

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd March, 1948.

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

Present :

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. J. T. C. RAMSAY (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. W. A. CRAWFORD, F. D. McD. SYMONDS, F. L. WALCOTT, L. E. SMITH, M. E. COX, C. E. TALMA, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, V. C. GALE, and J. A. HAYNES, B.A.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, and MAPP enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 24th February, 1948, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER : I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of Christ Church for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Mr. MOTTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

PAPER LAID

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

Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1946—47.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows :—

Mr. ADAMS : Resolution for £3,370 to supplement the provisions in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1947—48 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, item 5, Government binding and printing, by £1,200; item 12, Government advertisements, by £1,120; and item 16, Expenses under the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act, 1940, by £50.

Mr. BLACKMAN : A Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

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

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. BLACKMAN, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, is read a first time.

EMOLUMENTS ATTACHING TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Mr. SPEAKER : The first Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, —To move the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee appointed to prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 36/1947 relating to the emoluments attaching to the office of Governor of Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS : Mr. Speaker,—It was the view of the Select Committee that inasmuch as the consideration of the Estimates for 1948-49 would be begun to-day, the sums of money recommended in their Report might be inserted in the Estimates and honourable members may be willing to agree that Order No. 2 be taken as the first Order. When we come to deal with Head 1, The Governor, these proposals may be discussed and honourable members will then be at liberty to say whether they agree to them or not. I shall, therefore, ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60, so as to be able to take Order No. 2 as the first Order.

Mr. SPEAKER : I think the better procedure would be to postpone the consideration of Order No. 1.

Mr. ADAMS : In accordance with your Honour's suggestion I beg to move that the consideration of Order No. 1 be postponed.

Mr. TALMA : I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD : It is for your Honour to rule whether that is practicable. Personally, I do not see that it is. I think that this Report should be considered separately but on the whole question of the Estimates I really want to say this—

Mr. SPEAKER : The question before the House is that the consideration of Order No. 1 be postponed.

Mr. CRAWFORD : For the purpose of discussing it when we come to discuss Head I, the Governor, in the Estimates.

Mr. SPEAKER : The figures contained in these proposals are not included in the Estimates.

Mr. CRAWFORD : If you will permit me, Sir, what I want to say is this: Last Tuesday the House was asked to begin the consideration of the Estimates to-day. I do not think it is fair to honourable members who really had only seven days—

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not dealing with the Estimates now. The question before the House is that the consideration of Order No. 1 be postponed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am only making a few observations.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can make them after the senior member for St. Joseph has moved that the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates.

Mr. CRAWFORD: All right, Sir.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

The question that the consideration of Order No. 1 be postponed is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR 1948-49

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for the year 1948-49.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before that is done—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot make any motion until the senior member for St. Joseph has made his speech introducing the Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Exact y a year ago I had the honour of introducing the Estimates in this House and I expressed the hope then that this year the Government would be able to put a proper budget, in the accepted British sense of the word, before the House, that is to say, that it would be putting before the Legislature the policy which it intends to adopt as regards its administration for the ensuing year,—the sums of money which it felt were necessary to carry out that policy and an estimate of revenue to meet that expenditure, as would be done by, say, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Great Britain. As honourable members are aware, we passed the necessary legislation for the creation of the post of Financial Secretary and it is largely because we have not yet a Financial Secretary—incidentally the one who has been appointed is due to come to us in May this year—who would be in a position to advise us on all financial matters, to frame the Estimates and put the Civil side of the Treasury, so to speak, that the Government has had to come back to the House this year with our Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure following the lines that have been adopted in this island for 200 to 300 years. When we come to consider the separate Heads of the Estimates of Expenditure I should like to throw out the suggestion that as far as the personal emoluments are concerned, though one would hesitate to give even the appearance of trying to stifle debate, as long as my namesake has not yet finished his labours we might pass, comparatively speaking, lightly over the consideration of the personal emoluments. That is another reason why the Government has had to introduce this budget in a way similar to budgets that have been introduced in the past but with the Financial Secretary in the island in a few months' time I have little doubt that our somewhat prehistoric method of putting forward budget proposals will come to an end. I know that the Government will probably get the criticism that it usually gets from year to year, namely, that it has the rate of taxation too high, that we have a surplus which we should not have and things of that sort. I shall deal with that later in my speech. But I am happy to say that the Government is happy to be able to state that our finances are, for an island of this size and with a single industry, economically flourishing. I go so far as to say that compared with Jamaica or Trinidad or British Guiana, huge places—

by comparison with ours at any rate—we may be pardoned if we say that since the War began we have managed not only to balance our budget but to accumulate a series of surpluses that are being expended and will be expended in the near and not too distant future in order that some of the reproach that has been levelled rightfully at Governments in the past may be removed from the shoulders of a Government like the present one which is undertaking to do what may be done in a short time to lessen the accumulated mistakes of past decades, if not centuries. Honourable members, no doubt, have read the memorandum which accompanies the Estimates; therefore, it is perhaps unnecessary for me to go into any great detail concerning the Estimates either of Revenue or Expenditure but I propose to go quickly through the figures and to call members' attention to or remind them of the state of our finances and what we can reasonably expect to do in the financial year that is before us. I shall, before going into the figures, anticipate the criticism that is sure to be made, that has been made every year for the past five or six years in this House, namely, so it is said, that there is some economic law or some parliamentary practice—all such worded phrases are used from time to time—which makes it immoral—the word "criminal" is sometimes used—for a Government to budget for more than it can reasonably expend in a particular year. That argument has been used with great heat all during the War but this Government is prepared to use some of the same adjectives which have been used against it or any other Government that had the opportunity in the piping times of War to tax those persons who were making money and to put the money derived from that taxation into the Treasury and thence into circulation by means of schemes involving public expenditure. I think it would be highly criminal on the part of the Government to allow what happened in the 1914-18 War to be repeated when it had the glaring example of literally millions of pounds sterling going out of this colony, much of it being afterwards dissipated because some foreign financier committed suicide or ran away with money or something of the sort. This Government is proud of the fact that it did not allow the mistake of the first War to be repeated during the last War and it is in a position now, both with its accumulated surplus and, as far as it can see, from the same sources of revenue we have been tapping during the past four or five years, to carry out schemes which we have envisaged and have promised the public to undertake. According to the debates of last year we were actually told that the Government deliberately and wickedly budgeted for more money than it needed; that it should have so wangled things that it would have got less and that later in the year it could increase taxation, if necessary, and so on. I do not think that that accusation will be repeated to-day. I repeat that anyone in the position of Government's mouthpiece, a member of the Executive Committee advising the Head of the Administration on matters of taxation, would have committed a great crime against this community if, when there was money to be had, he allowed the rate of taxation to be lowered, especially during the War period, merely to the extent of being able to meet current expenditure and on the pretext that this or that material could not be had and, therefore, we could not go in for large scale public works. I sometimes think that the grandfather of Adam Smith must sit up in his grave and smile when he hears people still repeating that old fallacy, namely, that you should budget only for the

amount you are likely to spend and then tax people accordingly. I hope that that argument will never be repeated in this Chamber. We have been fortunate in getting an increase of over £330,000 on the estimate of revenue for 1947-48. We are not ashamed of it, and I deny that any wilful wangling of taxation was indulged in by the Government to produce such an increase. As the Colonial Secretary's memorandum explains—paragraph 2—this increase is due mainly to increases under three Heads—Customs, Post Office, Income Tax and Death Duties—and honourable members will remember that the same thing happened last year. With supplies coming in in uncertain quantities, no one could tell whether the quantity of goods which came through the Customs from time to time would remain static or increase or decrease. Last year we got £203,400 more from Customs than we expected; a lot of that was due to the fact that more motor car tires came in, owing to a relaxation in the import restrictions and the increase in the rent of the Spirit Bonds as the result of more rum having been drunk. This year we have exceeded the Customs estimate by £191,000, the Post Office estimate by £11,012 and the Income Tax and Death Duties estimate by £122,000. I would remind honourable members that last year more or less similar figures in the case of income tax were presented. I need not say that nobody can budget for Death Duties and you can only budget for Income Tax on what you can reasonably expect from a three or five-year average of preceding years. But it happened that more goods came into the island than were expected and as the result of that, the income tax derived from planters and merchants was greater than was bargained for and we are in the fortunate position of having these increases. I will just ask honourable members to run with me quickly through these figures of revenue. The original estimate for 1947-48 was £1,574,793 and the revised estimate is £1,906,527, an increase of £331,734—less than that of last year incidentally. The estimated revenue for the coming year is £1,728,355, a decrease of £178,172 on the revised estimate for this year. This estimating of a decrease of £178,172 next year will, I feel, be fully appreciated by every member of the House. As honourable members are reminded in paragraph 5 of the memorandum we have a short crop and imports from the North American Continent are bound to be reduced, owing to the difficulties of the foreign exchange position and I think it is reasonable for us to budget to meet those difficulties. As regards the Customs, for instance the Comptroller has estimated for £180,180 less than 1947-48, the revised estimate being £857,120 and the estimate for next year being £677,940. He is of the opinion that although there may be some small increases in some items, yet on the whole the figures are likely to be those at which he has put them. He estimates that the package tax will be £6,000 less than the revised estimate this year and that the revenue from taxation on motor spirit will be £10,000 less because of the reduction in the rate of Road Tax in 1947. Import Duties will be less, nevertheless the Customs estimate for next year is higher than the estimate for this year which was £607,120. I may say, in anticipation of the criticism which was made last year being repeated this year, that not only do Heads of Departments do their best, not only do they give us the benefit of their accumulated years of experience but they do get advice from the mercantile community. As far as the Comptroller of Customs at any rate is concerned, he naturally, improves his knowledge of commercial trends by con-

ferring with members of the mercantile community, whom he can reasonably expect to be able to give advice apart from such advice as may be tendered at the Executive Committee by those who have that particular knowledge. That criticism, as I said, Mr. Speaker, was made last year and I want to anticipate it by pointing out that these things are not done in the back of one's head but that there is some reasonable basis on which these Estimates are prepared. I hope honourable members will forgive me if I have said this in the House before. I remember being present at a conversation when an American journalist told the late Governor of Puerto Rico, Mr. Tugwell that in that year the Estimate of the American Senate Estimates Committee—if that is its correct title—had come within \$3,000,000 of actual expenditure. Mr. Tugwell laughed and said that this was the first time they had come so close to accurate Estimates. It is true that when one budgets for billions, it may not matter very much if one is out \$3,000,000.

