

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th 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*), Mr. J. T. C. RAMSAY (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. J. A. LeV. WILSON, Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. L. E. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, A. E. S. LEWIS, C. E. TALMA, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., V. C. GALE, and E. L. WARD.

Prayers are read.

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

MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 9th March, 1948, have not yet been printed and circulated.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

DOCUMENTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following:—

The Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month of February, 1948, and,

The Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. Andrew for the year 1947.

NOTICE.

Mr. COX: Of the following Address:—

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

The House of Assembly are satisfied that the amounts paid to Jurors attending the Court of Grand Sessions are not in keeping with the present cost of living, since such amounts were fixed in 1891.

2. The House, therefore, ask Your Excellency to take immediate steps to send down legislation having for its object the increasing of such amounts.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER CHALLENGES SPEAKER'S BONA FIDES.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed to call the Orders of the Day I should like to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Deputy Speaker, the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, who unfortunately is not in his place. That letter, in my opinion, casts doubts on my bona fides in respect of a ruling which I gave in connection with certain questions which the honourable member wanted to put. I shall ask the Clerk to read the letter and after it has been read, it will be a matter for the House to decide what action should be taken.

The Clerk reads the letter as follows:—

CHAMBERS

G.P.O. Box 243

Bridgetown.

Barbados, B.W.I.

12th March, 1948.

Dear Mr. Evelyn,

I have redrafted and resubmitted my queries, as a result of our confab. of Tuesday before last, re those burning topical subjects, namely, nationalisation of telephones, and activities of Govt. Dept. of H. & T. I trust you will agree now that although they may be matters to which you have a personal aversion so far as bringing them up in the Legislature is concerned, they infringe no rule which would merit their prohibition as questions directed to Govt.

One is surely entitled to query about nationalisation of telephones; to find out if anything is being done re this—apropos of an Address which passed this House sometime ago! Likewise the queries re Dept. of H. & T. can hardly be placed in the category of matters "trivial", of affecting a "local authority"! This Dept. spends a vast amount of money yearly and must surely be accountable to Legislature as to manner of its spending and the persons put to act in responsible—not subordinate—positions in this Dept. to supervise the spending! I can assure you there is widespread public dissatisfaction at the alleged placing of a motor mechanic, by the Director of H. & T., to act as Chief Highways Inspector just below himself, in preference to certificated highway engineers on the Staff. Very many persons have interviewed me about this, and implored me to question his action in the proper quarter where I can get an authoritative and formal reply; so I must, in the public interest, as a Representative of the People, press this matter. If you care to draft these ques-

tions in a manner more pleasing to yourself whereby I could obtain the same information I would be grateful indeed to you, for this is the third time of my drafting same.

Perhaps you would let me know if you would like another word with me *re* same, and I will call at your Office on Saturday, if you express such a desire.

May I apologise for troubling you so much about this matter, but, as a Representative of the People, I regretfully have no alternative. I particularly regret this incident in view of my opinion in relation to yours as S. & Deputy-S. of the House.

Yours Respectfully,

THEO. BRANCKER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I replied to that letter and I shall ask the Clerk to read my reply.

The Clerk reads the reply as follows:—

No. 17 High Street,
Bridgetown,
13th March, 1948.

Dear Mr. Brancker,

Your letter of yesterday's date received. The last time you spoke to me about the question referred to in your letter, you made a suggestion that I was averse to your putting the question for personal reasons; I told you that I had a job to do and that personal likes or dislikes had nothing to do with any decision I had to take. I also remarked to you that the time may come when you may be filling my position and that you would, I assume, allow no personal feeling to influence you in any ruling you had to make. Your letter contains the same suggestion that you made to me verbally and, before I will deal with it in any other way, I must ask you to withdraw in writing the suggestion you have made in paragraph one of your letter.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE B. EVELYN.

Theodore Brancker, Esquire,
Chambers,
Bridgetown.

Mr. MAPP enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In view of the fact that you have brought this matter before the House, whatever my personal feeling may be I would say off-hand that the least the Deputy Speaker should do, would be to withdraw the suggestion that Your Honour was actuated by personal considerations in giving you ruling. If that is the general feeling of the House, perhaps we could decide the matter now. If on the other hand honourable members feel that it should be referred to a Select Committee for their consideration and report, then that course may also be taken. It is clear as daylight that there is, in the honourable member's letter, the suggestion that Your Honour allows or refuses to allow questions to be put according to your personal feeling in a particular matter and nothing could be more reprehensible than an accusation of that sort. In fact, none of us, however much we may differ from Your Honour, should, from the point of view of responsibility, dream of questioning your ruling orally, let alone putting it in writing. I beg to make a motion in the form of a Resolution as follows:—

“Resolved that this House disapproves of the action of the Deputy Speaker in insinuating that His Honour the Speaker has been actuated by personal considerations in his office as Speaker, and is of the opinion that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy should

withdraw, and apologize in writing for, the accusation which he has made.”

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to give notice of that Resolution for this reason. The honourable junior member for St. Lucy is not in his place and the motion should be put when he is present. I should not like the matter to be dealt with in his absence and I, therefore, suggest to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to give notice of the Resolution so that it may be dealt with at a subsequent meeting of the House when the honourable junior member for St. Lucy is present.

Mr. ADAMS: All right, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with your suggestion I beg to give notice of the Resolution which I read a moment or two ago.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1948—49.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume debate on the motion: To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for the year 1948—49. When this motion was being debated at the last meeting, the honourable senior member for St. James moved the adjournment; therefore, the honourable member has the right to speak if he wishes to do so.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT informs Mr. Speaker that he had concluded his remarks.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker,—I had intended to make a few remarks on the Estimates but in view of the lateness of the consideration of these Estimates I shall try and make my speech as short as possible. Going through the Estimates, Sir, we see nothing under Capital Expenditure for improving the Water Supply and it is a well known fact that the water situation in this island to-day is most deplorable. We have had many individuals putting forward schemes and up to now nothing definite has been decided in respect of any particular scheme. Sir, there could not be a more serious shortage of water in parishes such as Christ Church, St. Lucy and St. Peter at any time than there is at the present moment. There are some districts of these parishes in which the residents have not had a supply of water for six weeks and the way in which they get a little water is from a tank which is driven around occasionally. I feel, Sir, that inasmuch as this Government is going in for capital expenditure, a sum of money should have been included to remedy this serious state of affairs as far as the shortage of water is concerned. Mr. Roddam has recommended many schemes but this Government need not wait for the arrival of the machinery to improve this state of affairs. There are wells to be dug and the Government should go ahead and have those well dug, so that they can be ready to be put into operation when the machinery arrives. Another serious point is the storage capacity for the water when it reaches the surface. I feel that there is no better time than now for our Government to tackle a matter of that kind,—now that the reaping of crops in certain districts, especially those districts in which the shortage of water is more acute, will soon be finished. As a matter of fact, it is already finished in some districts and it is well known that labourers in those districts will be unemployed for many weeks to come. Looking through this proposed capital expenditure in the Estimates we see no provision at all made for relieving the casual labourer. We see that the Government proposes to build sub-Police Stations and schools, all of which are necessary, but they only provide employment for artisans and there are many

hundred casual labourers who will be walking around idling without something to do. I feel that the Government should put that money which has been lying in the Treasury for years to such use that the inhabitants in years to come will be able to say that it was spent in the most judicious way. Although this Government has made some attempt to do things I feel that it is far lacking in bringing forward major projects for the benefit of the community. We have in mind the passing of the Public Health Bill. Well, Sir, if things are to be kept in a sanitary condition, it means that there must be the supply of a certain quantity of water. What is the use of having a Public Health Act and nothing at all to carry out the provisions of that Act? It is tantamount to putting an Act on the Statute Book and not being able to enforce the law. The Water question is one of the most serious and most pressing problems in this island at this moment and I think that the Government is very short sighted in not making any provision under capital expenditure for the improvement of the supply. At election time we hear a lot of promises about the supply of water but they are only promises to secure votes. I do not think that the people will go on tolerating these conditions. If you are conscientious towards the people, you should make the effort to do what you promised them. This talk about improving the water supply has been going on, not for one or two years but for many years and nothing whatsoever has been done apart from the putting forward of various schemes. It is a ridiculous state of affairs. I represent a constituency that definitely suffers from the lack of a supply of water and all I do I cannot get this Government to do something concrete to ameliorate the difficulties which, we know, these people have to encounter. I intended to say very much more but I am going to make it as short as possible because I realize that the passing of the Estimates is behind hand and I do not want to embarrass the Government in getting them passed. But I suggest to the Government that it should in the very near future send down a Resolution having for its object the amelioration of this state of affairs in respect of the water supply. I have been told on good authority that under the schemes, reservoirs are to be built and as I said before, there is no better time to tackle the building of those reservoirs and the digging of the wells than now when there are much unemployment and many casual labourers walking around looking for something to do. The least the Government could do is spend some of the money in the Treasury to help the people who put it there. I am not blaming the Government in any vicious way but I want them to realize that certain matters which need tackling should be tackled. And if there are not sufficient brains in the Government to carry out schemes I feel that the Government should enlist other brains which would help it carry out schemes for the benefit of the people. The people outside the Government want something done, something constructive and unless the Government does something for the people I feel that we shall be in a desperate plight. The Leader of the House spoke about growing vegetables. We are proposing to subsidize the foodstuffs that are grown locally but that will be all right, provided we get rain. Unless we get rain we will not be able to employ the labourers who are supposed to plant these foodstuffs and that is why I suggest that the Government should embark on some scheme which will be beneficial to these people. I can tell this House that there are hundreds of people in St. Lucy who are out of work. They go to other parishes to get work and they are absolutely refused employment on the ground that the work that is available is

being kept for the people of the particular parishes. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Government and the Government must try to do something to ameliorate conditions, otherwise we will be faced with trouble which can be avoided if we get together and decide on some constructive scheme which would help the people of those parishes. I am not going to speak any longer because I realize that the Estimates should be passed in time to be sent to the Other Place. There are a few more points I should like to raise but I will do so when the Heads of Expenditure are being dealt with in Committee. (Cheers).

Mr. COX : Mr. Speaker,—This is one of the rare occasions when I am afforded the opportunity of speaking on the financial policy of the Government. I say "rare" because the opportunity for the purpose is offered only annually and the Estimates are supposed to show the plan of action by the Government for the ensuing year. At the outset I would like to say that this Government has done fairly well when we take into consideration the obstacles which were thrown in its path by both the Conservative group, who hate the idea of a Socialist Government, let alone the fact that it is run by people who are described as a Subject Race, and the group of other people who lack the virtues of dignity, honesty and sincerity which are more or less the fundamentals upon which any worth-while structure can be built. This Government has run this country for at least one year and to the consternation of those who felt that it would have brought this country to the state of bankruptcy, it has more or less come out on the proper side of the Ledger. I just want to make a few suggestions in respect of a few things which, I feel, the Government should take into account at the earliest opportunity. I know that it is not as easy as one thinks for the Government to get through with its business because despite the fact that there may be a majority of so-called Labour Members of this House and the fact that the members of this House who are members of the Executive Committee are Labourites, there are officials—high government officials—who still have that deep-seated conservative outlook and who more or less give passive resistance. I am sure about that and, therefore, whatever this Government may do, it cannot get on with its business as swiftly as it and its supporters would like. Now, Sir, I feel that it is time that something should be done by way of providing District Markets especially in the parish of St. Michael. Sometime ago the Government converted the Public Market into a Spirit Bond with the result that many hawkers who used to hawk their wares in that Market have been thrown on the streets to be chased from place to place by the Police. As I said, I think that something should be done to relieve the situation in that respect and I do not think that that something should be done by the local Government because it would be, in my opinion, a great burden on the taxpayers of the particular parish. As far as Salaries and Wages of Government servants are concerned I am not prepared to say much on that question now because I know that the Civil Service Commissioner, Mr. G. H. Adams, C.B.E., is going into it but I should like to say, whether he makes a recommendation to the effect or not, that this Government should come to the decision that nothing less than \$10 per week should be paid to any able-bodied man and not less than \$7 a week to any female worker. I say that because I happen to know from experience that it is more than difficult for people to live on the small wages that are being paid to-day. Further, it has been mooted

in this Chamber that if the Government paid such small wages it is reasonable to expect that private employers will do the same or even worse. Therefore, I am suggesting that this Government should lay it down that the minimum of \$10 per week should be paid to a male worker and \$7 per week to a female worker. Another matter to which I should like to refer is that of the installation of a Broadcasting Station. I regret that I have seen nothing in the Estimates for the provision of broadcasting facilities for the people of this country, so that every person may have a Receiving Set in his house. I think that is a very important item,—an item which possesses an educational value and, as such, should not be left in the hands of private individuals to be commercialized. I am hoping, therefore, that soon and very soon the Government will do something along that line. As regards the question of Subsidization I would like to issue a warning to this Government. As far as I can see, the efforts of subsidization are being stultified by the merchants and planters of this country. Quite recently you will have seen that the price of sugar has been increased by half cent per lb., and it is said that we consume about 3,000 tons of sugar a year in Barbados; that, Sir, works out at about £7,000 which will find its way into the pockets of the merchants and planters without justification. The wages of the labourers have not yet been increased. The British Government has already paid the increased price for sugar in order that the planters and merchants may be able to pay labourers a little more and I fail to see the justification for this increase in the price of this commodity which is not being imported. I am asking the Government to go into this matter because it does appear to me that the Control Board is a farce. The next question to which I should like to refer is in connection with the running of the Pine and Seawall estates. For years now, Sir, these estates have been run as government properties and I think that it is time that the Government send statements to this House showing whether these estates are being run at a profit or loss. That is something which we should know. We should not be asked year after year to vote money for the running of these estates when we cannot see whether it is profitable or not to do so. Mr. Speaker, I should be glad if we can make a start to-day on the consideration of these Estimates, so I am not prepared to prolong this debate any further but I am hoping that the few points I have raised will not have fallen on deaf ears, that due notice will be taken of them and that something will be done.

