave notice earlier today. An objection having been taken, I shall have to put the question. The question is that leave be granted the honourable member to move the passing of the Address of which he gave notice earlier today. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think the "Noes" have it.

The following division was taken:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT and WILKINSON —11.

Noes: Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, LEWIS, ADAMS, and BLACKMAN—8.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye", and eight honourable members voting "No." The honourable member may therefore make the motion for the passing of the Address.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker,—The Address is as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to enquire from the Vestries of the Parishes of this Island what sum or sums of money would be required to effect the necessary repairs to houses damaged by the recent winds and rains with a view to sending down the necessary Resolution to the Houses of the Legislature providing funds for effecting the same.

I do not intend to spend much time in dealing with this Address. I feel certain that honourable members are well aware of the damage which has been caused by the recent winds and they will be in sympathy with this cause. I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: The parish which I have the honour to represent was, I am sure, more severely hit than any other part of the island in the gale of Friday night last. As a matter of fact there were at least—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the honourable member should go into particulars.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am just stating a few facts. There were about eleven or twelve houses in the parish which were severely affected by the gale. In some cases, houses were lifted up and blown to bits and all that one can find now is scraps of wood in place of the houses.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the honourable member should go into the details of the damage done.

Mr. BRANCKER: The damage done in the parish of St. Lucy is severe and extensive as I have intimated and it is a matter of urgency for the Government to send down a Resolution for a few thousand pounds for the purpose of relieving the people who have suffered. Not one of those people is in a position to repair the damage done to his house and the houses are not insured.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Address is asking that enquiry be made from the Vestries as to what sum or sums of money would be required to effect the necessary repairs to these houses; it is not now so much a question of the amount of the Resolution to be sent down.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am hoping that it will not be understood by the Government that we are merely asking for an enquiry as to the damage done, and that they should do nothing after the enquiry has been made.

Mr. SPEAKER: The enquiry is to be made with a view to sending down the necessary Resolution.

Mr. BRANCKER: I suggest that a Resolution be sent down to provide a certain amount of money which will be allocated—

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the honourable member is going outside the scope of the Address.

Mr. BRANCKER: I feel that if the members of the Executive Committee would listen to what is being said they will carry back to the Executive a careful note of the views which have been expressed by the members of this House. As regards the remarks that the Government have started in this matter before private members of the House, I do not take them seriously.

Mr. ADAMS: I object to what the honourable member has said. I made a clear statement that the Government has made a decision in the matter: I made no *sotto voce* remarks about it.

Mr. BRANCKER: I did not say that; nothing could be more reprehensible than that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was engaged by the honourable senior member for St. Philip and I did not hear what the honourable member said.

Mr. ADAMS: I object to what the honourable member has said.

Mr. BRANCKER: If the honourable member objects to what I have said perhaps he will quote accurately what I have said and let Your Honour know what he is objecting to.

Mr. ADAMS: I understood the honourable member to say that he would not take any *sotto voce* remarks of the Government seriously. I asked honourable members next to me if the honourable member was in the House when I made the remarks. I do not see why the time of the House should be wasted; I have said that the Government is waiting for an estimate of the damage done before sending down the Resolution. The honourable member is only trying to suggest that I am not speaking the truth.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would like to know to what the honourable member is taking exception.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the honourable member should continue his speech.

Mr. BRANCKER: Very well, Mr. Speaker. Speaking strictly in regard to the terms of the Address, I say that this is a matter which should commend itself to any right-thinking person in the community, especially when it is realised how quickly we came to the rescue of St. Lucia; and we must remember that charity begins at home. In this Address it is proposed that the Government should obtain certain information from the Vestries in order to determine the amount of damage which has been caused, and when that is done they will decide the measure of assistance which is necessary to be given. I am only saying, especially as I am intimately concerned with the district in the island which has most severely felt the blow, that this is a matter in which prompt action must be taken when this Address has been passed. The Government should communicate with the Vestries to summon meetings at once and let them know what amounts are required. I throw out the hint for the information of the Government that they should get the Sanitary Inspectors to provide them with a complete list of the houses which have been damaged and the extent of the damage.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter for the Vestries.