I take heart, therefore, that with our ancient set-up and without acting on the advice of the experts we have managed to come out on the right side and did not have to go constantly with cap in hand begging the Colonial Office. It is something to be proud of, that is, that our luck, if it is luck, has held and I assure honourable members that it is anything but luck; it is the result of hard work on the part of our Heads of Departments; it is the result of hard work on the part of the Secretariat and it is equally the result of hard work on the part of the Estimates Committee who, as those honourable members who have been on the Executive Committee before know, has to go through every single line of the Estimates. The estimated ordinary expenditure for 1947-1948 was £1,396,593 and the revised estimate is £1,386,450, a difference of a little over £10,000; so here at any rate the estimates were not so far out. I think it is now necessary to remind honourable members—even those who are comparatively new members of the House know—how these figures are made up but if they have forgotten for the moment I will refer them to paragraph 4 of the Colonial Secretary's memorandum. The estimate of expenditure for the coming financial year is £1,405,028, that is for ordinary expenditure under the Heads of Expenditure with which we shall deal later. The revised estimate of expenditure for 1947-48 is £1,386,450. The estimated expenditure for the coming financial year, therefore, exceeds the revised estimate for 1947-48 by £18,578 and the reasons are set in the Memorandum. The principal increases are: Police £12,348, Education £13,846, Science and Agriculture £12,661, Medical Departments £17,108, Highways and Transport £4,995, and Waterworks £3,867. I hope that, in going through these figures in the way in which I am doing, honourable members will not feel that I am not giving them enough information. I would go further and invite honourable members, if they think so, to say so before I sit down. When I first came into the House, a memorandum of this nature, as far as I remember, did not exist. It is only in the last few years that a memorandum was sent along with the Estimates to this House and if honourable members read their memorandum carefully, it makes it unnecessary for the Leader of the House to make even a formal speech on the Estimates. Perhaps I should give a little more explanation, as is customary, because people who do not have either the time or the inclination to follow the way in which the Estimates are made sometimes wonder how in one and the same memorandum you can speak of

a deficit and a surplus. The front cover of the Estimates have for quite a long time shown what the estimated revenue is, what the estimated recurrent expenditure under the Heads of Expenditure is,—matters with which we shall deal later,—and what the estimated other recurrent expenditure is. That "other recurrent expenditure" is, of course, the supplementary Resolutions that are passed after the Estimates have been passed and expenditure for which there may be vouchers in the Treasury which have not yet been paid; therefore, that has to be added to the ordinary Heads of Expenditure.

These Estimates, in short, are made up in two ways. On the front cover you see a deficit or surplus, as the case may be, on the year's working: that is, by subtracting the revenue from the expenditure, or vice versa. In the Memorandum, the full financial position of the colony is set out. I know that the junior member for St. James will probably question the complete accuracy of that statement but he will find that it is more accurate this year than it has ever been—ordinary expenditure, additional expenditure and capital expenditure contemplated. Everything is included—the surplus of last year and the expected revenue and then you deduct the ordinary expenditure, the expenditure authorized before the 1st April, 1948, the estimated recurrent expenditure authorized by Resolutions and the estimated capital expenditure which is set out in appendix 13 at page 91 of the Estimates. That gives you a picture of the true financial position and although the sum of £6,673 appears on the front cover as a deficit, that is only a deficit in respect of the estimated revenue and the estimated recurrent expenditure. From the figures which are set out in paragraph 4 of the memorandum, honourable members will see that at the end of March next year we shall have an estimated surplus of £833,188, a sum of money that, I repeat, any other Caribbean colony would be glad to know is in its Treasury. I will deal briefly with Appendix 13. It is divided under three Heads—"A." Expenditure already authorized, "B." Recurrent Expenditure and "C." Capital Expenditure. As regards "A," some of the respective amounts have been spent and in other cases nearly all remains to be spent. For instance, only £83 of the £4,277 which was voted for the electric pumping plant at the Waterworks as far back as 1942 remains and in the case of Fishery Development £19,500 of the £24,460 which was voted as recently as 1947 remains to be spent. As regards "B." that is annual recurrent expenditure which will normally be spent despite—and this may sound strange to some honourable members, but it is true—the suggestion is some quarters that subsidization should be stopped. The Government is budgeting for an expenditure of £240,000 on subsidization,—the figure we have reached during the last 12 months or thereabouts,—£10,000 on emergency expenditure out of which will come, for instance, the expenses in connection with the Surinam project or the American project, and the sum of £80,000 as cost of living allowance to government servants or as increases of salaries, in case Mr. Adams suggests that the present cost of living allowance should be consolidated in their salaries. Under Head "B," it is envisaged that £300,000 is necessary to be spent. Then we have Head "C"—and this will gladden the hearts of the two honourable members for St. James—Capital Expenditure set out in the Appendix instead of being included in the Ordinary Expenditure. If honourable members peruse this list, they will see that

it is the aim of the Government to spend, not lavishly in any attempt to get rid of, in a single year, all its surplus but so to spread a reasonable proportion of that surplus over different projects, that there will be a balance between what it spends on one social service and what it spends on others. Personally I am sorry to think that so little has been allotted to Housing but there are other services which the Government has to consider and, therefore, it is proposing to start, at any rate, during the year—everything depends on materials being available—with the building of 40 houses at the Pine at an estimated total cost of £32,000—£22,000 for the houses and £10,000 for roads and services—and later on an additional 40 houses at an estimated cost of £26,000—£22,000 for the houses and £4,000 for roads and services. The Government is also budgeting for £75,500 for the removal of 40 to 50 houses from slum areas in Bridgetown to the Bay Estate. Until the Housing and Town Planning Act is passed, the Government can only budget now in respect of the lands which it already has and those lands are at the Pine and the Bay Estate but I think that honourable members know that it is the policy of the Government to spend a much larger sum on housing. It may be necessary for us to do as Trinidad has done and float a loan of £1,000,000 to re-house people over a period of years. Whether the Government undertakes all the housing itself or makes loans or gifts, as was proposed as long ago as in Sir Frank Stockdale's time, to people to repair or add to their own houses, remains to be seen. As regards Education, honourable members will be glad to know that the Government considers that the time has come to begin to carry out some of the recommendations of the late Director of Education, especially as it is more than obvious that our educational policy for the past three hundred years could hardly have been more diabolically devised to create among the community members unfitted for future life than is the case to-day. The first item under "Education," as far as capital expenditure is concerned,—St. Leonard's Girls' School (new school) £35,000—is one of Mr. Hayden's proposed secondary schools, not secondary as we have known it all these years but really a senior elementary school. While it is true that we all would like to see free secondary education in this island—I need hardly remind honourable members that my own personal view is that all education should be free, even University Education—while we would like to see that I hope I would not be misunderstood if I say that we have so far stressed academic education in the secondary schools at the expense of a real proper type of education for persons who may afterwards go to a secondary school but the great majority of whom are bound to start in an elementary school. It is, therefore, with some pleasure that the Executive Committee has come to the conclusion that a start should be made with one of these new senior elementary schools. The junior member for St. Lucy will, no doubt, be glad to see that a new Parry and Coleridge School is to be built as well as he will be glad to see that a new Half Moon Fort School is to be built. A new Chalky Mount School will also be built. St. Lucy's Primary School is to be enlarged and lavatories are to be provided at St. Mary's Infants' School.

Then at page 92, honourable members will see under Head "General" certain items, some of which are obviously pressing. This House has already expressed its approval of the erection of a new Fire Station. The Police Stations at Eagle Hall and Oistins have been disgraces for quite a long time.

I remember that when I was in a different position from the one which I now occupy, if there was nothing else that I would throw at the Government when the Estimates were being considered, it was the disgusting condition of Eagle Hall Police Station. The Government also proposes to make alterations to the Government Industrial School and the Law Courts and the conversion of the building at the airport, repairs to wharf walls, a new Victoria Bridge, two new sub-Post Offices, alterations to Speightstown Library and Post Office, repair and restoration of Stone Barracks, St. Anne's Fort, and alterations to Government offices are among the proposed schemes. Obviously the Government is not so childish as to imagine that it will be able to do all these things in the next twelve months. It may not be possible to begin all of them in the next twelve months but the Government feels that these things which the Heads of Departments have persuaded it—and to which it in its considered judgement agrees—are more essential than some of the other things which are mentioned in the ten-year Development Plan and should be given prior consideration as long as the necessary materials can be obtained. When honourable members add the estimated ordinary expenditure (£1,405,028), the estimated expenditure already authorized (£135,300), the estimated recurrent expenditure (£330,000) and the estimated capital expenditure (£238,740), they get a total of £2,109,068. The estimated revenue for 1948—49 (£1,728,355) together with the estimated balance at the end of March this year (£1,213,901) gives a total revenue of £2,942,256 and when the total estimated expenditure of £2,109,068 is deducted, there remains an estimated surplus, at the end of March 1949, of £833,188. It is easy, faced with these figures, for the Government, perhaps, to make the mistake of being complacent. This Government, I assure honourable members, Mr. Speaker, is far from being complacent. This Government is happy to think that it did not listen to the howls of its detractors when it refused to lower the rates of income tax. Heaven forbid that it should happen again but there was always the possibility that what has happened last year would happen, namely, a drought or disease hitting our single industry—Sugar. The Government's financial position permits it to find work or have work ready for people as soon as the crop is over—which regrettably will be very soon. The Government—honourable members will pardon me for using a hackneyed expression—has explored every avenue, as the journalists would say, and has considered many a scheme with the view of seeing how we can ease the unemployment situation that exists to-day and will exist in a more intensified form as soon as the crop is over. The Government has a duty to perform to the community and it is a constant source of worry to the Government, not merely to think out schemes but to see the implications and the practicability of those schemes. I am going to make a declaration now which is not in the least bit exaggerated. My political views are infinitely more advanced than those of any other member of this Assembly, judging from their conversations which I hear. The members of the Executive Committee realize that policy is one thing and practical politics, the ability to carry out your policy, is another. The members of the Government, as I said a few moments ago and it is worthy of repetition, have deliberately set their faces against a reduction of the income tax rates during the whole period of the War because we knew that war prosperity—even a child should know it—is no guide for budgeting for