Mr. GARNER: I have no intention whatever, like other speakers, to delay the passing of the Estimates but as everyone else has had his say and has taken part in the discussion on this blueprint for the running of the Government during the next financial year I see no reason why I should refrain from adding my bit to it. Sir, I must begin by saying that I was hoping that the Estimates for next year would have been presented in a somewhat different manner from those of the past, inasmuch as we have a Labour Government in office, and that I would have seen, perhaps, a more ambitious programme for the workers of the colony; but in fact I see that it is still the old system. There has been no new departure from the old system. In the first place I am yet to read or hear anything about a Land Settlement Scheme for this colony. No provision at all has been made in the Estimates for such a scheme and I think that, as Labourites, we are in duty bound to give to the people of this colony some security in the land. I think, Sir, that it is time we depart from the old system of allowing a

few families to own all the land in this colony and let it be distributed among a more appreciable number of the population. I was hoping to see thousands of pounds provided in these Estimates to give the inhabitants of this colony spots of land on main roads on which they could erect their houses. I see nothing of that nature although a Labour Government is in power. I am saying, without any personal feeling, that one of the first things which a Labour Government should do is to enable the workingman to remove his house from the gully to the front where he can see for himself what is going on. A person has a real voice in the running of the affairs of his country only when he has a stake in the land and in my opinion a plantation in every parish of this island should be at the disposal of the Government to enable it to give a Land Settlement Scheme a fair trial and, therefore, a certain sum of money should have been earmarked in the Estimates for the purpose of carrying out such a scheme. That is no fallacy; it is being done in other colonies. I believe that Jamaica has such a scheme and while we are progressive in thought we are at the same time very backward in action. We need action and until something is done along that line I cannot see that there is any new departure or any new accomplishment as far as this Labour Government is concerned. I know it is a big question but it is uppermost in my mind because I know that the people cannot get water or access to their houses with any degree of comfort owing to the fact that they are too far away from the main roads. The Water question is a very ticklish one. I cannot blame the Government entirely for the lack of a proper supply of water because I know that Nature is something to do with that; but still there are grounds for blaming it because Dr. Senn in his Report has stated that water is everywhere in Barbados. So that if in one particular area the supply of water may be getting low, there is no necessity to waste time. Go and dig somewhere else where you will find an abundant supply of water. It will require money but, after all, water is very essential to the existence of all life. There is another disappointment which I have encountered and it is this. A great deal has been said on behalf of secondary education in this colony but except in one instance in which the Government proposes to build a new secondary school for the Coleridge and the Parry, no money is provided for the building of other secondary schools. The parish which I have the honour to represent is very much in need of a secondary school. Hundreds of children have to attend private schools to acquire a secondary education and in some cases the buildings in which they are being taught privately are very uncomfortable and unsuitable for the purpose. The parishes of St. Philip and St. John are big enough to maintain a secondary school if one was constructed; it would be no white elephant nor any financial loss. In fact, I am not thinking of the financial side at all because I am one of those who think that the Government should wake up to the fact that secondary education should be free. Still the establishment of a secondary school for these parishes would not be a financial loss. It is a burning shame to see how children are grouped together in some small houses, like sardines in a tin, trying to get a secondary education. The present Labour Government knows in its heart of hearts that this is one of the things which were denied ordinary folk when other people were in power and I think it would be doing justice not only to itself but to the people and would be setting a higher premium on the activities of Labourites if it tackled the question of establishing other secondary schools here and there.

thus relieving the congestion in the present schools and hundreds of children of the necessity of having to travel to Bridgetown from the country districts on omnibuses among grown-up people who say what they like. These children should be given the chance to go to schools in their respective parishes and not have to hurry to leave their homes for Bridgetown at 6 o'clock in the morning without having had a proper breakfast; when they reach school in Bridgetown they are jaded out and cannot study. I think the Government should take a very serious view of secondary education in this island and build schools to accommodate children not only in St. Peter and St. Lucy but in every parish of this island. What about St. Philip and St. John? St. Philip has a big claim because it is the largest parish of the island and the number of children who live in that parish would justify the erection of a secondary school. Although I do not see any provision in the Estimates for it, yet it is not too late for those who saw fit to omit it to take to heart what I have said and do something in this respect in the near future. I come next to the Government Industrial Schools. Sir, nothing that I can say about that school will be too bad. It is true that a Committee has recommended certain reforms but up to now I have not seen any implementation of those recommendations. Quite recently another Committee was appointed and I do not know what they intend to do. But, Sir, I am not supposed to wait and see what they are going to do because sometimes some of these Committees wait for years before they hold a meeting, let alone doing something tangible. It is not only that a Committee should be appointed but I should like to point out that it is time that something should be done, especially in respect of the acting appointments at the Boys' Industrial School. The Chief Overseer has been acting as Superintendent for a very long time and while he may be a schoolmaster, certainly he could not be a planter at the same time; he has the dual job of looking after the reformatory and the plantation and it is about time that one is divorced from the other. It can be done and I fail to see why the Government does not do it at once. Some time ago I asked certain questions about the diet and I am informed that on two occasions the boys were given bread since then. But that is a very poor trial. Labour Members who now hold portfolios should be glad to do something for the poor boys at this institution but, instead, the Members who hold portfolios are friends of those who would take away from the boys. So nothing has been done. They are the friends of those who advocate giving the boys two biscuits on mornings and in order to please their friends they say "Oh, don't listen to Garner." That is a shame.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the honourable member should keep those points until we go into Committee on the Estimates.

Mr. GARNER: I want to give the reason why I make these points. The Government should make haste and change the system which obtains at the Government Industrial Schools. Not so long ago I was interviewed by a number of people who came to me and asked if I happen to be a representative of the parish of St. Philip. I replied "yes". They asked me "Do you know what is happening at the Boys' Industrial School?" I replied "unless it is something new I think I know everything that I should know." Mr. Speaker, you would be surprised to know that the Head of that Department which is a Reformatory School, sent the Dodds boys to pull a lorry from Seawell plantation back to Dodds. Mr. Speaker, I submit that the Head of that Depart-

ment needs reformation first before he could reform people. What a heartless creature! He sent those unfortunate boys to pull a lorry from Seawell plantation back to Dodds. It is nothing personal but he has no heart; he is inhuman. When these complaints come to you, you have to hear them and you must speak about them. If you are a human being, you must talk about them. And what is more? Since the people have confided in me I am going to do my duty. Another point in connection with that institution which I want to raise is this. I was hoping that the Labour Government in power would know that the overseers at this institution have to put in extra hours of work, that they have to be on night duty and have to peg clocks. It is not like a Trade Union saying that men must work 40 or 44 hours a week. This is a government institution and a Labour Government who is responsible for the running of it should know that these overseers put in long hours of work and if you look at their wages you will see the scale of wages in next year's Estimates is the same as it is at present. The Government has not given any consideration to the long hours for which these overseers are required to work. These are poor men who have to stick on the job and be disciplined. \$36 a month cannot rear a family. People who work the land get more than \$9 a week. It is true that these overseers get a little ration but what is a little ration? It is time that the Labour Government wakes up to its obligation and do some concrete work. The cost of living has gone up and night work should be paid for as overtime. The Government should base its figures on the fact that these overseers work for long hours; they do responsible work and to give them \$36 a month with a little ration allowance is a joke. I hope that something will be done shortly to remedy the state of affairs which exists at the Boys' Industrial School, as far as the salaries of these overseers are concerned. \$36 a month is no money, comparatively speaking, to-day. Money has lost its value and I hope that something will be done about that. There is just one point I should like to raise and it is in connection with a certain remark which I made last week about Government House. As every one around the table knows I was a member of the Select Committee that was appointed to prepare a reply to the Governor's Message relating to the emoluments of the office of Governor and I made certain remarks during the course of my speech on the recommendations of that Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think we can debate that now.

Mr. GARNER: I am speaking, Sir, under Head I, The Governor.

Mr. SPEAKER: You must confine your remarks to the Estimates as a whole and you cannot refer to a debate which has already taken place in the House during this session.

Mr. GARNER: I am confining my remarks to the Estimates. I said on that occasion that I did not remember certain emoluments which are given in connection with Government House and that is why, perhaps, I did not support at the time the rejection of the Address as a whole.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have told the honourable member that the House is not now dealing with that Address and that he cannot refer to the debate that has taken place during this Session on that Address.

Mr. GARNER: I do not want to go against your ruling but there are certain remarks which I want to make in connection with the emoluments of the Governor and I will make them when we come to the particular Head in the Estimates. But Sir, I say,

again that there is no new departure in the preparation of these Estimates. I can visualize what a strong healthy Coalition Government would have meant to the running of affairs in this island and because there is nothing strong about the present Labour Government, we have the Estimates coming down in the old conservative way. Sir, what is needed in this Labour Government apparently is the infusion of new blood. Whether they be classified as Radicals or what not I think that it is time that we make some new arrangement along that line and give the people the representation they really deserve. It is not enough for us to go among the people year after year and make promises. We should endeavour to remedy those evils which beset the people day in and day out and when it comes, Sir, to the omission of a Land Settlement Scheme for the poorer class of people in this colony I say that it is time that this Government be censured and I use that word advisedly. Land Settlement, Sir, is very necessary in this colony and it is about time we make a start in that direction. We have the funds and it is beyond the shadow of a doubt that we have the capabilities. What is more is that there is at present a demand for Land Settlement. In every parish the Government should own at least one plantation. Give the people some stability, some security in the land and not leave them to live here and there to be told as soon as they do not pay the land rent, "I give you seven days' notice to quit" or if their houses are on the plantation "I stop 5/- this week; if you do not like it you know what to do." You can make these people feel more secure by letting them have their own spots of land on which to put their houses and I repeat that it is about time we make a start in that direction. As regards the water supply, there are many districts—I speak especially of St. Philip's parish now—in which no water mains run at all and this Government would be well advised, if there are mains in the colony, not to wait until the water can be had to run mains in the districts to which I am referring. We have just passed through what is known as a serious drought in this island, especially in the parish which I have the honour to represent. Most of the crops in this parish are finished and those that are not finished are on the verge of finishing; therefore, it is incumbent upon this Labour Government to find work for the people or it will have to dole money to them though I hate the dole system. The price of goods to-day is far above what the people who are working are able to pay, let alone those who cannot find employment and it would be a good idea if this Labour Government would set to work at once and see that mains are laid in those districts in which there are no mains in order to provide work for the people until the further supply of water is obtainable. I see no reason why that cannot be done. Everybody knows that when commodities were cheap, people shared their meals with their friends but now that commodities are so expensive, persons can hardly feed themselves, let alone help somebody else. You cannot view these Estimates in the light of all of us living in Barbados and, therefore, should help one another. These are days of austerity for all of us and while in past years we were disposed to share what we have with others, we cannot well afford to do so now. So this Government has to be alert about those things and make provision for the employment of people; something must be done at once. I did not attend the meeting of the House last Tuesday but I understood from the newspaper reports that the Leader of the House talked about subsidizing local foodstuffs. Sir, I happen to be a planter and I have my own views

about that proposal. If we get no rain, there will be no foodstuffs to be subsidized and if we get rain, there will be an abundant supply of foodstuffs; so that that proposal will require a great deal more consideration. I offer an apology for the density of my brain if I do not understand it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the question as to how subsidization is to be arranged comes within the consideration of the Estimates.

Mr. GARNER: As Your Honour rules. I think I have spoken on those Heads to which I wanted to refer and I have no intention of holding up the passing of the Estimates. But before I sit down I should again warn this Labour Government that it can be censured for not having made any bold departure from the old system of preparing the Estimates. It has not formulated any new schemes; it has not shown any initiative or any ability to run the Government as its members claim they can. They make that claim because it is a one man's show. Some people who have no other objective but to gain power become lethargic after having gained that power and do not utilize it for the benefit of the masses. This thing is very burning to my soul because as a Labourite I know what I would have done if I were in power. I would have made a new departure from the old system in the preparation of these Estimates; it would have been something astounding. As regards the Income Tax I am not against Income Tax as such but, Sir, when it is considered that those poor boys who work as clerks in Broad Street stores earn only perhaps as much as would keep body and soul together I do not think they should be asked to pay income tax.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again that is really not a question to be dealt with in the consideration of the Estimates. Income Tax forms part of the financial policy of the Government and if the honourable member wants to discuss the incidence of the tax, he can do so when the Bill to lay the Rates is before the House.

Mr. GARNER: The Income Tax Department is one of the Heads in these Estimates of Expenditure.

Mr. SPEAKER: I agree but you are going into the incidence of the tax.

Mr. GARNER: All right, Sir. Since I have learnt to give and take I shall not go any further with that point. I hope I have said enough to awaken this Labour Government to a sense of its duty and to the fact that it is losing one of the few opportunities to assist the masses in this colony.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,— I quite realize the position in which we find ourselves to-day as regards the Estimates but there is one thing that must be drawn to the attention of the honourable introducer of these Estimates and that is that they were introduced in the month of February a week later than the date in February, 1947, on which the Estimates for 1947-48 were introduced. Further, I must remind honourable members that this is a very important matter. The Estimates for 1947-48 were laid on the table of this House on the 18th February, 1947, and the Estimates for the ensuing year were laid on the 24th February, 1948. Sir, the comments which I should like to make are such as can be appropriately made when we come to consider the several Heads of Expenditure; therefore, I am going to avail myself of a few minutes to make a few brief observations. I will say that the Government is lucky that it finds itself with a good surplus balance in the Treasury. But what I would like to draw to its attention is that when revenue is obtained from Customs and other Departments such as the Post Office, it means that people who may not be

rich have been more or less taxed. There is a system by which Customs Duties may be abandoned altogether and when it comes to the Post Office I hate to think that we make money out of the Post Office. We should run the Post Office as a postal service and not as a postal revenue producing Department. If we are anticipating a lot of parcels going from this island through the Post Office, then the proper thing to do is to reduce the postal charges so that people can get the benefit of it. So far as I understand we have collected revenue in excess of the Estimates from the Customs, the Income Tax and Death Duties Department and the Post Office respectively. Now, as regards the Income Tax I would just call attention to the fact that the rates in existence were left over by Governments that may have been good in the art of not taxing those who are most able to pay. I believe that it is only recently, on the recommendation of an expert, that we have made the Companies tax approximate more to the personal rate. That was told to us by Mr. Howie. We have, Sir, in this island the majority of business being done by very few people; that means that a few people make very large incomes from trade and I think, Sir, we should have something in the nature of a supertax. I think that is absolutely essential and would result in a lowering of the rates on personal incomes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope that the honourable member would not go into details on that point.