Mr. BRANCKER: The Sanitary Inspectors are the best people to go around the parishes to see the damage that has been done and give information as to the extent of it as well as the position of the people who are unable to rectify the damage themselves. When the Government receives this Address they must take the promptest possible action so as to ensure that relief is forthcoming at the earliest possible moment for those people who are not in a position to relieve themselves and who are now taking shelter in other people's homes.

Mr. COX: I want to say that I am just as sympathetic as anybody else towards the people who have suffered as a result of the recent gale. Perhaps I am more so since the people who have suffered have been drawn from the same stratum as that from which I have been drawn. I opposed the consideration of this Address this afternoon because the mouthpiece of the Government has made it crystal clear that the Government has already taken all the necessary action in relation to the matter, and therefore I felt that the passing of the Address was unnecessary. I am only trying to make my position clear because I know how statements made in this House can be twisted. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has made it clear that the Government has taken action in the matter even before the Address was introduced, and after the Government has decided to take action in this matter you find a member trying to force through this Address this afternoon.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable junior member for St. Lucy could have risen and opposed leave being granted the honourable senior member for St. George to move the passing of this Address on the ground that immediately after the disaster occurred, he along with his colleague interviewed the Head of the Administration in connection with this matter and was promised that the matter would be considered and that steps would be taken to do what was possible in the circumstances. In spite of the fact that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy had that assurance from the Governor before the Government discussed the matter, he did not worry to oppose the granting of leave so that the Address could be dealt with

this afternoon; he felt that during the course of the debate some remarks would be made which would be useful to the Government in the action which it contemplated taking. We have actually heard the honourable junior member for St. Thomas suggest that the Government should do something which he knew the Government was doing.

Mr. MAPP: I object to that statement: I have never done that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: A few months ago the honourable member urged that the rates of interest charged by the Peasants' Loan Bank on loans should be reduced, and in the course of his remarks he actually said that the Government was dealing with the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question before the House is the passing of an Address requesting that enquiry be made from the Vestries as to the sum or sums of money which would be required to repair houses which have been damaged in the various districts by the recent winds.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I only want to say that any member of this Chamber is entitled to take action in any matter whether or not he learns that the Government is taking action in relation to it. I see no reason for the opposition; as a matter of fact, the action taken by the honourable member actually strengthens the Government's hands and assures them that when the Resolution comes down it will be readily supported.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Nobody could do otherwise than support an Address like this; but I want to say that after hearing the honourable senior member for St. Joseph make a categorical statement with respect to the Government's attitude in this matter, any member of this House would be failing in his responsibility if he could not accept the honourable member's statement as a truthful one. The honourable member's statement deals with the same matter with which this Address is asking the Government to deal. I am not accusing anybody of doing anything wrong; but we can always expect certain remarks from suspicious people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I suggest that honourable members pass the Address and cease this bickering.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: What I want to say is that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has given the assurance that the Government is dealing with the matter of this Address and therefore the passing of the Address would not matter. Each person can speak according to his conscience; if I give notice of any question and I am told by the Government what the position is, then I withdraw my question. I do not challenge any honourable member with dishonesty; the matter is left for his introspection. I repeat that the Government has already given its assurance and therefore the passing of the Address would not matter.

Mr. MAPP: It is amazing how some honourable members who call themselves responsible members can argue in defence of irresponsible behaviour.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us take the merits of the Address and deal with them.

Mr. MAPP: In my parish one person suffered as a result of the gale. In this matter we have an honourable member acting in a responsible way: he went to the Governor, got an assurance from him and never worried to bring the matter before the House. But honourable members are not courageous enough to tell the honourable mover that if he has an assurance——

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is not dealing with this Address. The whole point is whether or not the Government should enquire of

the Vestries as to the damage which has been done to these houses with a view to sending down a Resolution making provision for effecting repairs.

Mr. MAPP: I will deal with the Address and I say that we must be very careful in sending up Addresses of this nature. I suggest that the Address be amended; I cannot subscribe to the Government helping people who can help themselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member making an amendment to the Address?