a community and we have been, even though we seem to be blowing our own trumpets, at pains to explore this and that or go in this and that direction and examine schemes. The Government has in some cases regrettably turned down schemes against sentimental political feeling but schemes which its better judgment tells it are not immediately practicable. What faces this country at all times is the finding of an outlet for our population, either in local lucrative employment or by way of emigration. Again, despite what is said about our shortcomings, persons who have served on the Executive Committee ought to know, from their personal experience there, how much more information that Body has than an ordinary member of the House of Assembly, let alone an ordinary member of the community, could possibly have. It is easy to say "Why don't you do something?" without knowing that in some cases that something is being done or that that something can never be done. I am happy to say that both from the angle of Emigration and from the angle of finding work in the island, the Government has been giving careful intensified consideration to whatever may be done to meet the present situation. When I referred to the Emergency Expenditure in Appendix 13 at page 91 I mentioned that a vote like that can easily be used and will doubtless be used for the Surinam project and I should also have mentioned that there is a possibility—I can say no more than this—that the Governor may be going to the U.S.A. soon. As regards our local position, it is obvious that with the short crop, you could not expect the planter, the conservative planter—I am sorry to use the superfluous term "conservative"—in a year like this to find work for people as he used to do in normal times, so I am told, and, therefore, the Government is envisaging and has laid plans for doing things, in one way or another, that will encourage planters of every kind—peasant proprietor as well as large plantation owner—to keep people employed. What the Government proposes to do, not merely because of the present unemployment situation which this short crop will cause but because of the world's shortage of food, is to make this year as active a year for the growing of food crops as at any time during the period of the War. Inasmuch as our imported food is likely at least for the most part to come from dollar countries, it becomes necessary for us to do much more in the realm of home food production than we have been doing. I will pay the planters the compliment of saying that they pulled their weight during the War and planted food when they were asked to do so. What the Government proposes to do is to fix prices at the Government Factory at Lancaster for vegetables—cassava, yams and sweet potatoes—from the field which the growers cannot sell through the ordinary channels. This will mean that no grower need fear that he is planting too many sweet potatoes and yams and that he will obtain a cheap price for them. The Government proposes to use the revolving fund at the disposal of the Factory Committee, as honourable members know, and purchase those food crops that may not be disposed of. The Director of Agriculture feels confident that we can by dehydration make use of what we purchase and that the dehydrated product can be sold at no loss to the Government. There may be one or two members of the House who would know something about that because some planters served on the old war-time Food Committee and those planters whom the Government has approached feel, as the Director

of Agriculture feels, that this proposal will encourage people to grow food. As we know, vegetables were taken off the scheduled list during the last two years because the prices were too cheap and people would not plant them. It is, in effect, a subsidization of locally grown foodstuffs but honourable members will agree with me that a scheme of that sort will have the effect of not only producing more foodstuffs, saving dollars, improving the nutrition of the inhabitants of the colony but, better still, it will make us avoid that displacement of labour—labourers leaving the country districts and coming into Bridgetown looking for work instead of finding work in the vicinity of their homes and in the surroundings to which they are accustomed during the crop season. There are other schemes which the Government has on foot but these, it feels, should have priority as we all know that in about three weeks' time some estates will have finished reaping their crops and it is necessary to make a beginning immediately and reassure growers of vegetables that theirs will be a profitable undertaking. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that I have spoken at much greater length than I intended when I got up to speak, but on an occasion of this sort whoever stands in my position and puts the financial situation before this branch of the Legislature, naturally wishes to avoid the appearance of giving scant attention to so serious a matter as the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year. I shall be very glad to give honourable members any information that is available. The Government has been very careful to note every single criticism that has been made last year. It has a list of all the criticisms and it has endeavoured to meet them during this year. If honourable members have a new list of criticisms, the Government will be very pleased to investigate them all. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for the financial year 1948-49. When we come to deal with Head 1—The Governor—I would like Your Honour to rule whether it should be an instruction to the Committee when the House is in Committee of Supply to consider the Report of the Select Committee or whether it is enough for me to move their recommendations as amendments and ask the House to approve of their insertion. (Cheers).

Messrs. FOSTER and WARD, and DR. WILSON entered the House while Mr. ADAMS was speaking and took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Report of the Select Committee has been laid on the table of the House and circulated and honourable members are in possession of it. When you come to deal with the Head—The Governor—all you need to do is to increase the particular items in accordance with the recommendations of the Select Committee.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—I rise to second the motion made by the senior member for St. Joseph and to say, Sir, that everyone in this Chamber should necessarily feel proud of the very healthy state in which the financial position of this colony will be at the end of the current financial year. After listening to such a comprehensive speech by the honourable introducer of these Estimates,—a speech, Sir, in which every item has been explained in detail,—it really calls for no repetition from at least an old Labour Member or his counterpart. I think we can proceed at this stage as expeditiously as possible with the consideration of the Estimates because not even the Conservative element can say "Well, this Labour Government will run the country into bankruptcy,"

as is always said by the detractors of any Labour Movement and more especially a Labour Government. It has often been said that a Labour Government would run the country into bankruptcy—I have often heard it—but I think that after listening to the speech of the Leader of the House any sane and reasonable person will appreciate the fact that this Government is attempting not only to carry on in a better way and in a more enlightened and progressive manner than former Governments have done but also to ensure that no question of bankruptcy will arise and that the small man—I refer to the ones who pay taxes on incomes of £100 or £200 a year, the ones who can hardly make two ends meet to-day—will receive some measure of relief. So that, in itself, goes to show that due consideration and sympathy are being extended to the ones who need them most without at the same time imposing any hardship on the ones in the higher brackets; that, in itself, Sir, is some form of assurance of a balanced mind that brings along a balanced budget because one must hinge on the other. I must say, Sir, that I feel very proud to know and also to hear in this Chamber to-day the various methods which are being adopted, as far as Emigration is concerned. If we are going to emigrate people to Surinam, we have to bear in mind that no matter how anxious the local Government may be to emigrate them, the fact remains that provision has to be made in Surinam for the housing of these people and things of that sort.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the presentation of the Budget. If you say that provision is made in the Estimates for it, that is all right but I do not think there is any need to discuss the actual merits of the Surinam Emigration Scheme now.

Mr. TALMA: I am in entire agreement with the idea of extending the subsidization policy, as far as food crops are concerned; it is a policy which, in my view, should have been adopted years ago. That puts money into circulation locally and not only helps the ones engaged in business but the persons who are employed. Now, Sir, this is the first time that any comprehensive scheme in regard to capital expenditure has been set out in an Appendix to the Estimates and it must be very heartening to anyone who has the interest of the island at heart and who is anxious to see certain improvements brought into being to see provision for capital expenditure in the Estimates,—capital expenditure which will certainly improve conditions in many spheres of activity within the next year or thereabouts. It is hardly necessary for me to refer to the items in detail because the Leader of the House has already gone into them very carefully but I must say that this has been a departure from the regular old method of preparing the Estimates and shows that the Government has formulated a definite plan of action. Provided that this Government is given the chance to do something it will show even its greatest detractors that it has a definite plan of action,—a plan whereby great and beneficial results will accrue to the community as a whole and not to any one section of the people in this island.

Mr. MAPP: I was waiting to see if there would be any comments on the Budget but I just want to say that if as the introducer of the Estimates for 1948-49 reminded us, the Estimates for the year 1948-49 follow the same lines as those of the past, it is particularly due to the lack of a Financial Secretary and, therefore, what I say must be judged against that background. Before going on to make any general criticisms I should like to con-

gratulate the Government and especially the Colonial Secretary in his memorandum on setting out most clearly how the estimated revenue balance at the end of March next year is arrived at. For instance, I do not think that last year we had anything like Appendix 13 at page 91 of the Estimates, setting out the expenditure already authorized, the recurrent expenditure and the capital expenditure. I must say that the setting out of the capital expenditure is a definite improvement on the last year's policy of including it in ordinary and recurrent expenditure. I am also glad to see that the estimated revenue balance at the end of March next year will be only £833,188 and when I use the word "only" I mean as against the revenue balance of £1,213,901 at the end of March this year. There can be no doubt about it that we are approaching a crisis which calls for sound financial action and it cannot by any stretch of the imagination be said that a huge balance in the Treasury is significant of sound financial action. Of course, as far as budgets are concerned, the speech of the introducer must necessarily be an expenditure speech as against a revenue speech but I may say that when we are approaching a crisis I still feel that to prepare your expenditure so as to leave £833,188 in the Treasury at the end of the financial year is still too conservative. As I said, any criticism I make must be judged against the background that we do not have a Financial Secretary and do not have expert financial advice in respect of our Budget. In the circumstances we cannot plan as we would like but I hope that the capital expenditure which is merely expenditure on certain public works will be so extended by the end of the next financial year that less will be left in the Treasury. I am just throwing out these hints at this particular time. For instance, Sir, many economists to-day are so far removed from the old theory of public finance, that is to say, you must budget for a surplus and you must estimate your expenditure within your revenue, that they go so far as to say that you can have two budgets within one year and definitely budget for unemployment. I hope that when the Financial Secretary arrives, he will go into that phase of the matter and make definite recommendations along those lines and, if necessary, let us have a second budget. There is nothing revolutionary in setting out capital expenditure which, properly arranged, will lead to greater revenue; it cannot lead to any huge deficit because as long as it is for productive schemes, it will have a beneficial effect on the Treasury and will help the community eventually. I think there is nothing better for a Socialist Government to do than to consider the establishment of a Corporation which would assist in setting up industries which might leave the Treasury at the end of two years in a better financial status than it envisaged and leaving the government in a better state of prosperity as a whole; that could be provided for in another budget that could be called a capital budget; it would come under capital expenditure and while it is true that capital expenditure would be heavily exceeded, yet the balance we would have in the Treasury would justify it. Those are just some general remarks I would like to make before we go into Committee of Supply and I make them not by way of any criticism because, as I have said before, the Government is to be complimented on the year's working though far less could be left in the Treasury. When the Financial Secretary comes, we can plan much better than we can at the moment. We trust that in the future we shall see the presentation of a real Budget,—a Budget quite different from Budgets which have been presented in the past, quite in keeping with socialist views because, make no mistake about it, I do not intend