Mr. LEWIS: No, Mr. Speaker. I am finished with that because I can deal with it on a subsequent occasion. There is, however, one further point which I hope you will allow me to make so as to remove any suspicion from the public's mind. I should like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to categorically state whether it is the intention of the Government to exempt from income tax the Sugar Cess Funds. I should like him to reply to that. Another thing to which I should like him to reply is this: I do not know that we actually agreed to it in the House in any special way but I know that it has been mentioned by His Excellency the Governor in a speech, that is, that we should take in our budget such projects of Colonial Development and Welfare as the Maternity Hospital and things like that. But I notice that some of these things are included in our expenditure and I am wondering why on our revenue side we have not put down what would be our annual share of the lump sum of money granted by Colonial Development and Welfare. It should be in the Estimates but I have not seen it. If we are going to tack these schemes on to our budget of expenditure we should off-set it by part of the £800,000 that has been allotted to us under the 10-year Development Plan. I must say, as some form of relief to persons paying income tax, that I am one of those who are convinced that secondary education in this country should be free and I believe that we are in a financial position to do it and do it now. I notice that an Entertainment Tax has been suggested but I should like to express the hope that the Government would not think of imposing such a tax on the public of this country. I do not know if this Entertainment Tax has been suggested to-day simply because the theatres have exchanged hands or something of that kind but it is very strange to find it being suggested now. If it were imposed, it would be a source of annoyance and irritation to the public and I hope that it will not be instituted. I should like to express my satisfaction over the fact that capital expenditure has been set out in the way it has been set out in the Estimates but, Sir, there is one thing that I must say and it is this: It must be perfectly obvious to the members of this House

and to the Government that there is no Department of the Government Service that is a greater source of annoyance to the public of this country than the General Post Office. It is housed in a building that is ideally situated for the purpose and structural alterations would make it more comfortable for the persons working therein and more serviceable to the community. I fail to see why this Government should omit in its statement of capital expenditure for the coming year a sum of money for the renovation of the downstairs of this building to house the Post Office. I sincerely hope that members of this House would visit the Post Office and see the literal dens to which the various apartments can be approximated. The building can be made into an excellent Post Office and I sincerely hope that the Government will not remove it from this site but will make it serviceable to the community. It is adjacent to one of the widest streets in this City and no use is made of that street by way of an entrance or entrances to the Post Office. There is just one further point, Sir, I would like to make and it is that I would like to see a sum included in the Estimates of Expenditure for the payment of members of the Legislature. I do not think that it is a question we should take lightly at all. We need not sit here in the position of guilty men at all. Some payment should be made to members of the Legislature and it is nothing of which any member of this House or any other place should be ashamed. We should budget for it and let the people of this colony know that these are services they should pay for if they want the best consideration to be given them. I sincerely hope that the senior member for St. Joseph, when we come to consider Head 32 of the Estimates will explain to me why the salaries of the officers of the Department of Highways and Transport have been put in the Column "Fixed by Law". I know that a debate took place in the Other Place as to the legal status of special Resolutions but the officers of the Department of Highways and Transport were not appointed by means of a special Resolution and no attempt has been made to amend the Act so as to bring them in line with officers of other Departments who have been appointed by means of Special Resolutions. I believe that the putting of the salaries of these officers in the Column "Fixed by Law" is somewhat questionable and I hope that the honourable member will adduce sufficient legal argument to satisfy me as a layman. I admit that we are in the unfortunate position of having to consider and pass these Estimates in a very short and specified time and, therefore, I shall reserve any further comments I may have to make until we are considering the various Heads of Expenditure.

Mr. ADAMS: I regret that honourable members, in criticizing the Government, did not take the trouble to get a little information beforehand if they did not have the time to go through the Estimates. If they had done so, it would have saved a great deal of time. It is a grave reflection on the sense of responsibility of those honourable members who criticize the Government on the matter of the water supply when in those members' hands should be the Report of Mr. Roddam and the suggestions of the Manager of the Waterworks, as regards what the Government is going to do. When the senior member for St. Lucy says that the Government has done this and the other thing but has done nothing about the Waterworks, there should be in his head a recollection of the passing of a Resolution for £112,000 in June last year and a Resolution for £5,000 in July last year for the purchase of machinery, pumping expenses and every possible thing in connection with the Waterworks. There should also be in his

head—not what he reads in the “Torch” newspaper—a recollection that Mr. Roddam has told us that we cannot get anything by way of machinery in two years.

Mr. WARD: On a point of explanation. I suggested that the reservoirs could be constructed and the wells dug until the machinery arrives.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member had asked for the information before he spoke he would have known what is happening. We have Dr. Senn's Report. We had to get the expert's advice as to the cost because we do not know for certain how deep this water is and a single question put to a member of the Executive Committee could have assured the honourable member that there is nothing whatever that the Government could do that it has not done. I am going to be perhaps offensive when I ask this question: Does the senior member for St. Lucy think that if these points appeal to him as being absolutely necessary, they do not appeal to members of the Executive Committee who at least have as much intelligence as the honourable member? What persons with even half the average intelligence would run the affairs of the Government without realizing that water is the life-blood of the community and, therefore, set about to see what they can do about it? The junior member for St. Philip talked about mains. He too forgets that we cannot get mains. Does he suggest that we should dig trenches and leave them there until we get the mains? I am reminded, Sir, that year before last—this Government cannot claim the credit for that—the sum of £15,400, which appears in Appendix 13 to the Estimates at page 91, was also voted for the purchase of machinery for the Waterworks and practically none of that money has been spent because there yet remains a balance of £15,330. Then in Appendix 8 at page 82, there are the sums of £112,000 and £5,000 which were voted by Resolutions 59 of 1947 and 69 of 1947 respectively,—Resolutions which the senior member for St. Lucy helped to pass,—for the purpose of purchasing machinery for the Waterworks. The honourable senior member for St. Lucy has the Reports in his hands but if, of course, he is repeating what he read in the newspaper to which I referred,—a newspaper that would state anything however disgraceful or untrue,—then naturally he would make the criticisms he has made. The junior member for St. Philip spoke about Dodds and said that in spite of the criticisms which have been made the Government is doing nothing to show whether they are justified or not. The Government has appointed a Committee to make enquiry but does the honourable member not see that in the capital expenditure the sum of £10,000 is provided for alterations to the Government Industrial Schools? Is that not a beginning? Then the honourable member said that we have made certain suggestions and asked what are we doing. Does the honourable member really think that we can get through all these projects in 12 months? We hope we shall be able to do so but does he suggest that the Government is not trying to pick out some of the projects which it feels ought to be dealt with first? If he thinks that the Government should tackle this or that first, let him say so but do not suggest that the Government is doing nothing. As regards Education, no Government, past or present can really be accused of failing to take a very great interest in Education and I will say this: the percentage of illiteracy in Barbados is less than in any other Caribbean colony—British, French, Dutch or American: there are more people who have been taught in the schools of Barbados than in any other

territory in the Caribbean area. So however much I may attack their misdeeds or neglects I would not fall into the error of saying that previous Governments, however conservative, were not concerned over Education. The Government feels that the fault is not so much with the schools but with the lack of training for teachers and that is being remedied by the establishment of the Teachers' Training College at Erdiston. I do not think it is necessary to say anything in reply to the criticism about emigration to the United Kingdom, since honourable members must have read a letter in the Press pointing out what the position is. As regards Rent Restriction, even before this Government was formed, the attitude of the Government or a beginning at any rate into an exploration of the possibilities, was to establish a Board but it is absolutely essential, judging from the experience of Great Britain and Trinidad, to have a legally trained man as Chairman of a Rent Restriction Board and, so far, it is very difficult to find any legally trained local man who would be willing to take the position. I hear a name mentioned. That particular gentleman's name which has been mentioned, is never met with ready approval in this House but there are ways and means by which it may be worked. There is in the offing a Bill to revise the whole Judiciary and it may be possible to tack on to the duties of one or more Police Magistrates the chairmanship of a Rent Restriction Board. When the matter reached the Executive Committee two or three years ago, an investigation was made and at that time, the report was that the incidence of the raising of rents was not so great or so universal as to warrant the more or less elaborate machinery that would have to be set up. There is a school of thought—I personally am not persuaded by it—that when the cost of building new buildings or keeping present buildings in repair is taken into consideration, the present rents that are being charged are not too high. Without saying too much I must remind honourable members that the Executive Committee is composed of nine persons. As regards what has been said about the subsidization of locally grown foodstuffs I would repeat for the benefit of those honourable members who did not hear what I said in my budget speech that what the Government proposes to do is to pay the maximum scheduled price at Lancaster Factory for all vegetables that cannot otherwise be sold; so it is not quite a matter of subsidization in the ordinary sense of the word. We want everybody to plant vegetables, and not to feel that they may plant too much because what they cannot sell they can send to Lancaster Factory and the Government will pay for it. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that the other points are of such importance that I should reply to them, except to say this. The accusation has been made that I disclosed some budget secrets and that I made a statement outside which would not bear examination. Mr. Speaker, I have a very great fault and it is that I do not worry to correct mistakes in speeches of mine which are reported in the local newspapers, especially in the “Advocate” newspaper. What I did say—and any figures that I gave could only have been obtained from the usual Financial Report which is published from month to month—was that we have budgeted for £1,500,000 and we were going to collect £1,900,000; therefore, we are collecting £400,000 from income tax and I was careful to add Customs Duties too. It is perfectly true that I went on to talk about hitting the rich people in respect of income tax without having made any further reference to Customs Duties and in the report of my speech in the “Advo-

cate" newspaper it was stated that I said that we have knocked £400,000 out of the rich people in income tax. Inasmuch as the matter has been referred to on the floor of the House I now repeat what I did say. I would be just as silly to take notice of the editorial which appeared in the "Advocate" accusing me of saying that machinery should not be allowed to come into the island duty free. Nobody except someone in a lunatic asylum could make a bold statement like that. Regrettably another newspaper reproduced what appeared in the "the Advocate" newspaper about my having said that we have knocked £400,000 out of the rich people in income tax. The late Mr. Peirce used to make corrections nearly every day in his speeches which used to appear in the "Advocate" newspaper but I do not remember having corrected reports of my speeches in the newspapers on more than one or two occasions during the 14 years of my political career. The junior member for St. Philip talked about provision not being made in the Estimates for Land Settlement. It depends what the honourable member means by Land Settlement. I am convinced now that the cutting up of land in Barbados, when we do not have enough to share around, is not the best possible thing to do. The honourable member ought to know my views on the subject. When the Moyne Commission came here, in my memorandum which I presented to them I suggested that the land should be cut up in at least five-acre lots but I wrote that before I went into the figures. During the last four years I have been studying the land laws of Puerto Rico and what is going on there and at present, the Government, or the members of the Executive Committee who are members of the House at any rate, are studying some of the schemes in Puerto Rico but I have come to the conclusion that the cutting up of land for settlement purposes in Barbados is nonsense. We may, however, own plantations and run them on the co-operative basis. I assure the honourable junior member for St. Philip that the members of the Government from the House are as keen as he is on the question of the Government owning land. My personal view—and I hope to see it brought about comparatively soon—is that nobody should own any freehold at all except as his homestead and sufficient land for kitchen garden purposes. All the land should be owned by the State and leased on long terms to big plantations and factories; whether that is Communism or otherwise, it is Equity. As regards Income Tax I must tell the junior member for the City that the Executive Committee has been considering Income Tax for some time now. It would have reached a decision yesterday if a meeting had been held but again I want to assure honourable members that the four members of this House who are members of the Executive Committee are as anxious as any critic of the Government to relieve the lower groups and put heavy taxation on those who are able to bear it. When the honourable junior member for St. Philip talks about clerks in Bridgetown paying income tax, there is not a single boy or girl in Broad Street, let alone Swan Street or Baxters Road, who pays income tax: he or she does not earn enough money to enable him or her to do so and if he or she has an insurance policy he or she has to work for at least \$100 per month to pay income tax. I am not prepared to say, until the Executive Committee has reached a decision on all the aspects of income tax, more than that the matter is under consideration.

The question that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for 1948—49 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

HEAD I — THE GOVERNOR.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—In view of the fact that the House has decided that the sum of £150 should be paid to the Governor to assist him in defraying his travelling expenses I am asking leave to insert a new item, to be numbered 12, under sub-head (b) Other Charges, of this Head, the item being Travelling Allowance, £150. Item 12 will then be renumbered 13 and so on. I beg to move that the sum of £1,708 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—Item 8, Stationery and flags, £100. I do not understand why they should want flags at Government House every year. Last year we voted £80 for this item and this year we are being asked for £100. Is it that the flags at Government House are not cared for? In my opinion, they should buy flags once in five years. Just as they take care of their clothing they should take care of the flags. We cannot afford to spend so much money on flags. I have had one for the past 16 years and it is still intact. I do not see why every year an amount should be included in the Estimates for the purchase of flags for Government House. Then item 5, Allowance to Governor's Orderly £11. I would like an explanation about that. I would like to know if this Orderly is paid by the Governor or by the Government. The next item on which I should like to comment is 11, Upkeep of Gardens. £50 is fixed by law and £410 is to be voted for this purpose. I understand that there are certain restrictions as regards the use of water at this time and if that is so I cannot understand why Government House should be allowed to water gardens while these restrictions exist. You cannot make flesh of one and bone of another. There are people in this island who cannot get water to bathe their skins or even cook their food and yet Government House is allowed to water its gardens. I am not in favour of voting £410 for the upkeep of gardens at Government House; that is too much money for this purpose. These are days of austerity. If you were to put £90 with this £410 and give the £500 to me I would be able to provide employment for a number of people in repairing some tenantry roads. These are days when we have to face facts. While the gardens at Government House may be beautiful, I can assure honourable members that the food which goes into the stomachs of the people would be far more beautiful. I am a real labour member. Fancy voting £410 for the upkeep of gardens at Government House and people cannot get water to cook their food!