Mr. MAPP: We have not even been treated with the courtesy of being given copies of the Address. If honourable members are sending up an Address from this House they should send up one which is in accordance with the views which they held when they were elected to this House. As this Address reads, we might be helping people who can help themselves. If we are passing an Address, let us pass a proper Address. I should like to say in reply to the honourable senior member for St. Philip that I have never raised any question in this House when I was assured as to what the Government's policy in the matter is. As regards the matter to which the honourable member referred, the Government had not yet taken any decision in connection with it. It is not true to say that I said that the Government had taken a decision in the matter. The matter was discussed with certain members in the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What the honourable member says is completely untrue. He can read the debates.

Mr. LEWIS: We find ourselves in the position that in spite of the assurance which has been given, the House has decided to discuss this matter and no blame can be laid at the door of any honourable member. It is from that angle that I will discuss the matter. I think that there is something in what the honourable junior member for St. Thomas has said; if we leave the door wide open like this all the damage will have to be assessed and a Resolution providing funds for effecting repairs will have to be sent down to this House. I think the honourable mover has in mind that we should help people who are unable to help themselves. I do not know if the occurrence can be described as a hurricane but I feel that the honourable member would have in mind that assistance should be given to these who are unable to assist themselves. Those are the people whom the Government should be enquiring about. If we pass this Address as it is I fail to see how anybody can be left out; any rich or poor person who might have been hit by this gale can expect to receive assistance. If that is what the House intends to do, then the Address is in order, but it would not be in order if the Government is not acting along that line.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I will ask the honourable senior member for St. George to present this Address.

Mr. DOWDING: As Your Honour pleases.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended in order to deal with Orders Nos. 88 and 89 on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business. These matters are non-controversial.

Mr. GALE seconded the motion which was agreed to.

VESTRIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the day therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for the City:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Vestries Act 1911 (1911—5).

Mr. MOTTLEY: The object of this Bill is to allow the Vestry of St. Michael to increase the salary of the Churchwarden's Clerk by £100 per annum. The Act as it stands at present, allows this officer to receive £200 per annum as salary and the Vestry cannot increase it unless the Legislature gives them permission to do so. I do not think it is necessary for me to remind honourable members that this Officer was appointed in 1939. At the time he was responsible for a total expenditure of \$209,478 as against a total expenditure of \$511,932 to-day. There has been a tremendous increase in this Officer's work and the Vestry have made a recommendation that his salary be increased from £200 a year to £300 a year. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GALE seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The second reading was passed.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. GALE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 1, the title Clause, was read as follows:—

1. This Act shall be read together with the Vestries Act 1911 (hereinafter referred to as "The Principal Act") and any Act amending the same and may be cited as the Vestries (Amendment) Act 1948.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

LEWIS: I should like to know if there is any other amendment to the Act.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I ask leave to insert the word and figure "No. 2" at the end of this Clause.

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

The question that Clause 1 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2. Sub-section (2) of section forty six of the Principal Act as amended by the Vestries (Amendment) Act 1946 No. 2 is hereby further amended by deleting the words "two hundred" occurring in line four thereof and substituting therefor the words "three hundred."

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to ask if it is possible for this Clerk to receive this new salary before the Bill has been passed and whether he will receive it from the beginning of the parochial year.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is set out in the Bill.

Mr. COX: I am not opposed to the increase being given to this Clerk, but I do not appreciate the method which has been adopted by those who are responsible for increasing the wages of these employees. We know that that office down there carries about four or five clerks and to single out one of them and increase his salary is to create discontent among the others. The Vestry of St. Michael agreed to engage the services of the Civil Service Commissioner, Mr. Adams, to go into the question of salaries and before any conclusion has been reached they single out one officer for an increase and allow

the salaries of the others to remain as they are. I do think that such action is going to create some discontent among the other Officers whose salaries will remain the same.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is not a true statement; it is very untrue. (A MEMBER: It is inaccurate). That is not an inaccuracy; it is a direct falsehood. It is true to say that you cannot increase the salary of this particular Officer unless you get the permission of the Legislature. The other officers occupy a different position from that of this Officer and their salaries have been increased. There is only one Clerk to the Churchwarden.

Mr. COX: The honourable member has not given us any case in point; he says that the salaries of the other officers have been increased or that they will be increased. Everybody knows that the post of Vestry Clerk was vacant for sometime; there was an individual with as much merit as others in the line-up for the post and they selected two or three officers and increased their salaries. Mr. Ashby and Mr. Grannum occupied good positions for this job but in order not to be offensive and to push Mr. Redman in the job and appear to be doing justice they increased the salaries of some officers so that it could be said that there is no grouse. That does not mean that the salaries of all the officers employed at the parochial buildings have been increased. I think that an investigation should be made into the whole service and then they could increase the salaries of all the officers.