to support any motion which is intended to help private enterprise put great sums of money into the pockets of capitalists. The suggestion which I have made about establishing a Corporation and creating greater production in the country to assist the Treasury at the end of a specified time in a better state than is envisaged from special expenditure is nothing to be ignored; it has been recommended by the expert Socialists and I hope it would be gone into more thoroughly by the members of the Government.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I want to congratulate the Government on giving us more particulars this year in the Estimates, particularly the separating of capital expenditure from recurrent expenditure. Of course, I think it is the least we could expect because when you look at the Estimates you see the assistance which we have given to the Colonial Secretary's Department. You will note, Sir, that the preparation of these Estimates largely depends on the work of the Colonial Secretary and his staff. It is true that the Executive Committee devotes a great deal of time in considering the various Heads of Expenditure but we still must realize that the real work is done by the Colonial Secretary and his staff. If you refer, Sir, to the Estimates you will see that we practically have a full house in that Department. We have a Colonial Secretary, two Assistant Colonial Secretaries, an Assistant Secretary and a Principal Clerk. As regards the Assistant Secretary, most of his time is taken up in acting for somebody else but, as I say, we have at the moment practically a full house in that Department, with the exception, of course, of the newly appointed Financial Secretary. I do not suppose that this full house will last very long because somebody would be going on leave and somebody would be acting for somebody else and so on. I want to emphasize that it is the wish of every member of this House that when the Financial Secretary arrives he should not be put to act as Labour Commissioner or as an Assistant Colonial Secretary or anything of that sort. I do not think that that can be emphasized too much. It is disappointing that the Financial Secretary did not arrive in time to give assistance in the preparation of these Estimates. It is more than disappointing that the long promised Report by Professor Beasley has not been forthcoming. I think that Professor Beasley deserves to be censured because his Report was promised months ago and we have heard nothing, except the preliminary Report which he has submitted and I venture to say that that preliminary Report could have been written by any Fourth Form boy at Harrision College. There is nothing in it; we all knew that we wanted a Financial Secretary. The honourable introducer of the Estimates suggested that any comments which we may have to make on the present salaries and wages of Government servants should be deferred until Mr. G. H. Adams, not the senior member for St. Joseph, has submitted his Report. I quite agree but I do hope that it will not be long before a copy of that Report is laid on the table of this House. Now, Sir, the senior member for St. Joseph referred particularly to the growing of more food in this country. Everybody realizes that that should be done but we do wish, from this side of the table, to impress upon the members of the Executive Committee that it is impossible to grow food without water. I do trust that every effort will be made to increase the water supply of this island. On all sides, there are many people who are interested in vegetable gardens and even the small grower with his acre or acre and a half of land could do a profitable business in vegetables if he could only obtain a sufficient supply of water. Of

course, we must sound a note of warning. We do not want everybody to invest in one thing. The present prices of vegetables will not be maintained if they become too plentiful. There is always a great demand for vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage, carrots and beet but to grow these vegetables you must have water and I am sure that the members of the Executive Committee realize that that is so. Only to-day I heard that for the past two weeks no water could be obtained in the parish of St. James after 7 o'clock in the morning for even domestic purposes. Now, Sir, as regards the question of unemployment I agree with the senior member for St. Joseph that it is extremely serious. The reaping of the crops, particularly in the parishes of St. Philip, Christ Church, parts of St. Michael and St. Lucy will be finished in a few weeks' time—I am sorry to say before the end of this month—and, as the honourable member has said, plantation owners will not be able to continue to give employment, as they used to do, until the end of June because they will have lost large sums of money in the growing of their crops which have just been reaped. The Government has prepared quite a long list of the various works which it proposes to start. I have not had the chance to study the list but I am going to implore the Government to see that the work is distributed all over the island and, if possible, to start it in the parishes which I have just mentioned,—the parishes in which the reaping of crops will be finished by the end of this month. I have been living in this island for over 40 years and I have never seen the outlook as it is at present. The honourable member who introduced these Estimates congratulated the Government—and in doing so he congratulated past members of the Executive Committee—on being in what he called a **healthy financial position**. Sir, I agree that it is a healthy financial position to-day but we have to look ahead and the future, to me and many other honourable members, seems extremely gloomy. It is true that it is **estimated that at the end of March, 1949, we will have a surplus of over £800,000** but that is a reduced figure compared with the estimated surplus of £1,213,901 at the end of March this year. It behoves us, therefore, to see that we do not spend money unwisely. Now, I do not want anybody to get the impression that I do not want to spend money and provide employment for the people but I wish to see it spent in the right way and I am sure that there is nobody who is more anxious to do that than the senior member for St. Joseph. There are several things in these Estimates which we would like to comment upon but I presume, Mr. Speaker, that you would prefer that those comments be made when we are in the Committee stage. These Estimates reached us last Tuesday. Everyone around this table has his private work to do and to sit down and go through these various items takes a considerable length of time. I do not know if other honourable members have had time to carefully study them and I would suggest that the consideration of the details of the Estimates be deferred until next Tuesday, so as to give honourable members more time to study them. We would not then have the excuse that we did not have sufficient time to study the details.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—I am sure that I am not alone in expecting that these Estimates would have been presented to this House in a somewhat different form. Last year the introducer of the Estimates led the House to expect that the introduction this year would be more along the lines of the

Chancellor of the Exchequer in the British Parliament presenting his Budget and the explanation was given that it was impossible to have done so last year because of the fact that the time between the General Elections and the presentation of the Estimates to the House did not permit of this fundamental change in policy. The inference, therefore, was that with the passing of a year we should be justified in expecting that we should see the innovation. I was waiting very anxiously to hear what excuse would have been given this year for the presentation of these Estimates in the original form. To-day we are told that this must be attributed to the absence of a Financial Secretary. Last year when the explanation was given there was no question at all of appointing a Financial Secretary for Barbados but that is a very convenient excuse, I submit, this year because it is now discovered how easy it is to talk and promise things but how difficult it is to put those things into actual practice. Now, Sir, this morning is the first time I have received my copy of the memorandum which accompanies the Estimates. Some honourable members, I understand, received their copies last Tuesday but even if we had received our copies of the Estimates and the memorandum last Tuesday I want to submit that it is rather unusual to ask the House to begin the detailed consideration of the Estimates after only a lapse of seven days from the time they were laid on the table of the House. When you bear in mind the fact that the Executive Committee begins its consideration of the Estimates in November of the preceding year and spends a few months in doing so, you will see, Sir, that it is really not fair to the members of the House to allow them only seven days in which to peruse and digest the entire copy of these Estimates and the financial policy of the Government for the following year as is envisaged in the memorandum which accompanies the Estimates. From this memorandum I see that the revised estimate of revenue for 1947-48 is £331,734 more than the original estimate. Like other members of the public I read what was more or less a disclosure of the Budget, that is, the statement that this year the Government has succeeded in digging £400,000 out of the pockets of the rich and, therefore, I was very anxious to see the memorandum and to get an explanation of this remarkable statement. You can imagine my surprise that the increase is merely £331,734 and that far from digging this amount out of the pockets of the rich, the greater part of it comes from the Customs. Of this increase in revenue over the original estimate £191,000 has been obtained from Customs—Import Duties, Excise and what not. The Post Office accounts for £11,012 of it and Income Tax and Death Duties for only £122,000; so that, obviously, the public was completely misled when they were told that for this year the figures in the Estimates would reveal that the Government had succeeded in acquiring £400,000 out of the pockets of the rich more than was the original estimate. To get back, Sir, to a detailed examination of this revised estimate, I was pleased to hear the senior member for St. Joseph declare that even with the £122,000, which I emphasize is all that we have got more than the original estimate from income tax, this was due to no wilful wangling by the Government who expected such an increase. It is difficult, Sir, to reconcile a statement like that with remarks made in this connection outside this Chamber by the said speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member likely to speak longer than ten minutes from now?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think so, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then in that case we will adjourn. This House stands adjourned until a quarter to three o'clock in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

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

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to continue the consideration of the Estimates. In view of the fact that some honourable members have said that they have not had sufficient time to go through the Estimates, we will not be able to meet until next Tuesday. I am informed that a matter of some importance to honourable members is taking place on Thursday of next week so that we will not be able to meet on that day. I suggest that if we deal with any Head of the Estimates and honourable members want further time to consider it, we postpone consideration of that Head and go on on to another one.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1948—49

Mr. SPEAKER: When the adjournment for lunch took place, the honourable senior member for St Philip was speaking on the motion that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for 1948—49. Before the honourable member continues I would like to say that he was commenting on something which we saw in the Press. I do not know that we take any notice of things appearing in the Press.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We have spent an entire morning's session in taking notice of what appeared in the Press. I was saying that from the Memorandum on the Estimates the revised estimate of revenue discloses an increase of £331,734 and that this increase is not the £400,000—even the figure which is accurate does not represent money which has been dug out of the pockets of the rich as was stated in public.

Mr. SPEAKER: Members of the House do not take statements appearing in the Press as the policy of the Government or as statements on behalf of the Government.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sure that Your Honour will make allowance for the persons making the statements. Anyhow, of this £331,734 the greater portion has been derived from Customs Duties which, as I have said, are collected from all sections of the population. The amount which has been derived from Income Tax and Death Duties is less than one-half of that sum—a mere £122,000. With regard to that, every person in this community who knows anything about this matter will know that this is a mere accident. It is merely fortuitous that in a good year the Government may collect more from Income Tax than was previously estimated. As a matter of fact, to quote the honourable senior member for St. Joseph this morning, this £122,000 is not the result of any wilful wangling indulged in by the Government. In other words, it was not purposely dug out of anybody's pockets. We have cleared this £122,000 because of two reasons. One is our method of collecting Income Tax, and by that

I mean this: as honourable members know, around the month of November, just about the time when the Executive Committee is going to consider the Estimates, the Income Tax Commissioner is called upon and asked to give an estimate of what in his opinion the country is likely to collect for the ensuing year from Income Tax, and he gives an estimate. Then we do not fix the rates by law until six or seven months after. It is not the habit of the Government to call upon the Income Tax Commissioner again when he has before him at least 7/8ths of the Income Tax returns and ask him for a revised estimate and proceed to fix the rates accordingly; you get an estimate in November in one year, and you fix the rates in June of the following year so that it is obviously a hit or miss method. You may collect more than you estimated for, or you may collect less than the estimate. The other reason is that it has happened that the unfortunate Income Tax Commissioner actually estimated less, or rather he estimated with results which eventually proved that we had less money than we wanted. We all know that he nearly got in trouble for doing so and nowadays he is extremely anxious to err on the other side in order, of course, to save his neck. I think the public is entitled to the explanation that it is not due to the extant circumstance of any particular Government being in office that in any given year the country might receive more money from income tax than was estimated or less than the estimate. As a matter of fact, if you really inquire into the matter, you will discover that the rates of Income Tax collected in this country have remained as they are at present for quite a few years and they were fixed when there was a Conservative Government in power. In the year when the rates were fixed we also had more money collected from Income Tax than was originally estimated. The present Government has not changed these rates and if, for instance, last year had been a year like the present one, it might well have happened that the deficit which is estimated in the current budget might have been twelve or fifteen times greater than what it is. I should like to say that personally speaking, I am wedded to the theory that it is advisable, to use the words of a former Official, to make hay while the sun is shining; when conditions appear to be rosy get as much money as you can from any legitimate source from which you can get it. But with regard to this question of Income Tax, opinion is considerably divided; people who profess Labour and Socialist sympathies have, from the floor of this Chamber, expressed their opposition to levying Income Tax at a rate which would give the Government more money than it needs to carry on. The late senior member for St. George, Mr. Springer, has voiced an argument along this line on the floor of this Chamber and the present junior member for the City has also done so. What I would like to emphasize is this; if we were collecting more revenue than we estimated for, say, from an excess profits tax or from a special tax placed on say, unearned income, then there would be no need for concern; but it must be borne in mind that even people of small incomes contribute to the revenue derived from Income Tax. In fact, the greater number of people who pay Income Tax, are people of small incomes; there are very few people of large incomes in this colony. The number of people who pay Income Tax in the higher brackets is comparatively small and it is certainly a moot question, bearing in mind the fact that the large number of people who pay Income Tax are people

of small incomes, whether seeing that we collected more than we estimated for, the Government could not have considered the advisability of extending some relief to income taxpayers in the lower brackets because they are deserving of sympathy. The allowances are not considerable; I think that the present allowances are £150 for a single man, £250 for a married man and £40 for each child. We had lowered the allowances some years ago and we went back to the original figures about the year 1946. It is certainly a matter for further consideration as to whether relief should not be extended to persons in the lower and very lowest brackets, and if necessary we may be able to exploit other avenues for supplying extra revenue which we should like to have.