THE CHAIRMAN: I will draw the honourable member's attention to the explanatory note to item 11 which says: "Includes wages to gardeners and casual labour; maintenance of mowers and rollers; provision of plants; and upkeep of ferneries, tennis courts, etc. Increased by £40 to meet cost of replacing old lawn mower."

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—If something is wrong with the lawn mower at Government House, why do they not send it to one of the Foundries or

to the Department of Highways and Transport to be repaired? As I said before, these are days of austerity. We have to do these things in our homes and why can they not be done in Government House. As a matter of fact, the Government should set the example in this respect. I am very glad, Sir, that you called my attention to the fact that wages are included in this amount.

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

REPLIES LAID.

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 39 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, and the replies to questions No. 46 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to lay the reply to question No. 42 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to lay the replies to questions No. 48 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 61(a) and 61(b) in order to continue Government Business.

There being no objection, the hon. 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 1948—49

Mr. SPEAKER: When the House adjourned for lunch we were in Committee of Supply on the Estimates.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply on the Estimates, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the adjournment for lunch the hon. junior member for St. Philip was speaking on items under Head I.

THE GOVERNOR

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I was speaking on item 10 "Water Supply." Anybody who looks up the Estimates will see that £30 is fixed by law and we are being asked today to vote £50 more. The note says that this includes provision for water rates, meters and cost of water used in excess of 3,000 gallons per diem. Everybody knows that water is very scarce nowadays and whether it be at Government House or anywhere else you have got to be frugal with it. If at the head of affairs you do not get an example set where else can you expect to have anything observed except in the breach? While we love to have water we cannot afford to spend money to have it wasted; it is the taxpayers' money that is being spent. If they use too much water at Government House the supply in the various districts will not be sufficient. Everybody knows that in some districts you cannot get any water and we cannot afford to allow the Head of the Administration or anyone else to waste water. If they have a fan mill up there the water produced from the fan mill can also be used. As regards item II "Upkeep of gardens" I had a peep

around the lawns and they appeared to be very dry. The note says that this item has been increased by £40 to meet the cost of replacing an old lawn mower. I beg to move that this item be deleted. Before the luncheon interval I said that these are days of austerity and we who did not wear a patch in our underwear have to patch them now where it cannot be seen. We have to practise austerity; we want to spend money where it will produce the most results. I am speaking about these things seriously; I want some of this money to spend in the parishes so that the people can get something to eat. I am not concerned with politics when it is a question of the people's food. I beg to move that item 10 "Water Supply" be reduced by £20.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second the hon. member's motion as a protest. (Mr. ADAMS: Against what?) Against the shortage of water. (Laughter.) Some other people cannot get water and I do not see why the Head of the Administration should be allowed to have all that he cares to draw. I have a factory in the parish of St. Andrew and sometimes the people cannot get any water. (A MEMBER: Do you shut off the factory?) I have to get water from other sources.

Mr. ADAMS: Under the Colonial Office Regulations a flag must be flown at Government House. The Union Flag with the approved Arms or Badge of the colony emblazoned on the centre drawn up on a white ground surrounded by a green garland must be flown from sunrise to sunset when the Governor is in residence. The Crown Agents have suggested that wool will last longer than silk. The silk flags would cost 175/- each but you get far better service from wool flags at the present price of 69/6. I mention that inasmuch as the point has been raised and an explanation is due. I do not think that anybody would take the two hon. members seriously when they talk about water. Why do they not examine the Estimates before they try to be childish? When hon. members are going to criticize the Government they should have something on which to criticize it. Why should it be assumed that water is wasted at Government House? They are not using the ordinary Government water for watering the lawns; far from water being wasted up there, an example is being set because the vote is less than it was last year. I hope that honourable members will keep their artillery for use when it will be useful. As regards the upkeep of gardens which includes the payment of gardeners, casual labourers, etc., the vote has been increased from £370 to £410 for the purpose of replacing an old lawn mower. That mower has shown signs of wear and tear and by the time that a new one is obtained that old one will have gone so far as to need replacement. It was thought that this amount should be put in the Estimates so that the money will be available when it is needed.

Mr. GARNER: I see that £30 is fixed by law for the water supply and the remainder has to be voted. (Mr. ADAMS: Are you moving the deletion of the entire vote?) I am not speaking about what is fixed by law; the hon. member knows what I mean.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you not think it better to thresh out item 10 and then we can go on to item 11?

Mr. ADAMS: Far from there being any waste at Government House or any undue advantage over anybody, the vegetables which are not used in the kitchen are given to the institutions.

Mr. WARD: Although the hon. member may be enthusiastic about reducing the vote as a protest against not getting water, he is really reducing

it to what it was last year, and I think he should reduce it lower than what it was last year.

The question that item 10 be reduced by £20 was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:

Ayes: Messrs CRAWFORD, GARNER, and HAYNES

—3.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs SYMONDS, BRANCKER, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, LEWIS, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD, Dr. CUMMINS and Mr. SPEAKER.—19.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has been resolved in the negative, three hon. members voting "Aye" and nineteen honourable members voting "No." The motion for the deletion of item 11 has not been seconded.

The question that the sum of £1,708 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD II—COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £1,404 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD III—COLONIAL TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$351 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD IV—AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £297 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD V — HARBOUR AND SHIPPING MASTER

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to amend item 10 "Maintenance of buoys £50" by putting £150 against that item. At the time when the Estimates were being prepared it was impossible to know that this addition was necessary. The Harbour and Shipping Master informs us that this amount of £50 will be insufficient to cover the cost of essential repairs to the buoys at Needham's point and Long School. The condition of these buoys could not be ascertained at the time when the estimates were prepared and it was not until the buoys were taken in hand for repairs that their condition was disclosed. That is why the additional sum is being asked for.

Mr. LEWIS: I am not objecting to the amendment but it seems to me that in this case you only discover the condition of the buoys when you start to repair them. I think that a periodical examination of these buoys should be made so that the vote is not trebled as on this occasion.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £10,536 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Item 2 "Engineer in charge of Water Craft £200" has just caught my eyes. As the note reads, this gentleman is also Superintendent Mechanic at the Department of Highways and Transport. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out definitely if it is a fact that he is also acting in the capacity of Executive Engineer at the Department of Highways and Transport. I am told that up to last week and throughout the whole of last month this gentleman was so acting. If that is a fact it puts us in a very difficult position as regards the question of plurality of offices. Not only have we had to accept him in his dual role at the Department of Highways and Transport, and we would like to feel that his whole time is devoted to the machinery at that Department, but we find that he is also Engineer in charge of Water Craft. Last year when we discussed the Colonial Estimates some reference was made to this matter and I recollect that a Government Spokesman said that he would go into this matter and suggested that there would be a change in this coming year; but the position is the same with this difference, that this official is also acting or was also acting as Executive Engineer. If it is difficult for anybody to perform two jobs, how much more difficult it must be for him to have to perform three jobs? Not only that, we have been told that the post of Executive Engineer is one which requires exceptional qualifications, so much so that it has been advertised for many years at a salary of £650 a year and nobody has been found to be suitable for it. If my information is correct that this gentleman is also acting as Executive Engineer at the Department of Highways and Transport, I would like to know whether his work has been suffering in any way in consequence of his having so many jobs to perform. We want to feel that in respect of any job which a man is doing he will have full time to fulfil all the duties of the office. If the office of Executive Engineer is a whole-time one requiring special qualifications with regard to road construction, one cannot understand how this official could perform the duties of this office, of the office of Superintendent Mechanic and also of that of Engineer in charge of Water Craft for a period of nearly two months already this year. After all, we have to see that the taxpayers' money is expended to the utmost benefit of the taxpayers and I suggest that if it is found essential to put this official to act as Executive Engineer as well as being Superintendent Mechanic at the Department of Highways and Transport, we may put somebody else to act as Engineer in charge of Water Craft. I do not see how you can have one man doing all of these jobs and doing them properly. It is not fair to the taxpayers to have this state of affairs continuing. I would like to ask the Government if they can assure us that this gentleman can do all these jobs thoroughly, satisfactorily and efficiently and even then the question of plurality of offices must arise. It is not really fair to have a post which requires high qualifications in one line of engineering filled by some one who no doubt has very able qualifications but in an entirely different line. I feel that some explanation is due to us as to whether this Engineer in charge of Water Craft has been filling the other offices as well. I would not like to think that he has been acting as Executive Engineer in preference to qualified highway engineers on the Staff of the Department simply because some of the present officers in the Department are unwilling to work under qualified road engineers, persons to whose race or colour they object. Can the Government assure us that the duties of Engineer in charge of Water

Craft have been satisfactorily performed all during the time that this same individual has been doing the job of Superintendent Mechanic and of Executive Engineer at the Department of Highways and Transport?

Mr. COX: I am of the same opinion as the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. It will be remembered that ever since 1945 when the Estimates were being considered in this House and on every subsequent occasion when the Estimates are before us, we have made it clear to the Government that we do not believe in this plurality of offices. I am not prepared to speak at any length on this question but I would like to say that where there is so much unemployment in this colony — I know that there are a lot of "unemployables" — I still think that somebody else should be given a job. Everybody knows that the Superintendent Mechanic has a big job to do at the Department of Highways and Transport; he has to look not only after the units but he has to look after checking and other things. He also has to do clerical work and that in itself is sufficient proof that he cannot carry on these jobs efficiently. I think that the time has come when the Government should appoint somebody as Engineer in charge of the Water Craft, somebody who is unemployed. In so far as the matter of this individual acting as Executive Engineer is concerned, it is really difficult to understand how the Department of Highways and Transport works. As honourable members know, the post of Executive Engineer has never been filled because we could never find a qualified engineer to fill it. It is difficult to understand how people who are trained in road building have been overlooked; it is difficult to understand how a man who is already burdened with so much work can be more or less pushed into this office, of which he knows nothing, over the heads of other persons. I think that the Government should see that this thing does not happen again, that some individual who is unemployed be given the job of looking after the Water Craft and let the Superintendent Mechanic supervise and take charge of the units at the Department of Highways and Transport.

Mr. WILKINSON: On paper it would not appear to be right that Mr. Sayers, the gentleman in question, should be responsible to two Heads, namely, the Director of Highways and Transport and the Harbour and Shipping Master. I was Chairman of the Road Board for many years and I queried this arrangement; I did not agree that one man should serve two masters. However, after going into the matter I found out that it worked very well indeed. This gentleman in question, in my opinion is one of the most efficient men in the island (Cheers) and he does his work thoroughly and conscientiously; he never lets his duties to the Harbour and Shipping Master interfere with his duties to the Director of Highways and Transport. If you had a separate man in charge of the Water Craft, a man equally as competent as Mr. Sayers and with his knowledge and experience, you would have to pay him very much more than £200 per annum. I can assure honourable members that there would not be enough work to occupy the person's attention. It does not seem right that one man should endeavour to serve two masters but I can assure honourable members that it has worked very well indeed in this case. Mr. Sayers has neither neglected his work at the Department of Highways and Transport nor at the Harbour Department.

Mr. COX: I have never questioned the individual's efficiency: I believe that he is an efficient officer. But what I am saying is that he is occupying

these two offices at the expense of some starving man who would be glad for a job. The Government could add another £200 and make an office for an individual who is glad for a job. This particular individual has as much work at the Department of Highways and Transport as will keep him fully employed. If he were dead we would have to do without him; after all he is not indispensable.

Mr. LEWIS: I have had the pleasure of going into this matter after hearing a debate in this House and I would like to say that if you consult the Harbour and Shipping Master he will tell you that if you can get anybody to look after the Water Craft you would have to pay a considerably higher sum than what is set out here. The Harbour and Shipping Master's opinion of this man is that he is worth the Government a great deal of money, and at a critical time he kept the water boats when it might have cost the Government thousands and thousands of pounds to replace them. If there is another man in this colony who can do that work I am surprised to hear that he is out of employment. That is all I can say about it. You will find that this gentleman has an assistant who will eventually get the same salary as he is getting at the Department of Highways and Transport, and it is unfair to say that if he is doing two jobs you will under pay him. If you consult the Heads of the two Departments they will tell you that this is an admirable arrangement and it is worth the Government more money than they could imagine. I know that in addition to these jobs which are set out in the Estimates, this gentleman is not averse to giving assistance in connection with the equipment of the Fire Brigade at the Police Station. (A MEMBER: What used to happen before?) An honourable member has asked what used to happen before. What used to happen before is that somebody in the Public Works Department used to look after the water boats. This has always been a part-time job. If there is another man in this community who can do this job and he is out of work, I say that he should be given this job and be paid properly for doing it because this particular man is not being paid properly for doing either job. It is only a question of our looking at certain people and saying that they should not work for more than a certain amount. I say that this man should be paid a decent salary and be allowed to stay in one job if you can find somebody else to do the work in respect of the Water Craft. I share the same view as the honourable junior member for St. James that if you brought out somebody to do this job, if he did it efficiently, you would have to pay a big salary for this part-time job.