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

Clause 3 was then passed.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. GALE, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for the City:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Parochial Employees Pension Act 1944 (1944—14).

Mr. MOTTLEY: This Bill should be even less controversial than the one which has just been passed. The Vestries of the island have the right to pension their employees under the Parochial Employees Pension Act, but they have no right to pay any Cost of Living Allowance to pensioners. A year or so ago the Legislature passed a Bill enabling the Vestries to pay a Cost of Living Allowance to pensioners. The Vestries can lay rates in anticipation of the payment of this Allowance but they cannot pay it to any retired parochial employee until the Legislature sanctions the payment. Under this Bill the several Vestries are authorised to pay to retired parochial employees an allowance at the rate of 50% in respect of the first hundred pounds of pension or any part thereof, and at the rate of 40% in respect of the second hundred pounds of pension or any part thereof—rates similar to those which the Government is paying their pensioners. The Legislature has already passed a similar Bill which expired at the end of the parochial year 1948. I have much pleasure in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GALE seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The second reading was passed.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. GALE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 1, the title Clause, was read and passed.

Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Principal Act or any Act amending the same as from the Twenty fifth day of March One thousand nine hundred and forty eight and continuing until the Twenty fourth day of March One thousand nine hundred and forty nine the Vestry for each of the several parishes may if they consider it expedient so to do pay all the parochial employees who have retired or who may hereafter retire from the service of such Vestry an allowance at rates not exceeding those hereinafter mentioned as they shall from time to time determine, namely:—

Allowance at the rate of fifty per cent in respect of the first hundred pounds of pension or any part thereof and at the rate of forty per cent in respect of the second hundred pounds of pension or any part thereof;

Provided that no pensioner shall receive an allowance under this Act at a rate of more than ninety pounds a year.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I should like to ask if a rate has been laid for the payment of this allowance and if so whether the law provides for it. What I want to know is this; if you lay a rate for expenditure which the Legislature has to sanction and the Legislature does not make provision for the proposed expenditure does the law provide for that? Does the law provide for an expenditure of this sort which the Legislature has to sanction?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Yes.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable member is not a lawyer; he might be a good village lawyer.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As a matter of fact, this matter needs but a modicum of intelligence to follow it. Provision has been made for this expenditure. If you read the Parochial Employees Pension Act you will see that the Vestries can lay rates in respect of pensions due and which may occur during the year. There is some elasticity. The position is not as in the case of the Legislature where a Resolution can be sent down after the Estimates have been passed. The Vestries lay their rates once a year and they are allowed to make the necessary provision for expenditure of this sort under the Head "Miscellaneous" as is set out under Clause 52 of the Act; but the money cannot be paid until the Legislature sanctions it.

Mr. LEWIS: If the law provides for the payment of this allowance then we have to be very grateful; at least the pensioners should be grateful. I just want to say that when the last Act was expiring certain members of the Vestry should have known that they could not discontinue the payment of this Allowance, and they have allowed the poor pensioners to remain in a state of anxiety for all those months before they got legal sanction to pay out the allowance. (A MEMBER: We are now trying to get it). I am wondering why the members of the Vestry did not allow the Bill to be put under the various Expiring Laws Act. (Mr.

MOTTLEY: You would still have to amend the Act). However, I feel it is regrettable that the poor pensioners have had to be kept waiting for all these months.