It has been remarked in this Chamber that it would be extremely advantageous if the Government would embark upon a more equitable system of levying licences for selling rum. In other words, if the rate of licence which large traders in liquors are compelled to pay bore some better relation to the volume of trade done rather than as at present where the small trader and the large trader pay the same licence, I have no doubt that we should get a considerable increase of revenue. In case my former suggestion were adopted and the Government wanted to get more revenue, it would be well advised to levy a tax on entertainments in this colony with special reference to the theatres and at the same time control the price of the shows. We have to bear in mind that in this colony today we already have four theatres and three are in the process of erection; and when these three will have been completed there will be seven theatres only one of which will be owned by local people. The others are owned by outsiders and the substantial profits collected from these theatres go out of the island every month. These profits represent a substantial amount and therefore it does appear to me that the Government will be well advised to take steps to see that some greater contribution is made to the revenue of the colony from the appreciable profits made here by foreign film magnates.

I should just like to say a word in passing with regard to the estimated deficit of £6,673. I am not unduly perturbed about the fact that we have an estimated excess of expenditure over revenue. It is true that we have to be very, very careful owing to the fact that the income this year from the colony's main industry will be considerably low as compared with what it has been in previous years, and for reasons which I need not enumerate, there will be a considerable decrease in what is known as the invisible revenue of the colony. In the past we have on more than one occasion shown that despite the fact that our economy rests on a fairly limited basis, yet its buoyancy or elasticity is commendably surprising; and compared with similar colonies of equal size and equal economic resources, it is absolutely amazing what this country can do. I should not at all be surprised that, in spite of the fact that, we are budgeting for a deficit, we shall, at the end of the current financial year, have an appreciable sum to our credit. With regard to the estimates in detail, as I was attempting to say earlier today, they were laid on the Table of the House last Tuesday and I must confess that I have not had the opportunity to pay a single moment's attention to them before now. I have been occupied during the past week with meetings even on Sunday and I regret that the usual practice of allowing honourable members at least two weeks to digest the Estimates has not been followed this year. However, one or two things do occur to me at the moment

and one of them is this: I was hoping today to hear in the statement of policy which was included in the explanation given by the Government's spokesman, something about the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in this colony. Sir, if we have to finance all these schemes for development, some of which are included in the Ten Year Plan, if we are at our wits' end to obtain the necessary funds to do so, it is to say the least of it amazing that the Government can overlook the advisability of making a beginning in relation to taking steps to put an end to the enormous amount which this country spends every year on an established Church. (Mr. MORTLEY: I do not agree with you). It is not enough for the Government Spokesman to say that the Government is waiting for a lead from members of the House; the tail is not supposed to wag the dog. (MEMBERS: We are not the tail.) It is amazing how silly some people are. Every person in this country, every person with the most elementary education, should have repeatedly heard the expression about the tail wagging the dog and should be able to appreciate the manner in which it is used. I submit that it is the Government's duty to submit its policy to the Legislature and whether the policy is accepted or not is a different matter; but no Government anywhere with a full sense of its position should reeline and say: "We are waiting for a lead from the Legislature." On this question of the disestablishment of the Church, I say that it is high time that we make a beginning in this colony to remove this enormous burden from the backs of the taxpayers thereby relieving a large sum of money which can be utilised for maintaining and defraying the cost of our expenditure on social services. (Hear, hear).

Sir, I have a few observations to make with regard to education and I purpose to reserve them until we shall have reached that Head in our consideration of the Estimates. At this stage I should merely like to say that we welcome the present expenditure under this Head. We appreciate that education represents a fair proportion of our expenditure but we still see considerable room for an increase in the amount. I refer to the fact that for the current year it is only proposed to expend money on the construction of the Party-Coleridge School which has been urged for decades in this Chamber, and the new senior school for girls at St. Leonards. Of course it is also proposed to erect a school at Chalky Mount and one at Half Moon Forte. I do feel that the need for more secondary accommodation in this colony is so pressing that the Government cannot be too harshly censured for failing to take steps to increase the accommodation for secondary education. Aggravating the position which springs from new departures in our educational policy—I refer to superannuation especially and incidentally it is remarkable that pupils who find themselves excluded from our colleges on the ground of superannuation are readily admitted in the colleges in neighbouring colonies. Only recently I saw reported that two boys who had been discharged from Harrison College on the ground of superannuation were accepted by Queen's Royal College in Trinidad. While it may serve some sort of purpose to maintain superannuation, because of our lack of accommodation, the obvious remedy is to embark with all possible speed, paying of course due respect to the limitation of our financial ability, upon the provision of more secondary accommodation in the colony. My final point on the question of education is this: the Government has apparently embarked upon a system in some of the out parishes of combining boys' and girls' elementary schools under one headship. I propose to deal with

this matter more thoroughly when we come to consider this Head in the Estimates. I should merely like to say now that **this is a system** which in itself as all thinking people will agree, is going to cause unemployment and it cannot be productive of the best results in so far as the administration of these schools is concerned; or in so far as fitting the children who attend these schools to take their proper places in the community when they shall have left them. There are a few instances of which I know and to which I intend to refer later on, but I now merely forewarn the Government that this matter is being widely discussed and there is considerable dissatisfaction being caused among the schools concerned as well as other schools. As far as I know there has been no public declaration of Government policy in the matter, neither have members of the Legislature been informed of the inception of this new system and therefore, in my opinion, we are entitled to some detailed explanation of the situation. With regard to the expenditure on the relief of unemployment, I think that the honourable junior member for St. James has urged that the expenditure envisaged should be distributed over the widest possible area and that every parish should get its fair share; and he has emphasized the necessity for allowing the scales to fall more heavily in those parishes in which the people have been more hard hit because of the drought being more severe in those parishes. The honourable member was speaking even better than he knew and I want to add that in the expenditure of these funds on unemployment relief whether it be improving the tenantry roads or doing work of a capital nature, emphasis must not be laid on parishes in which the party in office feels itself politically weak. I know what I am talking about. More than one of the parishes is relatively better off than other parishes because they have not been so adversely affected by the lack of rain and the crop is almost as good as in a normal year. Therefore, if we see this discrimination being persisted in, we shall have to take the necessary steps to have the matter looked into with a view to its improvement. I do not think I need say anything more at this juncture; I am sorry that I was unable to give more detailed consideration to these Estimates, not at all due to my fault, and it is to be sincerely hoped that as the year proceeds and the necessity for increased expenditure along certain lines becomes apparent, the Government will see the advisability of taking new steps even although these steps may not have been envisaged in the Estimates which are now occupying our attention.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Even as a junior member of this House I will attempt to add my quota to the observations made with regard to the Budget. I will attempt to offer my observations and criticisms hoping that they will be as constructive as I can make them and that they will be accepted in the right spirit. It is the duty of those of us at present outside the Government, on occasions when the Estimates are presented, to observe for the benefit of the Government what we think on the face of it appears to be necessary. I should like to begin by saying that I, like the hon. junior member for St. James, must commend the Government on the presentation of these Estimates. If I err there I feel that I err in good company, but I mean that sincerely and from the bottom of my heart. Sir, in comparing the Estimates with those of last year I see that a lot of improvements have been made, and when the figures as to the estimated revenue and expenditure are taken as a whole, it is true to say that we are in a healthy financial position. Again like the honourable junior member for St. James, and honourable members know that this is my policy, I maintain that how-

ever gloomy the outlook might be, this is the time if ever to embark upon social improvements. As to the increase in the current expenditure we do appreciate the necessary assistance given in the Colonial Secretary's Office which, I suppose, is partly responsible for the more efficient presentation of the Estimates. We also appreciate the inclusion in the Estimates of schemes of social improvement as set out in Appendix 13 under the Head Capital Expenditure; because to-day more than ever we see the need in this country for these schemes and at least this effort which is made must certainly be appreciated. Whatever might be the feeling of some people in this country as to the Socialist trend it must be borne in mind that it is not confined to Barbados, because the world moves on in the Socialist trend. It would appear that there is no sense in trying to think that it can be turned back and those of us who are not in the Government are concerned with the pace at which we can go. Therefore it would be stupid, after the presentation of these figures and we see that the island is in a healthy financial position, for any of us whatever be our walk of life or our political persuasion to feel that these social schemes as are set out here under Capital Expenditure should not be embarked upon. I say that for this reason: there is a feeling in this country that as soon as you are said to be in the Opposition—a term which seems to be misunderstood by many people—you are in opposition to any social improvement in this country, and that is why I should like to make the position clear. While I say that with the presentation of these Estimates there is a lot on which to commend the Government, on the other hand I must observe that there are several omissions (A MEMBER: I agree) which in the opinion of those of us outside the Government should be embarked upon in the very, very near future. Before I go further I should like to say that the raising of revenue in this colony must be of great concern to thinking people. To-day, as it has always been, the bulk of our revenue is raised under the Head Customs. I suppose that all of us would like to see indirect taxation, as it must affect the average working man, reduced as much as possible. On that point I suppose it is well that I should allow my feeling in the matter to be known. The taxation which I consider to be the fairest of all taxation ever levied on human beings comes under the heading of Income Tax. The figures show that there is the sum of £122,000 in excess of last year's figures with regard to Income Tax and Death Duties and while I feel that this is the best and the most equitable form of taxation—a man pays when he earns and none of us should object to that—I also feel that there is a lot which can be done in connection with the method of raising Income Tax in this colony. I speak on this matter because I know that in the lower brackets much relief is necessary. I instance, Mr. Speaker, the allowances made for married men with the cost of living to-day and also the allowances made for single men. I am only speaking on this matter now because I have no other opportunity of speaking on it. The amount raised from Income Tax and Death Duties is set out here and I am only observing what I think should be done in view of relieving certain sections of the people from whom Income Tax is collected. I was saying that people in the lower brackets who must contribute—

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not want to have any debate on the question of the rates of Income Tax to-day because we are dealing with the Estimates.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is my only opportunity to show to the Government what the feeling of some members of this House who are not members of the Government is. While we feel that Income Tax is the most equitable tax to be levied, the method of collect-

ing it in this colony will take a lot of modification. I am not dealing with the rates.