The question that the sum of £10,536 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD VI — CUSTOMS

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £17,375 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: In connection with item 7 "eight (*vice three*) watchmen £609" the note says that the vote has been increased to meet the cost of five additional watchmen for the temporary Rum Bonds approved by Resolutions Nos. 66 and 96 of 1947. One of these Bonds is mentioned as being situated at Kingsland but I do not remember this House passing any Resolution in connection with a Rum Bond at Kingsland. I should also like to get some information in connection with item 8 "Fourteen (*Vice eleven*) porters, £1261."

Mr. LEWIS: I do not see anything relative to the Rum Bond of which we approved and that is the one situated somewhere in Bush Hall. I would like to know how it is that the Rum Bond which we have not arranged to rent is mentioned in the Estimates as having a watchman and the one at Bush Hall is not mentioned. (A MEMBER: The one at Bush Hall is mentioned).

Mr. ADAMS: I think that the Governor-in-Executive Committee is empowered to provide rum storage and also that the matter has to be mentioned to the Legislature. I believe that this is in order but perhaps I had better make sure about it. The rental is recovered from the merchants who store rum in the bonds. My impression is that we notify the House rather than pass a Resolution as far as the rental is concerned. I am not quite sure about this and I am asking leave to postpone further consideration of this Head so that I can get the actual facts. I repeat that my impression is that the Legislature is notified because this is not a matter of spending money all of which you are not getting back. If the Committee will postpone consideration of this Head I shall be glad.

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

HEAD VII—POWDER MAGAZINE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £61 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD VIII—POST OFFICE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £41,487 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: With regard to item 16 "Commission to Stamp Vendors £378", many complaints have been made in respect of the commission which is paid to stamp vendors. I see the note says that a commission of 5% is paid on denominations from 1d to 2d and 2½% on denominations from 3d to 6d. I understand that there is no commission paid on the sale of denominations over 6d. If that is a fact I would like to know why that is so, because the person who keeps a stock of the more expensive denominations has greater responsibility. These stamps have to be kept with care; it would be bad to lose a few penny stamps but it would be much worse to lose a few 1/- stamps. I think it is an injustice if there is no commission at all paid on the sale of the more expensive denominations because you can quite see that if no commission is paid there will not be any encouragement given to people in the country districts to sell these stamps. I quite appreciate that there would be a reduction in the rate of commission but people will not be encouraged to sell these stamps if there is no commission at all being paid on the sale of them.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to remind the hon. member that that is an old question raised in this House. It has been suggested to the Postmaster that it would facilitate the public if the commission paid on the higher denominations were restored. I think it is time that the Post Office pay commission on the sale of these higher values. No injustice is done to the stamp vendors because they do not sell these stamps; the injustice is really done to the public because they are inconvenienced in having to come to the Post Office which is very much congested. Let people try to buy a penny stamp at the

Post Office and see how long it will take them to do that. I think that it is time that this House let the Government know what are their views in connection with this building. I cannot see that they have any right contemplating the removal of the Post Office from its present site. I think it is ideally situated to accommodate the public. Some alteration must be possible so that people can use the street above the Post Office in order to get into and out of this building. At present the Postmaster occupies one part of the building and there is a series of mesh wire and he has to travel a great distance before he can see a member of the staff if he wants to do so. I think that money should certainly be spent in jacking up this building so as to make a better use of it for all concerned. I am sure that if it were left to private individuals they would make it more habitable for their staff. The Postmaster has said that he got less complaints in one year than in another and that is a negative way of doing nothing about this matter. Since he has been in that corner nobody can get to him to make the complaints. (Laughter). I have reason to believe that something would be done about the matter but the Postmaster has got it in his head that the Post Office will be removed to the Wharf and therefore nothing is going to be done for the convenience of the public. The Post Office is a Department which the public use throughout the day and it is a standing disgrace to the island; it is a place where people have to work and eat, where they have to spend the greater portion of the day and the public have to go in and out. I wonder if the Head of the Administration has ever visited the Post Office because I do not know how he would get in with all those packages blocking the entrance. There was a robbery at the Post Office not very long ago and what have they done? They have put up a very low roof over people and some of the employees are too tall to occupy the cage. (Laughter). They could not put those employees there at all. I think it is a standing disgrace to the colony to have the Post Office under these conditions and with the Treasury full of money. The building is there and it can be made convenient for the use of the public. Anybody who is carrying on a private business would let in light and air in his building so as to make his customers comfortable, but here there is a standing disgrace to the colony and nothing is being done about it.

Mr. HAYNES: I am speaking in connection with item 7 "Eleven Parish Postmasters, £1,155". These poor unfortunate people do not seem ever to catch the eyes of the Government. Some of them are at present drawing less money than some of the postmen whom they are supposed to control! I have taken this opportunity of drawing the matter to the attention of the Government so that something should be done to alleviate the conditions existing with regard to these men who hold very responsible positions. They will have more responsibility when branch Saving Banks are established throughout the eleven parishes. I mention the matter now in the hope that it will catch the ears of those who represent the Government at present.

Mr. MAPP: The hon. junior member for the City waxed very warm over the conditions in the Post Office and I do believe that very soon we shall hear something about the state of affairs existing at the various public offices. I notice that the Colonial Secretary at the opening of the general meeting of the Civil Service Association recently commented on the disgraceful state of the various public buildings, and I have no doubt that we shall hear

more about it very soon. I may say that the Post Office is not singular in that respect. The conditions at nearly all these offices are disgraceful. I have worked in some of these offices and it is a shame for people to work under such conditions. With regard to item 27 "Travelling Allowance for Postmen £380", the note sets out that an allowance of 6/- per month is paid to 99 postmen, and that the amount includes £20 to cover cases where a postman's bicycle is not available for travelling and where the amount actually spent on bus fares for the month exceeds the amount granted for travelling. It seems disgraceful that in these days when the postal services have increased and are increasing, when it takes more to travel than formerly, you are only paying postmen 6/- per month for travelling allowance. If they own bicycles they should still be paid something to provide for the upkeep of the bicycles. Employees who use motor cars are paid something for the upkeep of the cars and I do not see why the wear and tear of the bicycles should not be taken into consideration in the payment of travelling allowance. If the upkeep of the bicycles is not taken into consideration the sum of 6/- a month is too small to pay a postman for travelling allowance. If he goes on foot, 6/- a month could not provide for the wear and tear. I hope that the Government Spokesman will say something about this matter and throw out a hint that this amount will be increased during the year. I understand that an hon. member has tried to get the amount increased and I hope that others will join in the effort and have it increased. Some postmen have many hills to go over and I think that 6/- a week would be more satisfactory for a poor man who has to do quite a lot of riding and the mileage is increasing all the time. I hope that something more will be done for these postmen where travelling allowance is concerned.

Mr. GARNER : I share the view of the hon. member who has just sat down. Not very long ago I had something to say about this matter and I am of the same view to-day. The sum of 6/- per month is inadequate especially when you take into account the cost of bicycles, the cost of accessories and the way in which the postmen have to travel. Sometimes they have to go through gullies and 6/- a month is not sufficient for that to-day, that amount cannot do what it could do some months ago. Six shillings a month is only 1/6 a week and that is too small for this travelling allowance. I happen to be in the bicycle repair business and I know that bicycle parts have gone up by 300%, they have gone up more than that in some cases and then you cannot get them. It would be well for the Executive Committee to know these things so that they can act accordingly. The postmen are at the lowest rung of the ladder; those who are in the higher brackets have had their travelling allowance increased and these postmen with their bicycles should also be given an increase in travelling allowance. If you fix the men in the top brackets you should also fix those who are in the lower brackets. You should not ignore these men because they use bicycles. I repeat that the bicycle parts cost more, the wear and tear cost more and I think it is fair to give the postmen more than 6/- a month for travelling allowance.

Mr. SMITH : I have to associate myself with the remarks of the last speaker concerning the upkeep of postmen's bicycles. Really it is a pity that that item slipped the eyes of those responsible. To-day the parts for bicycles have risen so high in cost that there are some poor men who have to leave their bicycles at home. The people who sell the

parts for bicycles will not allow these men any credit. Another thing is that especially in the parish of St. Joseph you have to use quite a lot of brake rubbers, pedal shafts and things of that sort and as it is known, a bicycle will last longer when used on level roads than in the hilly districts. I hope that this item will commend itself for an increase to those who are responsible for making such allowances. With regard to item 7 "Eleven Parish Postmasters, £1,155," I remember that last year I raised the question and asked the Government to see fit to increase the salaries of these Postmasters on account of the fact that there are some postmen who draw more money than the Postmaster. I hinted that a Postmaster could not feel satisfied when he knows that he has to pay a postman more than he himself is receiving. I do not think that a Postmaster has to do as much travelling as a postman but he is responsible for the postman. I feel that something should be done about this matter and it should not be allowed to pass by.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to item 22, "Office and land rents and rates, £75". The note says that this amount is for the rental of five parish post offices at £15 each. I am entirely not in favour of these parish post offices because they are too small. On many a morning I pass through the country districts and see many people awaiting their Old Age Pension. I detest the idea that because people are poor they have to stand waiting at the roadside and they cannot go into the building until it is their turn to draw money. These post offices should be more convenient for the use of the people. I would like to see the Government take some action to make these country post offices more habitable not only for the people who work in them but for the public who use them. As regards item 12, "Inland mails, £1,700", the note says that there is a contract for the conveyance of mails by motor omnibus between the General Post Office and St. Lawrence. I do not know how that is done and I would like some explanation of it. I deplore the idea of mails being conveyed by 'bus. I would not like to think that mails are conveyed by 'bus just as a parcel would be conveyed. I do not think that things like mails, which are very important, should be put on a 'bus and the 'bus driver cannot be responsible for them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Is not this the mail van?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : I would like an explanation. I would also like to join the chorus which has been rendered with respect to the allowance to postmen for the use of their bicycles. It is quite obvious that 6/- a month cannot be considered as anything adequate. I believe that if the tyres of the bicycle were patched a few times that would exhaust the 6/- because people charge 9d or 1/- for patching a tyre each time. A postman may pay for patching his bicycle tyres a few times during a month and you can realise how much money would be left. The man who uses his bicycle for doing the Government's work is in much the same position as the one who uses a motor car. I say that a man's bicycle means as much to him as what a motor car means to its owner and both should be put in the same category. As regards the conveyance of the mails, if they are conveyed by the regular mail van, that is all right; but I do not think that His Majesty's mails should be put on an ordinary 'bus.

Mr. COX : If any honourable member had raised my point I would not have risen. I am in favour of something being done so as to improve

the situation where the travelling allowance of the postmen is concerned, and I have already suggested that the postmen should be given bicycles by the Government. It has been argued on the floor of this House some time ago that if these postmen are given bicycles they will ride their children to school and so forth. I have discussed the matter with postmen and they are quite willing to take the bicycles from the various post offices, do the work of the Government and then bring them back and use their own bicycles for doing their private work. I feel that the Government does not know what is reasonable in so far as travelling allowance for postmen who are using their own bicycles is concerned, and it is better for the Government to provide the bicycles and see that the activities of the postmen are limited to the work of the Government. I also feel that the time has come when the Government should provide its own transportation with respect to mails. The Government has a big department known as the Department of Highways and Transport and there are a few trained mechanics in that Department, so that there could not be any question raised of any extraordinary expense for the upkeep of the Government's motor vehicles because they could be taken over to that Department and be repaired.

Mr. GALE: The honourable senior member for St. Peter has referred to the conditions existing at the Sub-post offices and I quite agree with him that in some cases they are very inadequate. The honourable junior member for the City spoke about the congestion at the General Post Office and I should like to point out that that congestion would be relieved if there were Sub-post offices in the various residential districts. If Sub-post offices were provided in districts like Hastings, Black Rock and Strathelyde, for instance, they would relieve the great congestion at the General Post Office. There are hotels in the Hastings district and people are doing a lot of posting and they have to come down to the General Post Office for that purpose. I think that the Government would be well advised to go into this question and erect Sub-post offices in the various residential districts of the island so as to relieve the congestion which obtains at the General Post Office.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with item 18, "Postage stamps, £850", I throw out the hint that there is going to be a general Election during this year and stamps are going to be needed for the posting of circulars. I do not know if the person in charge of ordering these stamps realised that during the year before last extra stamps were necessary in view of the election circulars having to be sent out. I suggest that the person responsible for ordering these stamps should display a greater amount of efficiency on this occasion than was displayed in 1946. As regards the travelling allowance for postmen, we have always regarded the honourable junior member for the City as the Authority on bicycles in this House. We had the assurance some years ago that that 6/- a month as travelling allowance is inadequate for these men; that amount is \$17.28 a year. When the Government is contemplating assisting persons in the Government Service with the purchase of a motor car, they should likewise assist persons who are not in the category of motor-car owners to purchase bicycles. Many persons find difficulty in purchasing bicycles for themselves. I feel that in this matter of travelling allowance the Government should consider a scheme whereby not only postmen but any Government employee who is not in the category of a potential motor-car owner will be assisted from the Public Treasury. I am not sure if the Honourable member on my left still

deals in bicycles but he says that the poor postmen cannot buy the parts for bicycles much more the bicycles and that they should be assisted by the Government. In connection with item 22, "Office and land rents and rates, £75", I cannot remember off-hand if the Post Office in the parish of St. Lucy is rented or if it is owned by the Government, but I would like to throw out the suggestion that the time has come when that Post Office should be placed on a more central site than that which it now occupies. If the Post Office is rented then a more central site should be selected and there are such sites; if it is not rented then let the Government erect a Post Office on a site which is more convenient for the parish because as the present Post Office stands it is unsuited to the great majority of the people.