Mr. ADAMS: Purely out of curiosity I would like to ask if the rate has been laid, if the money has been made available already and the Vestry want legislative sanction to pay it, or if the money has been paid already and they want legislative ratification.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I thought of putting the Bill under the Expiring Laws Act myself but the Act would still have to be amended. In the first place a Bill was passed to provide the payment of a Cost of Living Allowance to pensioners up to the end of the parochial year 1948, and the feeling of the new Vestry would have to be obtained as to whether they would agree to continue to pay this Allowance for the ensuing year 1948-49. Having agreed to continue to pay the Allowance the Vestry have exercised their right under the Act and made the necessary provision for it; but so far they cannot pay out one cent more than the actual pension allowed by the Act. Therefore they have to get legislative sanction before the Cost of Living Allowance can be paid. The Vestry of St. Michael are still cautious enough as not to come into conflict with the Legislature; they have been paying the actual pension to which retired parochial employees are entitled but no Cost of Living Allowance can be paid until the Legislature says that it can be paid. This is not a private Bill; the several Vestries are authorised under this Bill to pay this Allowance to pensioners but they are not compelled to do it. The answer to the honourable member's question is a very simple one; provision has been made for the payment of this Allowance but none of it has yet been paid to any pensioner.

Mr. ADAMS: I spoke just now out of curiosity but I speak now as a taxpayer who has already got his tax bills. Does this mean that the Vestry have to lay a rate or they have already laid the rate and have the money?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Special provision has been made in the Estimates for the payment of this Cost of Living Allowance for the year 1948-49. We have the authority to do it under the Parochial Employees Pension Act or the Vestries Act but no money can be paid until the Legislature sanctions it. When the Bill is enacted the Allowance will be paid as from the 25th of March.

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

Clause 2 was passed.

Clause 3 was read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. GALE, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ST. PHILIP'S PARISH LOAN ACT

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that Order No. 86 under Private Members' Business be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. CRAWFORD seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip:—Second reading of a Bill to

authorise the Vestry of the parish of St. Philip to raise a loan not exceeding £300 for the purpose of installing a Diesel Lighting Plant at Stirling" the residence of the Parochial Medical Officer.

Mr. GARNER: I do not think that this is any controversial matter. The Vestry of St. Philip have, in duty bound, to provide the lighting for 'Stirling,' the residence of the parochial Medical Officer. We have there a diesel engine but it is of no use now; it has already served its useful purpose. The Parochial Medical Officer has given us notice that he can no longer keep certain medical supplies in safe custody on account of the fact that the refrigerator is not in operation, and I think that that is a very delicate matter. We have to think of the health of the community before we think of dollars and cents, and with that in view the Vestry have agreed to borrow this money. This is a prime necessity; the matter has been duly advertised and nobody has taken objection to it. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. CRAWFORD seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The second reading was passed.

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed.

Clauses 1 and 2 were read and passed.

Clause 3 was read as follows:—

3. For the purpose of repaying any sum or sums which may be borrowed as aforesaid (not exceeding together the sum of three hundred pounds) the said Vestry are hereby authorised and required to lay a rate in the said parish in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty nine sufficient to pay the sum of Three hundred pounds in part payment and on account of the sum or sums so borrowed with the interest becoming due in that year on the principal sum and the expenses incurred in obtaining this Act and in each of the nine then following years a sum sufficient to pay in each and every one of those years a like sum of thirty pounds on further account of the principal sum so borrowed with the interest becoming due in those years on the unpaid balances of the said principal sum for the time being and for defraying all expenses incurred by them from time to time in carrying out the provisions of this Act and such rates are to be laid in the usual manner and are to be subject to confirmation or amendment in the usual manner.

Mr. GARNER: I ask leave to delete the words "three hundred" occurring in line 6 and insert the word "thirty" in place thereof.

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

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that Clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Mr. CRAWFORD seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 3 was passed.

The remaining Clauses of the Bill were read and passed, the word "June" being inserted in the blank in Clause 4.

The Schedules and the Preamble were read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. GARNER seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee with amendments.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

REVERSION TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS, Mr. Speaker,—Honourable members are willing to revert to Government Business and I therefore beg to move that the next Order of the Day be to resume Government Business.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 2 on the Order Paper be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee on this Bill Clause 219 renumbered 216 had been passed.

Clauses 217 to 219 as renumbered were passed.

Clause 223 renumbered 220:—

220. (1) Any person who wilfully obstructs or attempts to obstruct any person acting in the execution of any warrant, order or authority of a Police Magistrate under this Act shall, in any case for which no other provision is made by this Act be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, and to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for every day on which such obstruction continues.