Mr. SPEAKER: But surely the rates will depend upon the allowances.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is the only opportunity which I have—

Mr. SPEAKER: When you come to fix the rates you fix them by means of a Bill which comes before the House about the month of June, and that is the time when you can speak on the matter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: We raise so much and so much money from Income Tax and all I am trying to show the Government is that while we may raise the money, the way in which we raise it is not the most equitable way.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to stop the honourable member but these are the Estimates for the ensuing year and later the rates of Income Tax will be laid.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I said at the beginning that I hope my observations will be taken in the right spirit and that those who are responsible for the administration will take note of them. The allowances to married men, to single men and in respect of children are inadequate and many of us feel that they will take a lot of modification. We feel that relief should be given in the lower brackets especially when the high cost of living is taken into consideration. I pass from the question of Income Tax and I say that I hope that such a policy for industrialisation will be presented shortly to this House as will in itself give some effect to the raising of taxation which when considered from all points of view, will necessarily give relief to persons in this direction. I observe that under the Head of Capital Expenditure the Government will be embarking upon several schemes some of which are mentioned in the Ten Year Plan and some of which are in the educational policy as recommended by the former Director of Education; but there are other things, as the honourable senior member for St. Philip has mentioned, which must be very evident to the Government, one of them being the necessity for greater accommodation in secondary schools. We have been hearing about the East Coast Road; that in itself is not under capital expenditure and we feel that in embarking upon that project shortly there would in result be a greater advertisement for this island as far as the tourist trade is concerned. That would in itself remove much of the present unemployment and it would be the means of bringing much invisible income into the colony. I say with the fullest sense of responsibility and deeply conscious of my election to this Chamber that there are several items on the Order Paper in respect of which if a compromise could be arrived at, much would be done to assist the economic position of the people of this colony. To-day I feel that all of us should be less selfish and should find some working solution or some means of compromise in connection with these items. I am fully conscious of what it will mean to the economy of the people of the island generally if several of the items on the Order Paper could be passed into practical legislation. I hope before long to see some working solution in the matter. There are matters under various Heads of expenditure with which I should like to deal but I will leave them until we are considering the particular Heads. As regards the question of emigration, I hope that when the members of the Government hear us pressing it from day to day and from week to week they will not think that it is done for any other reason than to show that we are willing to support any movement which they might make relative to a scheme of emigration so that numbers of our people might be able to go abroad

and assist in raising the economy of the colony. Let me say this finally: I suppose that the Government must be aware that there are omissions in these Estimates and I hope that these observations and criticisms will be noted and that very soon the Government will be presenting here some working compromise in respect of industrialisation and in respect of other matters which I consider to be of great importance and which are at present on the Order Paper. I feel very strongly in this matter. I offer my wholehearted support to this Government, and I will offer it to any Government, in respect of any social schemes which are put forward for the improvement of the people of this colony.

Mr. HAYNES: I do not want to delay the passing of this motion but I should like to say a few words because, as the honourable senior member for the City has said, there are some omissions in these Estimates. I certainly think the four members of this House who are members of the Executive Committee should fully realise that it is their duty to inform the Head of the Administration of the feeling of the House in certain matters. It is amazing to me that nothing has been done either by way of a decrease in the Estimates relative to the Anglican Church or the stating of some policy as to the future of this Establishment. I would have thought that at least something would have been done about the matter because even the Head of the Administration mentioned it in his speech at the opening of the present session. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has just told us that not a word has been said of any policy or intention of the Government in this matter. Another thing that amazes me is in connection with capital expenditure; we are glad to see that it has been separated from other expenditure, but if one looks through the Appendix he will see that 9/10ths of the money is to be spent on improvements within the City area and very little money is to be spent in the country. As regards the East Coast Road in connection with which there was a debate in this House and there was a petition presented to the Government, nothing has been put down in the Estimates in respect of capital expenditure on this project.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that not going to be dealt with from loan funds?

Mr. HAYNES: I do not think so; the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation has washed itself out of it and there is no money available. As a matter of fact, the answer to my question was an answer in those terms. As I have said, the carrying out of this project will create a large amount of employment. It cannot be said that there is no staff because I understand that they have been able to obtain the services of a technical engineer for looking after the roads. I must give a word of praise sometimes; I see that the tenantry roads are being attended to now but there is no reason why this project could not be undertaken. With regard to capital expenditure I see that the sum of £10,000 has been earmarked for the Chalky Mount School and if there is one essential it is that this school should be removed from its present site and placed in more suitable surroundings. When I see that the sum of £10,000 is to be spent in respect of this school I feel dubious about it; I feel that it is going to be said when the time comes "We do not want anything so much; we are not going to bother with that." This school could have been replaced by the buildings at Seawell a year or more ago when the Government bought those buildings but nothing was done about it. I am hoping that this money will be spent but I fear that when the time comes it is not going to be thought fit to spend all this money in this back area, although in my opinion more money is needed to be

spent in these areas than in those which are, so to speak, in front of the public. There are several other items which I would like to mention but I do not want to delay the passing of this motion; I shall make my remarks in the near future when we go into Committee on these Estimates. I hope that my remarks in relation to the matters which I have mentioned will not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. KAMSAY: I think that at a time like this with the social and political advancement in this colony, it behoves honourable members to express their opinion on current matters without any doubt. I propose, Mr. Speaker, to speak in a general way on a few Heads of these Estimates. I might appear to ramble; I have not got them in order, I just jotted them down while honourable members were speaking. The suggestion has been made that the Cost of Living Allowance should not be confused with the substantive salaries and with that I agree. I want to say now that some of us are very happy and we boast about the amount of money which is in the Treasury. I do not mind what is in the Treasury; none of us know whether within the next few days after this serious drought we may have some calamity or not. However, I am not praying for that. I say that we have to be very careful about our expenditure. We are threatened with austerity but I do not believe that we have gone near the extent to which austerity has gone in some other places. The honourable introducer of this Budget has told us that we should pass over lightly certain Heads because his namesake has not yet completed his labours. We must take time by the forelock and go very carefully. We should not allow outsiders—I say it with much grace—to come in and tell us what we should do. The honourable senior member for St. George has told us that we must be very careful about these experts, and it seems to me that a lot of these outsiders come to put our house in order for their peculiar benefit. They will recommend that Heads of Departments should have tremendous salaries and we will have to foot the bill. Somebody else says that if you have a million pounds to be spent you should spend it within a certain time; we must spend it like drunken sailors. I say that we must be very careful about these experts telling us how to spend our money. Many an individual will buy you a large horse but few will bring the feed for it. I warn the House against these experts coming here and telling us how we should spend our money. I should like to remind honourable members that the country is suffering from drought; not only have we got less canes, but the canes have less and inferior juice. With regard to the Head "Ecclesiastical" some honourable members have suggested that we should disendow the Church; but I say that, if ever there was a time when we want the Church it is now. If you go into the Courts you find people charged with committing all sorts of offences. Some of them, I include myself, might have passed the age of reformation and you cannot teach old dogs new tricks. We want the Church to play its part in correcting delinquency in youth. There is much delinquency in this Chamber. (Laughter). I say that we will not have any disendowment of the Church in my time. What we want the Church to do is to preach the doctrine of the lowly Nazarene, to preach Jesus and his love. As regards the question of education, I am just throwing out a hint; we seem to be wasting a lot of our money at Codrington College. I know that the expenditure is authorised by law but I am speaking generally. At present we have people for whom this Government is paying to be edu-

cated at Codrington College and I say it is better for the Government to take them away from there and send them to England or Canada. I would like hon. members to remember that in the age of science and mathematics they seem to look down upon classics. Classics is a wonderful thing; it brings out the soul in mankind. It makes the best lawyers although I do not say anything about the lawyers. When we have a classical scholar who has been able to read the lives of great men it brings out the best in humanity. Things are not well at Codrington College; there is nobody to teach Greek or English. For a few weeks students were taught the Gospel by Luke and the Professor told them to get through by themselves. I cannot understand that. I repeat that money is being wasted at Codrington College and the boys are also being bullied. Boys who have had a term of seven weeks spent four weeks in producing a Play: one boy was ill, he could not attend the Play and the Principal told him that he must have eaten too much! One of the reasons why we are not getting better results is due to the fact that scholars who have been to England look down upon Codrington College. We have heard a lot of talk about secondary schools but we have not heard one word said about Codrington College within a decade. Every Professor who has had any interest in the students has been chased out of Codrington College. When we look back we see that the island has produced men like Sir Randall Phillips, Hon. Dr. Massiah and his son, Mr. Stonewall Payne, who was a member of this House, and many other people, and Codrington College which has produced the majority of the teachers in the island, is no where. I say that with a full sense of my responsibility. I think that I have said sufficient to cause the Leader of the House to verify my remarks and if I am correct, he should suggest to the Government that these scholars be sent elsewhere because we cannot pay sufficient for education; we cannot pay sufficient for learning. As regards Agriculture, I cannot help being an agriculturist. Agriculture has done and is doing a lot of good for the country, and I say that the Head of the Department of Science and Agriculture is a man for whom this country cannot do enough. If we erect to him a monument of marble time will efface it; if we erect one of brass it may melt away; but if we erect it in our immortal souls it will last eternally. The Head of this Department has done one hundred times more for the country than any other Englishman. I am sorry for the honourable junior member for St. James who is also an Englishman. Speaking on the Head "Department of Highways and Transport," I associate myself with the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, the senior member for the City and other honourable members. At a time like this when unemployment is rampant—of course I know that there are a lot of unemployables but there are also people who want to work—a start could be made in respect of the East Coast Road for the construction of which we passed a Resolution in this House. Mr. Speaker, we want to send people to America and I am not against that; I am not against people going to Surinam but why can we not use the material which we have at our disposal if we have no rollers? Government Hill was repaired by manual labour. I think it is time that the Government begin to do something tangible. If we have no money to deal with the water courses, we have stone and lime and there are masons in this colony; we can work above the water courses. I say that this Government is not doing enough; I am sure that if they started to put this East Coast Road in order people would erect their houses there even although there is no water

because the water can be extended to that vicinity. The Government have no excuse for not making a start with this road and if they are not indifferent, they are incapable or incompetent. With regard to the Waterworks Department, they have made a tremendous blunder. The experts have recommended electric motors, diesel engines and steam engines. All these modes of generation have been recommended for one Department! Surely in a day like this they will not need three experts; all they need to do is to stick to diesel or if steam is antiquated, stick to electricity. In getting down a man who can deal with diesel engines he will be able to deal with the entire lay-out; but with three sorts of mechanisation at the Department they are looking for trouble. We will never get over our troubles where this matter is concerned for 40 years if no check is made. If the Government find that they are not doing wrong in this matter it is because they have not been talking with intelligent people. Of course, every Barbadian including myself is an expert. If we have gas here, let us have a gas expert and it would be a good thing to have gas all over the island. If you have an electrical expert he can give his advice to various people and we can grasp it; but we are going to have three experts at the Waterworks and if we go on like this the federation of the West Indies will be a confounding of the West Indies and those who are experts will have the whip's handle in their hands. I notice that the Colonial Secretary has spoken about the inadequacy of the Public Buildings. I am not going to say "I told you so", but I should like to draw to the notice of the Government that sometime ago I had an Address passed in this Chamber calling upon the Government to erect proper Parliament Buildings; and I am still saying to-day that we might give over these present buildings to the Government, allow them to stop renting and erect new Parliament Buildings somewhere else for housing the two branches of the Legislature. As a matter of fact, these new buildings should also include the Colonial Secretary's Office because every now and then papers have to be obtained from that office. It is about time that we stop renting these buildings and let the Government use their own buildings. We can embark upon a long-term policy, hand over these buildings to the Government and cease renting them. As someone has said:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said
This is my own, my native land."