Mr. LEWIS: I have had to abandon my bicycle. I would not like any honourable member to think that I agree with him on any matter for any other reason than a good one and I deplore the fact that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has not mentioned anything about franking privileges. I feel that a candidate who has to make a deposit of £30 should be given the privilege of sending to the constituents to whom he has offered himself at least one circular free. I do not think that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy should let it go out from this House that he is in favour of candidates paying the full postage of these circulars and also the deposit in connection with their candidature.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The Government is aware that the salaries of the Parish Postmasters are small and that they receive less salary than the postmen in some cases. The matter has been submitted to the Whitley Council and it is being settled by the Commissioner who is here dealing with the question of salaries. As regards the item "Inland mails" it is a fact that the sum of £5 a year is paid to the Motor 'Bus Company for taking mails to the Post Office at St. Lawrence. The mails are delivered to the 'bus driver and he delivers them to a postman at St. Lawrence. That was done by the Postmaster whom we imported from England to put the Post Office on a proper basis, to provide better facilities for the people in St. Lawrence district. I understand that the present Colonial Postmaster is taking steps to stop that practice. As regards the commission being paid to stamp vendors, that was reduced by the Postmaster whom we imported. He felt that the amount paid was too much and reduced it. I understand that in England no commission is paid to anybody for the sale of stamps and that the commission which is paid in Barbados is better than that which is paid in any other West Indian island. With respect to the item "Postage Stamps", I will take up with the Colonial Postmaster the question raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. On the question of rental rates, the sum of £15 a year is paid in respect of the five buildings which the Government rents from the Postmasters or Postmistresses. I am in sympathy with the postmen in connection with the question of travelling allowance; the matter was discussed and it was decided by the Government that this amount of 6/- a month should be paid. That is the same amount which is paid to Sanitary Inspectors and people of that sort.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to draw the attention of the Committee to Item II, "Three Porters, £300". I take it that some of these men have given long service to the Government, that they have families just as other men have, and they have to support and educate their children. I think that some greater consideration should be given to these men, and that the estimate of their labour should be

based upon some greater system such as exists in the case of other employees in the Post Office; so that when a man has started out in life at a certain figure and he finds that with increasing age his family responsibilities have become greater, he will receive some increment. In this case I see that the amount is fixed; I do not know if the idea behind it is that £100 a year is all that a porter, a man drawn from that class is worth. If that is the idea, I think it is time that Labour members in this House do something—

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member, but every person's emoluments are before Mr. Adams: we know that these people are not getting enough money and that is why we brought Mr. Adams here.

Mr. SYMMONDS: It is my duty to draw the matter to the attention of the Government. Every honourable member has had a chance to speak. (A MEMBER: Not on personal emoluments). Last week the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said that he would stand on his feet until night if I spoke on a particular matter and I can stand on my feet until night if he persists in this behaviour. If I am wrong, I can be put right. I understand that the Head of the Administration is prepared to take advice from honourable members of this House. I say that it is a disgrace to wait for Mr. Adams to tell us whether £100 per annum is the limit to which any labouring man should aspire. There is something wrong in the—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It ought to commend itself to honourable members that when one honourable member is addressing the Chair they should pay some attention. That is a matter of common courtesy and behaviour.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to point out that if a limit of £100 a year is the assessment of the worth of labour in this island by this Labour Government then something is definitely wrong and it is time that such an assessment should be changed. I do not see that we should await Mr. Adams' advice about that; suppose he says that labour is only worth \$40 a month in his opinion what will be done? Next we come to the messengers; I see that the limit for them is £120 a year, a mere \$48 a month. That is the maximum to which an honest messenger who might have given this Government 30 years' service can reach! that is the maximum to which he can aspire in an age like this when the price of milk is what it is and a pint of green peas costs 14c! I know that many of these men have as many as nine children to feed and educate and the estimate of their labour is \$48 a month after 30 years' service! I repeat that that is a definite disgrace. People who go forward to obtain the votes of labour in this island, people who say "Vote for Labour" are now quarrelling with me from their seats and are saying that \$40 a month is the maximum to which labour can aspire. That is a reproach and a disgrace and whether Mr. Adams recommends anything more or not, it is my intention to press the matter until something is done to relieve these men. I want to support the views of those honourable members who have criticised the amount allocated to the postmen in respect of travelling allowance. Everybody knows that with the synthetic rubber of which most of the present bicycle tyres happen to be made to-day, the life of a tyre is now only a couple of weeks and it is an imposition to expect postmen to travel throughout the length and breadth of the island and continue to subsidise the Government. In other words, they have to draw from their pittance so as to get a supply of bicycle tyres, not to

mention bicycles, in order to do the Government's work. The next item on which I want to touch is that of the Parish Postmasters. They are in charge of people's money orders and registered letters from time to time, and it is most unfair to put them in such a responsible position, a position of trust, and tempt them to do wrong by underpaying them in the manner which is set out here. I am not going to make up the time of the House for very much longer in respect of this item, but I would like the member of the Government who is responsible for matters under this Head to explain why is it that the salaries of the senior clerks and the 31 other clerks appear under one Head as being fixed by law, and those of the messengers, the postmasters and the postmen appear under another Head to be voted by us. I would like to know if that has anything to do with their pension rights: I think I am entitled to the information. I want to know if the paying of these men under a particular Head has anything to do with their pension rights. It does not appear to me to have anything to do with their increments because the clerks rise incrementally and also the postmen.

Mr. ADAMS: If I had not heard it for myself, I would not have believed that an hon. member could seriously ask that question. The honourable member says that on the last occasion I said that I would talk until night; the honourable member has the right to talk until midnight. He can discuss every single personal emolument but he should not waste time. How can you select postmen and raise their salaries? If the honourable member reads the note on the opposite page and he could get a copy of the Resolution, he would see that in order to raise these people's salaries we passed a Resolution, for the sum of £33,996. We went down every Head in the Estimates and raised salaries; the honourable member can read as well as the rest of us and he certainly could have looked at the explanatory note on the opposite page and get an indication as to where he could discover things for himself. We know the nature of the criticism which we will get from the honourable junior member for St. Lucy and the honourable senior member for St. Michael as regards the Department of Highways and Transport, and we know what will soon happen as regards Mr. Skinner. In connection with the travelling allowance for postmen I would just like to say, and honourable members will remember, that I have always been opposed to paying postmen anything and allowing them to use their private bicycles. I think that they should be provided with bicycles as in the case of the Police and employees of the Waterworks Department, but the postmen prefer to use their own bicycles if they are given an allowance. I am surprised to hear that they have changed their minds. The Government is going into the question of the parish Post Offices and the difficulties experienced and the Colonial Postmaster is preparing a memorandum on the question. The question of salaries and allowances or the granting of bicycles to postmen will be dealt with by the Civil Service Commissioner who is now sitting. Nobody wants to stifle debate but how can it help in any way to criticise what people are being paid when we know that they are underpaid and have brought out somebody to go into the matter?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I should just like to say this: because the honourable junior member for St. George criticises in detail the salaries paid to any Government employee he is accused of wasting the time of the House! After all, the electors of the parish of St. George did not elect Mr. Adams to represent them

here; they elected the honourable junior member for St. George.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am wondering if the honourable junior member for St. George is not capable of defending himself.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am suggesting that we have brought out Mr. Adams to investigate the wages paid and the conditions of work in respect of members of the Government Service. We have not told him to increase their wages and improve their conditions of work. As a matter of fact, the position is that a lot of Civil Servants are of the opinion that all this Commissioner will recommend is a consolidation of the Cost of Living Allowance with the salaries that are being paid at present. If during the consideration of these Estimates any honourable member feels like emphasising the inadequacy of the wages paid to any particular type of Government servant, he is quite within his right to do so and he might be giving some assistance to the Commissioner. This Commissioner may not know that green peas cost 14c. a pint and when he hears these details he will realise how impossible it is for the people in the lower brackets to eke out an existence on their present salaries. As a matter of fact, honourable members will recall that we appointed a local Commission which, on the face of it, we assumed should have greater knowledge of the cost of living in this country. and in their final Report that Commission which was appointed to enquire into the wages and conditions of work of Civil Servants, recommended substantial increases in some cases and very small increases for people in the lower categories, and we had an Executive, comprised of members of the House, who sent down the proposals to the Assembly. Therefore, in my opinion, the honourable junior member for St. George or any other honourable member is perfectly within his right to lay particular emphasis on what he regards as inadequate wages for any Government employee, and his remarks will serve as a very useful pointer to the Civil Service Commissioner. Last Tuesday when the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was endeavouring to get more money voted for the incumbent of Government House he did not think that he was wasting time, and the Civil Service Commissioner is also investigating the salary and conditions of work of this Official. (MEMBERS: That is not true). I am merely trying to make it unmistakably clear that no honourable member is wasting any time if he gets up and expresses his own point of view and sincerely attempts to get due attention paid to any underpaid employees in any category of the Government Service.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to say that no debate in this House is ever helpful to any Commissioner because although we say that this and that amount is too little, none of us ever has the guts to say what the particular job is worth. (Mr. CRAWFORD: Why don't you say it now?) No Commissioner could benefit from anything said here to-day because nobody has said what the particular job is worth. However, I am merely saying that we should have a working principle; let us agree on something and let it apply to every Head of the Estimates.

Mr. BRANCKER: I just want to finalise my remarks in connection with the item "Postage stamps". The honourable junior member for the City has said that he hoped it would not go out from this House that we are not in favour of franking privileges being granted to candidates at election times. But we passed an Address asking that these privileges be granted and the Government expressed its disagreement with the granting of such privileges. I am in agreement that candidates should be allowed to send out at least one circular free.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The greatest difficulty with which the Government is faced is that people pay their clerks less salaries than what they should pay them. If private enterprise would pay proper salaries to their clerks then the Government would get on better.

Mr. SYMMONDS: There are members of this House whose advice the Head of the Administration says that he is willing to follow, and if the Government would set an example by paying proper wages to the poor and lowly in their employ, then private people would follow the Government's example. As I have said before, the Government are insulting labour in this colony by the prices which they pay to the labourers whom they employ.

The question that the sum of £41,487 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD IX—PUBLIC MARKET

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £3,558 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: Before the question is put, I want to again draw to the notice of the Government that the butchers in the Public Market are more or less labouring at a disadvantage. The Government can obtain the figures as to the number of animals slaughtered and they can go into the question and see whether the butchers make a profit or not. I happened to be speaking with quite a number of them recently and I can assure this Committee that these butchers are not making any profit. I would like to see the Government reduce the rates charged as rent of the stalls as I have asked on many occasions. It is good to know that the big firms like Goddard & Sons are allowed to—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what item is the honourable member speaking. I do not see anything about the butchers here.

Mr. COX: I was looking for it myself. It is known that Goddard & Sons and big firms like that are allowed to import meat and they can always run a big business; but as far as the small butchers are concerned, it is difficult for them to get animals to be slaughtered and under the existing conditions they cannot easily make two ends meet. I am again asking this Government to take this matter into consideration. If the Government want a deputation of butchers to explain the position, I am quite sure that the butchers are willing to do that at any time. I am suggesting that the rent charged for these stalls is too high and the butchers are unable to get the stock to be slaughtered as they could get them some time ago.

Mr. WARD: In connection with item 15, "Repairs to weights and measures. £20", I want to say that it is regrettable that the Government has not taken any steps to try and get adequate weights. I think that we would be satisfied to know that weights were available whereby an accurate test could be made of scale beams especially after a controversy such as that we have had in this House in connection with scale beams. I suggest that these weights be obtained before the next Session so that everyone will be satisfied with the testing of these scale beams.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I suppose that I will have to speak on item 20, "Refunds of Slaughter fees £15", so as to deal with the position of the butchers in the Public Market and I hope that the Government will investigate the matter fully. Since the

erection of the new department for the butchers the Government have actually increased the rent by 100%. It must be appreciated that with the new market it might be necessary to charge more rent than previously but I counsel the Government to look into the matter and see that the butchers cannot get the animals for slaughter. I quite agree that dealers must be allowed to import meat otherwise the people would be starved. I hope that any observations which we make are being noted by the members of the Government and are not merely being replied to. I think that the Government should go very carefully into this matter. I repeat that it must be appreciated that with the erection of the new market some addition to the rent would be made but to increase the charges by 100% is out of all proportion to the amount which the butchers receive from the business which is done. An amendment to the Act is necessary inasmuch as these people have to sell in the market and they are compelled to leave at a certain time. The butchers are not even rateable for trade under the Vestries Act because they slaughter fewer animals than would bring them under the system which is in operation in the parish, and they are still rated for occupancy. The facts are there and I again counsel the Government to go very carefully into the matter and do something in order to relieve the situation. It might be argued by my colleague that the only remedy or the easiest remedy for doing that is to abolish the Occupancy Tax in respect of the butchers but even in that case the Government should do something to relieve the situation where these butchers are concerned.

Mr. SMITH : The service in connection with the repairs to weights and measures is very bad. I can tell this Committee that there are people who have had their scales in the repair shop since the month of October and they cannot get them back. When you go for your scales the repairer tells you: "I have to go out in the country inspecting factory scale beams and I cannot attend to them now". There is only one repairer in the shop and I think that the Government should employ another man so that when the chief man is out there will still be someone to deliver people's scales to them. On one occasion I went to ask for my own scales and I found that the place was all closed. I was taken to an office and was promised that the scales would be ready by the next day, but up to now I have not got them. I am wondering who is responsible for this department; if there was a retailer in the country who had only one pair of scales and he sent them to be repaired and they were held up in this way what sort of business would be done? I hope that the member in charge of matters relating to this Department will see that proper service is rendered in the Department.

Mr. COX : I want to make it clear that I am not suggesting that Goddard & Sons or any other firm should not be allowed to import meat. I quite agree with the honourable senior member for the City that if meat is not imported many people would have to do without any, because this island is not in a position to satisfy the needs of each and every person where meat is concerned. I was merely contrasting the position of Goddard & Sons, who can import meat all the time and keep a good business running, with that of the poor butcher who cannot import any meat and has to depend on getting animals for slaughter on Saturdays.