(2) Any person who wilfully obstructs or attempts to obstruct any person acting in the execution of this Act or any instrument made thereunder other than in the execution of a warrant or order of a Police Magistrate shall, in any case for which no other provision is made by this Act, be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 223 renumbered 220 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to remind the Committee that when we were dealing with this Bill earlier this afternoon. I pointed out that we had made amendments putting in things for which provision has been made later in the Bill. I should like to know whether we are going to allow the amendments which we have made to remain when they have been provided for. I would like the Bill to be sent to the Other Place in the right way.

Mr. MOTTLEY: We can re-commit the Clauses later on.

The question that Clause 223 renumbered 220 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 221 to 229 as renumbered were passed.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to move that Clause 215 re-numbered 212 be recommitted. I apologise for not referring to this amendment before. I think that these bye-laws should be approved by the two Houses of the Legislature as well.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to:

Mr. BRANCKER: I propose that we amend this Clause so that it will read similar to Clause 7 (2) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act. That Act gives power to the Transport Board to make certain Regulations and I propose that this Clause be worded similarly so as to provide that these bye-laws should also receive the sanction and approval of the Legislature.

Dr. CUMMINS: That point was raised when we were dealing with the Clause in the first instance and I pointed out that these bye-laws are to be made by the Sanitary Authorities for the working of the parishes. If these bye-laws are made by the Sanitary Authorities and they are submitted to the Director and to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for approval, I do not see the point in submitting them to the Legislature as well.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am bound to agree with the honourable senior member for St. Thomas. These bye-laws will be made by the several Sanitary Authorities and they are different from Rules and Regulations. We could not have these bye-laws coming before the Legislature all the time.

Clause 215 re-numbered 212 was passed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Clause 217 re-numbered 214 be recommitted.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 217 re-numbered 214 be recommitted was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: DR. WILSON, DR. CUMMINS, MESSRS. BRANCKER, HUSBANDS, COX, F. L. WALCOTT, LEWIS, MAPP, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, GARNER, MOTTLEY, SYMONDS, DOWDING and HAYNES—15.

Noes: MESSRS. S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and Mr. SPEAKER—3.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: What I want to point out is that if we read Clause 216 as renumbered carefully, we will see that the amendments which have been made to Clauses 214 and 215 as renumbered have been covered. It means therefore that these Clauses have been made redundant and if we pass them in that way the Other Place will return the Bill to the House. Provision in respect of the powers of entry has been made in the whole Bill. I therefore beg to move that the words "or any person authorised by them," which were inserted, be deleted.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

Clause 217 renumbered 214 was passed.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 218 renumbered 215 be recommitted.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Dr. CUMMINS: In view of the amendment which was made to Clause 214 as renumbered, I ask leave to delete the words "or any person authorised by the Director" which were inserted in Clause 215 as renumbered.

There being no objection, the hon. member was granted leave to delete the words.

Clause 218 renumbered 215 was passed.

The three Schedules of the Bill were passed.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS PROGRESS

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—Before we go any further with this Bill, in view of the amendments which have been made, I propose to refer the Bill to the Attorney General again. I beg to move 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.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to remind the hon. member in charge of this Bill that there are some Clauses consideration of which has been postponed.

Dr. CUMMINS: Some of these Clauses have to be redrafted when the Bill is referred to the Attorney General.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 20th day of July, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon. The first ten or eleven matters on the Order Paper for the next meeting should not be controversial and I have put them in that way so as to try and clear the Order Paper. If a full House cannot attend next Tuesday, no important business will be done.

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to second the motion. I would like to suggest that when the House sits as late as this hour some light refreshment should be provided for hon. members. I do not partake of the

lunch and I think I am entitled to speak on this matter. I think that this is something to which Your Honour and the Leader of the House might pay attention. Another matter is this; the employees of the Public Works Department who put up the barricades around this Chamber for the sitting of the House have been trying for a long time to get overtime pay for doing this job and they have failed to do so. They are not employed for doing that specific job so that one might say that they only do it once or twice a week; they are working for longer hours than they would work otherwise and they are entitled to some compensation for it. The next matter to which I want to refer is the deplorable condition of the area in the swing of the Public Buildings gate. I have had to draw attention to that matter in this House already. It is the place where all the officials come in every morning and I wonder how they get their motor cars over that hole at the Public Buildings gate. If the King of England came to this country we would have to bring him through that gate.

The question that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 20th day of July, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House.