It is the duty of the Government to acquire new Parliament Buildings and in this connection there are plans and papers pigeon-holed, worm-eaten and moth-eaten somewhere. I am now giving expert advice for nothing; if we multiply these estimates by ten that will be the rent which we have paid for these buildings. As far as the Livestock Agricultural Station is concerned, (A MEMBER: You are saying this because you are going out). This is my "Swan Song." When a swan dies you can eat him, I suppose; but some of us are toads and we have to be thrown away when we die. (Laughter). The Government has tried to assist where animal husbandry is concerned, but they are not doing it in the right way. At the various out Stations we have three or four bulls for the service of the peasants' stock, but at the Pine the Headquarters there is no bull for service unless you pay to have your animal tested for tuberculosis and then you have to pay a fee of \$5. One expert may say that the cow has tuberculosis and another may say that there is nothing wrong with it. There is no guarantee where tuberculin testing is concerned. One expert makes his test in the tail and says that

there is no tuberculosis while the other makes his test in the shoulder and says that there is tuberculosis. The Government ought to borrow one or two bulls from the out districts and put them at the Pine so that the poor peasant can have the benefit of them. We are suffering in that connection in this parish. Years ago we had the benefit of bulls being kept at the Mental Hospital. I understand that a lady has given a beautiful bull and I think he should be sent around for the benefit of the peasants. I do not blame the Government for indifference; but I blame them for incompetence; they have nobody to help them and they really cannot do any better. When I was speaking about the East Coast Road just now I should have included the tenantry roads. We should spend all the money we can on the tenantry roads because that would be doing something useful. It seems to me as a layman that the Department of Highways and Transport do not employ enough people: they seem to take so long to do anything. I was decent enough to tell this House that there is no equipment for dealing with the roads, however I think it is time that we start putting men to work on the roads even if they repair ten feet per day. The idea is to make people work for money. We have just passed a Resolution for \$2,000 for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen and I am against that. I do not think that people should be allowed to open shops and then others drink all the rum in the shops; I say: give the people some work to do. If people become too great to do one thing, let them do something else. I am not at all happy about the suggestion of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that people should be paid for cassava roots and potatoes to such an extent that they will be encouraged to plant them; because in the end the poor consumer will have to pay for them. There are more people who are eating these things than those who are planting them. This is a vicious principle. I believe that these things should be sold at an equitable rate. We must be practicable: if we do not get the rain how are we going to grow these roots? We must make it possible that the planters should not lose by planting these things. I do not share the optimism of the Government in the matter of attracting people from the City: I am saying that that is an impossibility. It is not a question of the work; it is a question of the minds of the people. I do not blame the honourable senior member for St. Joseph who says that he is hoping to get the scattered people from the City; I am telling him that I do not share his optimism. A person would rather work in the City for 2/6 than work in the country for 15/-. (A MEMBER: No). You get people begging all over the town and they, are those who would be glad for them to work in the country.

I think the honourable senior member for St. Joseph intimated that during the consideration of the Estimates he would deal with the Report of the Select Committee appointed to prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 36/1947 relating to the emoluments attaching to the office of Governor of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a question as to whether honourable members will accept that or not.

Mr. RAMSAY: I will be in the Chair and I am asking for some latitude now. I notice that there has been a tremendous increase in expenditure over last year, the sum of £318,829 being added to the various Departments. We are going to have a Financial Secretary who is to instruct us in financial matters, and there are three Assistants to the Colonial Secretary whereas in days gone by there used to be one. There is also a tremendous increase in connection with the Waterworks Department. As far as education is concerned, we need more second-

ary schools. We are planning for effecting repairs to roads and so on. There is the Cost of Living Allowance for various Departments but in a day like this when most of us are trying to draw our belts and spend money when it is necessary to spend it, it comes with bad grace when we are asked to vote more money for the office of Governor of Barbados. I will be the first person to vote money for anybody if after due consideration I think it is necessary to do so. I will not vote more money for an Officer who is getting enough. Somebody will say that I voted for it on the last occasion but on that occasion we did not have any short crop neither did we have any drought. The conditions which exist this year did not exist last year and this House will be well advised not to vote one penny more under the Head "Governor". I notice that the Electric Company have sent out circulars saying that they are reducing their rates; I hope I am wrong. (Laughter) I also saw a notice in the Press. I want to ask if it is fair for us to be asked to increase the amount provided for the lighting at Government House? Have they put in more lights or newer lights? Are they putting lights on the lawns for the purpose of educating the elementary school children at night up there? Why should we vote this money? They are drawing a red herring across the trail. If we persist in putting this money in the Estimates I think we should not pass the Estimates at all. It is sufficient for us to cry halt. Some time ago they asked us to vote an additional £500 and now we are asked to vote £600. I remember that during the first War Sir William Herbert Greaves refused to have his emoluments increased; he said; "At a time like this it behoves Barbadians to do what they can for their country." I advise this House not to vote for this increase in the emoluments relative to the office of Governor. I am not criticising adversely anything which this House have passed, but the House refused to grant Mr. Goring, who served as a porter at Queen's College, consideration for an extra four years' service because he worked too long. The Government refused to grant this man a paltry few pounds and the same Government is asking us to vote £600 for an Officer who cannot plead poverty! I say that it is the duty of this House to take into consideration the thousands of poor people who are starving and this £600 would be more than useful to them. Until we have exercised our duty we cannot face our constituents and they are more people who are off the register than those who are on it. I counsel this House not to pass this £600 under this Head; I say that we will be doing our duty in refusing to do so. (Cheers.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member who has just spoken has been given some latitude because he will be in the Chair when the House go into Committee on the Estimates. I do not intend to allow other honourable members the same latitude.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to comment on the Budget as a whole. I am not going to compliment this Labour Government on a Budget of this kind because I am one of those who expect a lot more from a Government which purports to represent the common man, the man who is faced with very little employment and with starvation for many a day during the year. In this Budget I find that there are very, very grave omissions, and I can certainly compliment the Government on presenting what is definitely a most conservative Budget. Now the first criticism which I have to make is this; in perusing these Estimates I find that the lowly workers—the messengers, the casual labourers, the great mass of people in this country who have to eke out a very

miserable existence because their emoluments are inadequate to keep soul and body together, that section of people who have large families with seven, eight and nine children in a home—are still given only as much as this Labour Government feels they are worth. I do not agree with the estimate which the Labour Government has put on the service of hard-working members in the community. Only last week we considered a Resolution in respect of a Baker Instructor at Glendairy Prison who has worked there for 30 years without a day's vacation supervising and teaching people how to produce bread not only for the Prison but for the Mental Asylum and the Leper Asylum—all that is within the knowledge of members of this Government—and we are seriously and solemnly asked to vote \$44 a month for a Government employee who has put in 30 years' service as a specialist Instructor! The messengers, the casual labourers and the great body of under-privileged people whom this Government purports to represent are absolutely neglected. I know that the excuse will be made that we are awaiting the recommendations of Mr. Adams. I sincerely hope that when his Report comes down it will give greater consideration to the needs of hard-working, under-privileged people in the community and will have some acknowledgment of the fact that a poor man with eight or nine children to feed and educate deserves some proper consideration as regards wages. This Government must no longer continue to insult labour in this colony by paying the labourers the wages which it is now paying them. It is with very great regret that I have been forced to again draw to the attention of the Government its failures in its duty to the workers of this colony. If the Government fail to set an example in its own place, how can it expect private employers to do better? The next lamentable oversight in this Budget is that no provision whatever is made for the introduction in this colony of compulsory education which has been mooted on political platforms since the time of Dr. O'neal. Today with a Labour Government which boasts that it is out to do something to promote the development and the advancement of the masses there is still not one single attempt made to introduce compulsory education. We as private members sitting around this Table have got to force through Addresses to His Excellency the Governor in order to get things done, things which this Labour Government promises to do year by year. It is time that we stop making empty promises and get on with the business of improving conditions. There is really no provision made for an extension of the accommodation for elementary schools nor is there any notice taken of, or provision made for, increasing the accommodation in secondary schools for at least the children of poor parents who desire it, so that Barbadians who form a very important part of the West Indies will be enlightened enough to command the respect of people from all over the world. No attempt has been made by this Labour Government to make any provision whatever so that the children of the masses will be given the opportunity for imbibing the education which every mother's heart desires for her child. We would like to see every child in Barbados given an opportunity to obtain secondary education. Many and many a child is denied the opportunity for obtaining even elementary education because there are not enough schools to enforce compulsion and there are many parents who are pulling their belts and endeavouring to educate their children. In spite of the protest made by the public, in spite of the protest made by many of us, the Government in this Budget makes no pro-