The question that the sum of £3,558 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD X—FIRE BRIGADE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,129 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I do not see a more appropriate item than "Incidentals" under which I can raise this matter, but I suggest that consideration be given in the immediate future to increasing the staff of this Department which at the moment is definitely understaffed. I hope that the Government will see the necessity for appointing additional men to this Department which I know is very much understaffed.

Mr. MAPP: There is only point which I would like to raise under this Head and it is this: I would like to know if the Government does not consider it advisable that some form of training in first aid should be given to policemen and firemen. When they arrive on the scene of an accident or a fire there may be some persons who are suffering, there is nobody to attend to them and they may die through lack of attention. The Police may not always arrive on the scene in time. I would like the Government to consider this matter of training these men in first aid so that they may be able, if the situation arises, to prevent much suffering and probably death. There was a serious accident in the parish of St. James and when the Police arrived on the scene they could not render any first aid before taking the injured parties to the General Hospital. We have not had many deaths recently as the result of any accidents or fires, but the situation may arise where people may be injured following the outbreak of some serious fire and the lack of first aid treatment may result in many deaths. The St. John Ambulance Brigade are very restricted in their services; it seems to me that they are only limited to the activities of Scouts and Guides. I am thinking of accidents taking place on the highways where people get injured and there is nobody to render any first aid treatment which might prevent the death of these people. In my opinion there should be policemen who are specially trained to help people whom they may find injured as a result of an accident on their arrival on the scene.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I hope I will not appear to be parochial but we have an Act governing the Fire Brigade, an Act which is very much out-dated. Under that Act the Fire Brigade is not supposed to go outside St. Michael, but it would be inhuman if the Head of this Department did not allow the Brigade to proceed to the parish of Christ Church or St. James to extinguish a fire. To-day people in St. Michael are called upon to pay two-thirds of the taxes in respect of the Fire Brigade and that practice has outlived its usefulness. This is a Government Department, not a parochial Department. I think that the Government should introduce an amendment to this Act so that proper provision can be made in respect of this Department. I feel that the people of this parish should not be called upon to pay two-thirds of the taxes relative to the Fire Brigade; this is a Department which should serve the entire island.

Mr. LEWIS: I think that the proper thing to be done is to tax the Fire Insurance Companies which do business all over the island. If you put a special tax on these Companies for the upkeep of the Fire Brigade they will get after the Government and see that the Government have up-

to-date equipment so as to save themselves money. If you saw what the Fire Brigade sent to the Vestry and asked them to raise, you will see that the Fire Insurance Companies should pay the amount. I think that some arrangement should be made for assistance apart from putting out a fire and the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas is a good one.

The question that the sum of £2,129 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XI—LIGHTHOUSES

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £953 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XII—REGISTRATION OFFICE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,646 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I take this opportunity to suggest to the Government what has been suggested to me. In this Office, it would hardly put people out of work, but it would be good for the Government to consider using a method which is new to Barbados, a method by which you take photographs of documents. The reproduction of the necessary documents would thus be a saving of time and that would make documents less bulky for being stored. I throw out the suggestion to the Government that they consider making this office up to date by using equipment which is used in other business houses.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In connection with item 6, "Clerical Assistance, £2,000," I am wondering if the Government would not be well advised to consider increasing the salaries of the Registering Officers, make them whole-time officers in the various parishes and let them be responsible for the preparation of the Voters' Lists. The several Voters' Lists must be prepared for the sheriffs in accordance with the Act and I think that if these officers were made whole-time officers responsible for the preparation of these Lists that would relieve much of the congestion in the Registration office.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not know what the legal position is, but what the honourable senior member for the City mentioned seems to be a sound suggestion. We have these Registering Officers who are part-time officers and it would seem that if we give them a reasonable salary for doing a part of the work which is being done in the Registration Office, that would facilitate matters and the work would be done more quickly. Sometimes a Voters' List is not in the office because it is being made up. I do not know how the suggestion of the honourable senior member for the City would work out in detail but it is something to which the Government should give consideration.

Mr. BRANCKER: This Head is causing me a certain amount of anxiety. I feel that they do not get enough clerical assistance in this office. The amount to be voted appears to be a large amount but it often happens that one goes into the Office and there is no clerk to attend to him. But the clerks are working in the vaults and I am definitely of the opinion that the Office is under-staffed, more clerical assistance being required. When there are so many more names to be added to the Voters' Lists you do not want them to lag behind and that

is what is happening to-day. All the available staff in this office is being used to the utmost so far as my investigation goes, because it is inadequate to cope with the increase of work in the office. Perhaps the congestion there could be relieved by increasing the amount of clerical assistance. I am wondering why only one typewriter has been asked for. One receives documents from this Office in handwriting and I do not think that we should receive official documents from that office in handwriting however good it might be.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Office is under-staffed but if you put more staff it would be impossible for them to work in the office. When Solicitors' clerks have to do work there you will find that there is no room for them. The point has been made that more than one typewriter should be provided but what we really want in that office is proper indexing. The indexing there is appalling; anybody is put to do that. The way in which the indexing is done makes it possible for any clerk to make a mistake which may be disastrous to his principal or to his principal's client. A person who has a neat handwriting should be put to index the volumes. The ink which is used is of a very inferior quality; if you look at some recent books you will find that the index is fading out, and in a few years' time I do not think that anybody will be able to read it. I would just draw the attention of the Government to that particular point.

Mr. ADAMS: All the suggestions which have been made are under active consideration by the Government. Only two or three weeks ago we discussed the question of making permanent records and I am glad to hear that the House is in this frame of mind, because we may have to come back for the necessary equipment. What the honourable junior member for the City was referring to is the making of micro-film copies and you can have very many books reproduced within a very small compass and on a couple of shelves; but this is a very expensive process. This device is a comparatively new one; I remember that H. G. Wells referred to it in one of his most recent books. I did not think of throwing out the suggestion and I am glad that it has come from the House because we will be more fortified in sending down a Resolution for putting it into effect. I agree with His Honour Mr. Speaker with regard to the accommodation in this Office, and the Committee will remember that one of our plans for capital expenditure is the alteration of the Law Courts. It is conceivable that this Office will be removed to a site just behind the present Law Courts. That alteration is passing through the minds of the Government; it may be possible to put the Registration Office on the site now occupied by the sheds provided for motor cars and clean up Mohogany's Lane at the same time.

The question that the sum of £2,646 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XIII — LEGISLATURE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £1,045 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: Before the question is put, I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to item 14, "Reporting and printing debates of Legislature, £200". I feel that it is high time that we go into the question of the salaries paid to the Reporters. I believe that each and every honourable member of this House will agree that within the last few years,

at least since Labour members came into the House, these Reporters have had very hard tasks. The position is quite different from years gone by when the House met once every fortnight and adjourned for eight weeks at certain seasons. Nowadays the Reporters have a lot of work to do; the salaries paid are £250 a year and £150 a year respectively, and they are in no way adequate having regard to the high cost of living and the amount of note taking and transcription which have to be done as a result of the amount of work which is done in this House now as compared with what used to be done before. I feel that all honourable members will agree that the House should go into this matter immediately because I know that it is within the power of the House to increase the salaries of its servants as it thinks fit. I am hoping that before we get through these Estimates the members of the Executive Committee will get permission to increase the salaries of these well deserving Officers.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In agreeing with the honourable senior member for St. Michael I would like to say that everyone will agree that within the last couple of years the work of this House has been much greater than it has ever been within the 300 years of the existence of the House. As I said on the last occasion, I consider that we have reached a stage when we should have a regular Department in which this work should be done. There should be an office attached to this House so that the Clerk and the Reporters would have a proper place to work, a place where the reports of debates in this House can be prepared. I do not know whether it is a matter of printing, but sometimes I receive a copy of debates which have taken place a long time ago and I would like to see better machinery set up. We have two Reporters and with all due respect to the senior Reporter, I cannot see why one should be paid £250 a year and the other £150. As a matter of fact the senior Reporter comes on at twelve o'clock and works until two o'clock and the Assistant Reporter comes on at a quarter to three and works until whenever the House adjourns. As I have said, the salaries paid are different; that happened when the former office-holder was given assistance and it was felt that his Assistant should be given less money. That is the regular Barbadian system. I feel that even if this House wants to retain a difference so far as these two Reporters are concerned there should be some better relation as regards the salaries. I would like to say that it is a question of appointing three reporters so that the debates could be taken a shuttle system could be arranged between the Reporters and honourable members could have the debates in their possession from week to week. You do not want to have a debate taken to-day and then you cannot read it until a month afterwards. The Assistant Reporter of this House receives the same salary as the Reporter of the Other Place. Mr. Chairman, the Reporters of this House must work harder than the Reporter of the Other Place and if the Assistant Reporter here receives the same salary as the Reporter of the Other Place something is wrong somewhere. You are either paying the Reporter of the Other Place too much, which I do not believe, or the Assistant Reporter over here is not being paid sufficient. This is a matter for us, not for Mr. Adams who is enquiring into the salaries paid to Civil Servants, and I feel that when the consideration of these Estimates is finished, this House should go into the matter of setting up an office for the Reporters and appointing an additional Reporter. When honourable members refer to matters they should be able to get the correct statements from the Official Reporters of the House. As the position is now, we have to depend on the newspaper; the

acoustics of this House are such that the newspaper Reporters cannot hear honourable members distinctly and I forgive them for any mistake that appears in the Press. I do not believe that the newspaper Reporters have any malicious intent. I feel that the Official Reporters are in a position to hear us a little better and we should get anything we want from them. I think that this House would be well advised to go into this matter and put our house in order. I would not say what salaries should be paid to the Reporters now because I want the House to go into the matter. If I am appointed on a Select Committee to go into the matter I will say what salaries should be paid to these Reporters.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am dealing with item 11, "Refreshments, £200." I am conspicuous by my absence in the lunch room because I do not consider that the lunch provided is good enough for members of this House (Cheers). I am serious about this matter. Honourable members will know that I look on and off in the lunch room and then go out. I do not see why honourable members should not have whisky and soda or whisky and rum. As a matter of fact, I had some of that when I used to look in. Every honourable member knows that what I am saying is true. We find that a mere sum of £200 is provided for supplying lunch for fifty-two Tuesdays! You cannot supply a decent lunch for that amount and you are not even given cigarettes. I remember that I used to smoke cigarettes up here. (Mr. ADAMS: Shame!) Shame what; before I was a member of this House I used to be invited to have cigarettes. You know that, Mr. Chairman. Somebody says that that is why they stopped it, but I say that is why we should do it now. I hope that the Government will appreciate the fact that honourable members are all busy, hard-working men and we come here on Tuesdays without eating as the honourable senior member for St. Peter says. We have not got the time for doing so really; we come here without having any proper breakfast and then we have this type of lunch provided. Even the Vestries have a better type of lunch. I feel that this is a matter which the Government should consider seriously. I do not know if there is any Standing Committee in connection with this matter but if there is such a Committee, it should make recommendations for the provision of a proper lunch. If an honourable member has a visitor here, he should be able to offer him lunch. I see no reason why he should not be able to do that. If a Leader in one of the West Indian Colonies stopped in here we should be able to entertain him to lunch and I repeat that we should be provided with better lunch. With regard to the salaries of the Reporters nobody has said what these salaries should be. Personally, when I sit here at times and hear the nonsense which the Reporters have to take down—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must not refer to honourable members' speeches as nonsense.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The senior Reporter comes on at twelve o'clock and stops working at two o'clock; the Assistant Reporter comes on at a quarter to three and works until when? It is beside the point to pay the Assistant Reporter £150 a year. The Reporters' work really begins when they get home, and they have a lot of work to do. Twenty-three of us will talk on any question and the Reporters have to take down the speeches. I hope that very shortly a Resolution will be brought before this House to pay increased salaries to the Reporters. We can put our house in order; this is nothing to do with Mr. Adams's investigation. I would suggest that the Senior Reporter be paid £400 a year and the Assistant Reporter £300 a year. As to the lunch,

my chair can be filled by anybody in the room until decent lunch is prepared.

Mr. GARNER: I did not anticipate that the honourable senior member for the City would have spoken so strongly against the present supply of refreshments; I intended to speak on that question; another honourable member has taken the wind out of my sails.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you against the refreshments or for the refreshments.

Mr. GARNER: I am for the refreshments (Laughter). I thought that the Committee would have done something more tangible. It is true that a slight improvement has been made but it is not enough. Everybody knows that now and then we get stale fish and when fish is stale it gets hard. I think we should have something different from stale fish. I eat it because I am far from home and if I went out I would not get back in. I am not saying anything against the person who provides the lunch because he provides what he is paid for. Stale fish ruins some people's stomachs especially when their stomachs are tender. We can have beer or whisky and soda. When I am at home I used that but when I come to the House I cannot get it. They should entertain me here as well as I entertain myself at home. I am doing the people's business even although they object to paying me a salary and I should be provided with lunch such as that I would have at home. I digress here to say that a few Tuesdays ago I was at home and just about two o'clock I happened to be taking my lunch. I had brandy, chicken and a lot of vegetables and I said: I feel sorry for those boys down there; they are having stale fish. (Laughter). I was tempted to stay away for another Tuesday but duty demands that I should be here. What goes into a man's stomach should be something which is up to standard. I do not know who are the members of the Committee but they should see to it that whisky and soda and ginger are provided for honourable members and one or two tins of cigarettes would not hurt. I like cigars but I would be satisfied with cigarettes. I am serious in this matter; I am not making any sport. I advise the Committee to go into the matter and see if they cannot increase this amount; when the fish is stale the caterer should be able to supply us with bacon and eggs. We cannot go on using stale fish; all we are asking is that proper lunch be supplied, give us a little drink and if anybody is over indulgent we can give him a little spanking: but I do not believe that any honourable member would be over indulgent. If any honourable member is over-indulgent some of his Party will lead him out.