vision for removing the obstacles which stand in the way of education of children. In this Budget we have provided for the appointment of a Financial Secretary; if we have a Financial Secretary and we do not set about to create productive enterprises in this colony whereby those who are out of work will be employed, then with the money which we spend and the high hopes we have of the Financial Secretary, we will be doomed to disappointment. No attempt has been made by this Government in this Budget to do anything at all to encourage, promote, or foster any kind of industrialisation in this colony. Every man is entitled to his own opinion but if we are following slavishly the example of any other Labour Government let us remember in preparing our Budgets that a country like Great Britain which is highly industrialised, started upon a policy of industrialisation, of changing over from a purely agricultural country which she was at one time in her history and monopolies were granted to various concerns in order that every encouragement should be given to new industries and as time went on—I see that some honourable members are laughing: people may laugh while others starve and die. What is a joke for some people is death to others. What I am trying to emphasize is this; as time wore on and the necessity for monopolies no longer existed, public opinion and the needs of the time demanded that these monopolies be abolished. To-day I am not asking for the grant of any monopoly to any person, but I am saying that this Government has not made any provision for doing what Puerto Rico is doing, that is, encouraging foreign capital to come in and set up industries. They are granting them limited facilities for a limited number of years. Mr. Speaker, I should like to say here that if any member feels that by interrupting me he can make me sit down, I will talk until it is dark; the more interruption I get, the brighter is my form. I intend to make a few observations and then give other honourable members an opportunity to speak. I was observing that the Government deserves severe criticism because in this Budget it has made no provision for encouraging or facilitating industrialisation in order to provide a higher standard of living for the many unemployed workers and to help in raising the people of this colony to that standard of dignity envisaged even by the Leader of the House in his remarks not very long ago relative to people coming from the United States of America. When opportunities are given to labour, a man is able to dress himself properly and educate his son properly; that is the kind of thing which one would expect this Labour Government to make some attempt to initiate by assisting in the establishment of productive enterprises. No attempt is made in this Budget to do anything whatever about the raising of a substantial loan in order that many public works which we have been led to believe would soon be started, can be started. Although to-day the members of the Government are patting themselves on the shoulders because of the amount of over £800,000 being in the Treasury, it seems to me that in their hands a day in the lives of the people of Barbados has run into a thousand years; and if they continue with their present policy they cannot say that they have done anything. If they continue to do very little year by year this generation will surely pass away and the people who are looking for early relief from their sufferings will remain in the same state of unemployment and starvation in which they now are. I have another criticism to make and it is this; we have been told by the introducer of this Budget that everything has been done in respect of emigration and I cannot too often repeat that there is plenty employment in Great Britain. Mr.

Keith from the Colonial Office came out here some time during last year and told us about the difficulties attendant upon the recruitment of Barbadian labourers in Great Britain. Difficulties are there, we all admit, but we do not see in this Budget that any amount is to be voted in order that a delegation can be sent to Britain which is the only country in the world at the moment requiring thousands and thousands of workers. We do not see any attempt being made to create the spirit of understanding, the spirit of co-operation and sympathy with the desire of idle Barbadians to work in Britain, or to remove the antipathy or objection which at present pervades the Colonial Office in the matter of the employment of Barbadians in Britain. The position will be very much the same as when British merchants send their representatives to Barbados in order to secure markets for their goods. If what I have suggested was done then it would be right to commend this Government for having done something; but I find in this Budget a lack of sympathy, a lack of understanding and a lack of appreciation of the plight and the sufferings of the common man. Therefore for the reason which I have set out I certainly cannot associate myself with those who commend the Government on the preparation of what I describe as a most reprehensive Budget.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have no desire to speak as long as honourable members have spoken lest I fall into the trap of saying things which I did not intend to say. I do not intend to reply on behalf of the one who is capable of doing so and whose duty it is to reply, but I think any honourable member can draw attention to any remarks which are made perhaps unconsciously and which are more or less misleading. The last honourable member who spoke referred in his final remarks to understanding and sympathy and I think the word "understanding" would aptly apply to the honourable member. When the honourable member says that in a Budget you should make provision for a loan, he simply does not understand the true position in relation to these Estimates. Again, he has not paid any attention whatsoever to the Appendix where Capital Expenditure has been set out. If you look at page 91 of the Estimates you will find that the sum of £77,300 has been allocated to be spent under the Head "Education for the improvement of schools and for erecting new schools. It is not fair for the honourable member without paying any attention to that to make these castigations of the Government in the manner in which he has made them. I would like to say here and now that no Budget has ever been produced in any part of the world as a perfect Budget. It has become very fashionable for honourable members to criticize the Government; the Government in all countries is the butt of criticism and it is the place where you must level your criticism but your criticism should be just and reasonable so as to carry the weight you intend it to carry. I want to compliment the Leader of the House on the manner in which he has presented this Budget. He has the ability to do it and he has presented a Budget which, I am sure, is a challenge to any other member of this House to do a better job if he were in that position. When you go through these Estimates bearing in mind what the honourable introducer has outlined you will see that there has been some improvement on the Estimates of last year. As a supporter of the Government I would say that the Government cannot do everything that I would like to see done; even in their private businesses honourable members cannot do what they would like to do. If the Government had come here this morning with

a Budget which showed a deficit then you would hear: "That is what the people whom you put to run the country have done." I prefer to be on the other side, to be criticized knowing that when the evil day comes we can look to the Treasury and be able to relieve many of the things which need relief. For many years this colony had no ambitious plans for the future. There was only the question of agriculture and I would like to say that any honourable member who has any faith in his conviction, has no need to be afraid of the economic structure which we have. We came and found a certain position and we have to try and improve upon it; but we cannot within a year, two or even ten years have an economic metamorphosis which will change the economic structure of this colony through an ambitious Budget. We know what we have to face in this colony and we must agree that there is a great improvement in what this Government envisages to do along the economic line. We have some ungrateful people in all walks of life; you get kicked by some of the people for whom you have worked hard. That happens in families and it happens in politics. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has stated as regards many of the needs of this present year, that the Government envisages making provision for any serious shortcoming in respect of the present crop and I would like to ask how do we know whether there will be another drought or not? Are we going to say that we are not going to have another drought and we should not make any plan for what might take place? When you make a plan you are criticized and when there is no plan you will also be criticized. This Government must get a lot of criticism because it is in power now and it is very fashionable now to criticize the Government. I heard an honourable member talking about practicability and that is what is wanted. I think that we should strive after the things which are practicable and not merely put down figures which may appeal to people. In a general way when we look into the whole Civil Establishment we have already made our criticism in this House as regards the emoluments and wages which are paid. I consider it a lapse of my duty if I stood on my feet and talked about these emoluments and wages. This House has voted money to bring Mr. Adams here for the purpose of investigating the matter. We cannot go back over the vote which we have passed; as long as we have voted money in order to get Mr. Adams here, it is pointless to make any criticism until he has submitted his Report which must come before this House. As regards education, the Government has made an estimate of expenditure that I am very pleased about. Education is a national investment and the financing of the University which has been established in Jamaica is a national investment. My only anxiety on this score is that the Government should consider granting free Scholarships to that University from the inception. I feel that the success of this University depends upon the first students who are sent there and I am inclined to the view that we should have the best brains at that University, rather than people who can pay, at the beginning. I believe that the University should have some of the brightest students in the West Indies at present rather than the students whose parents can afford to send them there. As regards the economic picture of the island the Government has taken on the task of making provision for the employment of people who will be out of work after the crop. I hope that the Government will be able to embark successfully on any industrial development which can be of use to the colony and the area. I do not want this colony to go in for competition with Trinidad, to embark on something on

which they have embarked because we will be spending money on a project only to justify our whims and desires without any economic foundation. I feel that to a large extent the success of the country depends upon the Civil Administration and that is one of the essentials that must be considered. I feel that the Civil Service should be so staffed, encouraged and trained so that it can take advantage of any plans that may be made. As regards experts, the people of this colony believe in the experts and sometimes they send their children outside Barbados to be taught by experts. I have no fear on that score. If you want a mason you will get a mason; if you want a job done you will get people who know about the job to do it. I am glad that Lancaster Factory will be working again and will be of use to the community once more. I was glad to hear that one of the experts in this community is being universally praised and that expert is Dr. Saint. Dr. Saint is a good man but it would be a mental and physical impossibility for him to do all that he is doing without the people behind him, the people whose names have not been called. That is not to detract from Dr. Saint but he alone could not be responsible for all this success. I include all those who are assisting him. A good start at Lancaster has been promised and I hope that similar projects will be started and plans carried out for the good of the country. Finally, I am not like those who criticise the Government to-day for presenting an atrocious Budget; I want to say from the depths of my heart that despite difficulties and the prognostications that this Government will run the country into bankruptcy, our critics can see that there is a good Treasury balance. I feel that any honest man must give the Government credit for what it has done in spite of the opposition and the subtleties which it has to meet.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: We have had many speeches to-day and as there are other honourable members who also want to speak, I beg to move the adjournment of the debate on this motion.

Mr. WILKINSON seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the adjournment of the House I am asking honourable members to make an effort to meet again on Thursday. It is getting perilously near to the end of the month and I had intended to ask honourable members to meet on Thursday next week. I know that some honourable members will want to be at another place on that day and I am therefore suggesting that we meet on Thursday of this week instead. The only alternative would be for honourable members to meet at eleven o'clock next Tuesday and sit until six o'clock. I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Thursday next, the 4th day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: There are several of us who will not be able to come here on Thursday and I therefore beg to move that the words "Thursday next, the 4th day of March, 1948" be deleted in order to insert the words "Tuesday next, the 9th day of March, 1948."

Mr. WARD: I beg to second that; perhaps we can sit earlier than twelve o'clock on Tuesday next.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: We deal with the Estimates once a year and I want to appeal to honourable members who have been elected to this House. The consideration of the Estimates is a most important part of our business and should we not make an effort to come here on Thursday and go on with these Estimates? We know that the races will be coming off

on Thursday of next week and some hon. members think that their business will be at stake but they will attend the races in preference to coming to the House. I feel that the consideration of the Estimates is in the interest of the people and cannot some honourable members forsake some of their pleasure in order to come here and do something which is done once a year? What do the races mean to this colony as compared with the Estimates?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Some honourable members of this Chamber are members of Vestries. I know that there are members who have to attend a meeting of the Vestry of St. Michael on Thursday of this week and there are others who are businessmen who might have had previous appointments. They are different from members who work with Trade Unions, members who can come here twice a week because they have nothing else to do. We began consideration of the Estimates for 1946-47 on the 12th of March, 1946, today is the 2nd of March and if we meet next Tuesday and the following Tuesday we shall have made some headway with the Estimates. If necessary we could meet on the final Thursday and finish them. Because certain honourable members have demands upon them and they cannot meet here on Thursday, must they be subjected to abuse and criticism and must it be said that they are not interested in the business of the colony?

Mr. SPEAKER: A motion has been made that this House do now adjourn to Thursday next, the 4th

day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon. An amendment has been moved that the words "Thursday next, the 4th day of March, 1948," be deleted in order to insert the words "Tuesday next, the 9th day of March, 1948". The question therefore is that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of the motion. 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: Messrs. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS, and BLACKMAN—7.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. RAMSAY, SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD and MOTTLEY—10.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the negative, seven honourable members voting "Aye", and ten honourable members voting "No." The question now is that the words "Tuesday next, the 9th day of March, 1948," be inserted in the blank created by the deletion of the words. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

The question that this House do now adjourn to Tuesday next, the 9th day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.