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest that the Committee should postpone consideration of this Head because it seems to be the general feeling that the salaries of the Reporters should be increased as well as the amount provided for refreshments. I think that we should postpone further consideration of this Head and appoint a Committee to deal with the question of the provision of refreshments. As regards the Reporters' salaries, the Printing Committee can go into that matter and I will get permission from the Executive Committee to increase the two items. I ask leave therefore to postpone the further consideration of this Head.

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

HEAD XIV—LEGAL DEPARTMENTS

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £7,219 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: There are under this Head one or two items to which I would like to make reference. They are: item 32, "Jurors and Marshals at Grand Sessions, etc., £840"; Item 33, "Jurors at Common Pleas, £100"; item 35, "Witnesses' expenses, £900" and item 42, "Constables' fees and staves, £50". As honourable members know these people have been paid at the same rate for about 40 years. Jurors, parish constables and witnesses are now being paid the same day's pay as they were paid nearly half a century ago! They are the only people whose pay has not been increased with the passing of time, and honourable members may have noticed that direct representations have recently been made to the Judicial Department as to the inadequacy of this \$1.56 a day, I think the figure is, which includes these people's bus fare, to and from the distant parishes and they pay as much as 56c. in some cases. These people want to have some money in their hands to spend apart from having to purchase lunch and it is time that something be done in this matter. For years and years I have been bringing up this matter in this House by way of questions or Addresses and now we actually have jurymen making a move in the matter. I understand that this move is receiving the endorsement of the highest legal Authorities and I hope that the Government will see their way to increase the remuneration to a reasonable extent just as everybody's remuneration has been increased since 40 years ago. As a matter of fact, people cavil at being summoned to the Courts; they do not see why they should lose \$3 a day so as to receive 5/- a day according to the scale of pay which the existing law allows. I feel that the Act should be amended. As regards the parish constables I recall that an Address was passed by this House some time ago and after repeated queries by me as to the fate of that Address, the Government said that they propose to send down a Bill with the object of increasing the fees of these parish constables to a reasonable amount having regard to present day conditions. These constables were either paid too much 40 years ago or they are being paid too little today and I submit that the latter is the case. As regards item 51, "Probation Officers, £100", Mr. Chairman, I think that this is a matter which should engage our attention again in the near future, because the number of these Officers is not sufficient. In this matter of dealing with delinquent persons the value of the Probation Officers has proved to be extremely great and I do not think that the present staff—the gentleman and his wife—is sufficient to go all through the island and do the work which they have to do and which on account of the spread of the system will increase considerably. The more this system is brought into force, and it has received favourable comments from the Head of the Legal Departments as recently as November last year, the more will provision have to be made for people to act as Probation Officers. In keeping with the modern trend of dealing with delinquents and convicted persons the work of the Probation Officers has been proved to be successful in this country and we will soon have to increase this amount in order to provide more Probation Officers so as to cope with the amount of work which has to be done.

The question that the sum £7,219 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XV—POLICE DEPARTMENT

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £22,546 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the Government the fact that complaints have been repeatedly made to me about the way in which the Police are compelled to convey dead persons along the streets. I understand that the Police have to put these dead persons on a cart and if the cart is too short the feet of these persons hang over on one side and there is just a casual covering provided. I have seen that myself but responsible people in the community have also reported it to me; I have taken steps to have the matter remedied but apparently I have failed. I felt that this was a matter which just needed to be mentioned so as to be remedied but I was mistaken about that. I sincerely hope that some proper ambulance will be provided for the conveyance of dead persons along the street; it is a most unsightly thing at present and people all down the grades of society have complained to me about it. I feel that if I mention the matter in this House it will be remedied within a short time. I am hoping that attention will be paid to it.

Mr. SMITH: I am speaking on item 31, "Cleaning, water and light, £2,000." I should like to point out that the sanitary conditions at District "F" Police Station are very deplorable. No water is installed at this Station and at a time like this when water is scarce the van has to be used to transport water from the nearest standpipe. Sometime the policemen have to wait for a very long time until the people who have to go to their work catch their amount of water, and there you have two policemen in a van idling while they wait to get water. Sometime ago I was at this Station and I noticed a drum aback of the stable near a manure heap. I enquired if they were sending away urine and I was told that the water is kept there. Imagine water being kept there! Then there is the bucket system in use and when the janitor does not turn out to work you can imagine the state of affairs obtaining at this Station. The bucket is a very small one and there is a large number of policemen up there. I am told that they cannot use for bathing the water which they have for drinking. The policemen cannot get any water although they are supplied with light. The tank cannot produce any water because none is coming from the heavens. The policemen have to exist under these conditions and I feel that it is time that the Government consider getting water up to this Station. I may be told that the water cannot be carried up there because there is too much height; but if the water cannot be carried to the Station then the Station should be carried to the water. The whole topic at this Station is the lack of water, and in my opinion the Police Department is just as important as the Education Department. (Hear, hear). There is the Teachers' Training College at Erdiston and the teachers are provided with a housekeeper and I do not know who will pay for the meals. I say that the Police Department is of more importance on some occasions than the Education Department, and if we are going to adhere to the fundamental principle of democracy I think that the time has come when we should begin to set the ball rolling. I do not know if the Head of the Administration has visited this Station at any time. If any honourable member goes to the Station and wants the use of the back I hope that he will be able to bear me out that the conditions there are deplorable. I do not know if the Magistrate has made any use of the sanitary arrangements. I repeat that the conditions are very

deplorable and if we cannot get water to the Station the Station should be carried to the water. In my opinion, the Station should not be there at all. I hope that the Government will take this matter seriously; a policeman has told me that he had to go into Bissex Hill canes so as to answer Nature's call and that state of affairs should not exist at any Police Station. When we are asleep at night the policemen have to protect us and I care more about the Police Department than about the Education Department although both Departments are very important. At midnight when trouble takes place you want the Police Department, not the Education Department. I will never forget the time when the riots broke out; the Committee will be surprised to know that I had to run and leave my breakfast table and when the motor car came up with the policemen I returned back home. Therefore I have a soft spot in my heart for the policemen; we have to look to them at all times and we should care a lot more about them. The Police Department, the Waterworks Department, the Sanitary Department and the Education Department—these are the Departments on which the Government should keep their eyes and try to satisfy the people who work in them. When we are asleep, as I have already said, the policemen have to be out on duty and then in the morning there is no water for them to use, not even for cooking. I was looking at the Appendix to these Estimates in order to see if any provision was made for a new Police Station for District "F", but I do not see anything about that. As regards Item 51, "Motor transport, £3,700," I would like to know what is the use of the vans at the out stations because I feel that they should be put at the disposal of the policemen at night. When they send a policeman to a particular district five or six miles out at night I do not believe he goes there because there is nobody to sign his duty sheet; the van will be standing in the yard and policemen have to go five or six miles in the district when it is raining and so forth! Another point is that at times the policemen are absolutely useless because the boots they wear would awake anybody far more a thief who is peeping. I think that the van should take the policemen into the district, let them go on their duty and then it should return for them or perhaps the policemen could return to the Station themselves. I do not think that policemen should be asked to walk say, from the District "F" Station to Bathsheba or Easy Hall when it is raining; I do not believe that they go there at all. I think that the Government should provide policemen with soft boots because I was asleep one night and the noise of policemen's boots awoke me. (Laughter). I hope that the member of the Government who is in charge of matters relating to the Police Department will see that something is done so as to improve the conditions at District "F" Police Station. I would have preferred that the policemen be supplied with water and not the light; I think that instead of spending money to instal the light they should have spent it in installing water.

Mr. COX: In connection with item 4, "Rent allowance for Public Officers, £50" I should like to say that this is a vexed question among members of this Department. It is known that rent allowance is not given to certain policemen; it is not given to privation or to policemen who are married but who are not living at home at present. Many of these policemen feel that inasmuch as they have to support their wives they should be given this rent allowance. I feel that this allowance should be given to policemen whether they are married or not, because it is a part of their salary. I have already raised in this House

the point which has been raised by the honourable junior member for the City relative to the conveyance of persons who have been found dead in the street, and I want to support the honourable member now. It is a shame that you will see a cart being driven along the street and you will hear something scraping on the ground just as if meat is being transported to the Market. That noise is supposed to be caused by the feet of some dead person. As the honourable member has pointed out whether the person fits the cart or not, he is put into it with his feet hanging over and people are running behind the cart keeping a lot of noise. I feel that the government should convert one of the vans into a decent ambulance for the conveyance of these people to the Public Mortuary. That would be more in-keeping with the decency and dignity of an individual than the present arrangement which can only be applied to dumb animals. With regard to item 29, "Arms and ammunition, £600," I see that the amount has taken another rise. On the last occasion we cut down the amount to £350 and I notice that £250 has been added this year. I would like to say here and now that I cannot see my way to vote this additional £250 without being given some reasonable explanation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Read the margin; that will help tremendously.

Mr. COX: I shall do that. The note says that this amount includes the provision of £488 for the purchase of ammunition to replace present stocks which are obsolete and unreliable and a sum of £112 for the purchase of spares and materials for cleaning rifles. There again you have £488 of ammunition which has become worthless because there is no necessity for using it. That strengthens my point that is unnecessary to have this vast amount of ammunition and we cannot go on voting money for ammunition, money which could be used for increasing people's wages, to find that the ammunition is of no use after a year or so. I cannot see any justification in this explanatory note for increasing the amount. As I said on a previous occasion, before we get all this ammunition and guns, let us try and pay better wages to people, provide them with water, light and things of that sort and then get ammunition if it is necessary to do so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Ammunition gets old and it has to be thrown away.

Mr. COX: That proves that we import too much and there is no necessity for using it.

Mr. BRANCKER: I also intended to refer to item 29, "Arms and ammunition, £600," particularly in the light of paragraphs 11 and 12 of Superintendent Calver's Report. Honourable members will remember that in paragraph 11 of his Report Superintendent Calver referred to the fact that the general manner of the Police Force as a whole inclines more towards army methods than to the ordinarily understood forms of British civil police.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What does that really mean?

Mr. BRANCKER: We are too much inclined to regard our Police Force as a military rather than a civil body.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When anything happens there is nothing with which to protect the country.

Mr. BRANCKER: We have a Caribbean Regiment; if any situation arises there will be a means of dealing with it. The note to this item reads that the amount includes the provision of £488 for the purchase of ammunition to replace present stocks which are obsolete and unreliable and a sum of £112 for the purchase of spares and materials for cleaning

rifles. I would like to find out how much of this ammunition is really obsolete.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Every year it becomes so.

Mr. BRANCKER: Has it been the result of ordering too extensively in the past? If we vote money too liberally, if we vote money far in excess of what is needed, this money is absolutely being thrown away. I would like to know how much serviceable ammunition is now to hand and what has been the general rate of ordering this ammunition that there is so much of it obsolete and unreliable, because £488 is no inconsiderable amount. As regards item 35, purchase of horses, £360, there is no explanatory note but I would like to remind honourable members of paragraph 158 of Superintendent Calver's Report. In that paragraph Superintendent Calver says this:—

"The introduction of mechanical aids to police, and the potential increase in the use of mechanical methods of police patrolling, call for the numbers of horsed police to be reviewed for reduction to essential limits. Accordingly it is recommended that the personnel be reduced by thirteen to eighteen and to consist of one Sergeant, four Corporals and thirteen Constables, and the number of horses be reduced by fifteen. If a horse is occasionally required by any of the senior officers then one of the ordinary patrol horses could be used, instead of keeping animals on the strength specially for such exceptional uses . . ."

I would like to know what the attitude of the Government is as regards this particular recommendation of Superintendent Calver in the light of this item in respect of which the sum of £360 is to be voted. With regard to item 31, "Cleaning, water and light, £2,000," I entirely support the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph, but he did not realise that the sanitary arrangements at Boarded Hall are as primitive as those at District "F". The Magistrate there has an even smaller space than the Magistrate at District "F" has. These conditions have been obtaining too long for the Government not to take steps to remedy them. Every year we discuss these matters during the consideration of the Estimates and we do not seem to get any nearer towards ameliorating the state of affairs. In connection with item 43, "Rent of Police Sub-Stations, £150," I see that the amount is required for the rental of the Police Sub-Stations at Eagle Hall and Oistins. I am wondering whether the Government will purchase these sites or whether some other sites will be obtainable. As regards item 52, "Maintenance of prisoners in Lock-ups, £25," the note says that prisoners after conviction are immediately transferred to Glendairy Prison. I do not know the significance of this word "immediately" because sometimes prisoners are not transferred to Glendairy Prison for several hours after conviction. I take it that this note is the explanation as to why this amount is so small but inasmuch as people are often kept waiting for a van or for some other purpose, this £25 is an under-estimate except the Government believe that prisoners are immediately transferred to Glendairy Prison as they would have us believe.

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

Mr. SYMONDS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The Chairman reported the consideration of fourteen Heads of the Estimates, the postponement of two and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the Select Committee to be appointed to consider the matter of refreshments for members of the House under the Head "Legislature" be the same Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the amenities of the House with the addition of the honourable senior member for Christ Church, the honourable junior member for St. John and the honourable junior member for St. George.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The honourable senior member for St. Joseph, (Mr. Adams), the honourable senior member for St. Philip, (Mr. Crawford), the honourable junior member for St. Peter, (Mr. Ramsay), the honourable junior member for St. James, (Mr. Wilkinson), the honourable junior member for the City, (Mr. Lewis), the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, (Mr. Brancker), the honourable junior member for St. Philip, (Mr. Garner), the honourable senior member for the City, (Mr. Mottley), the honourable senior member for Christ Church, (Mr. Talma), the honourable junior member for St. John, (Mr. Blackman), and the honourable junior member for St. George, (Mr. Symmonds) and I associate myself with the Committee.

Mr. RAMSAY: I was hoping that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph would ask that a Select Committee be appointed to go into the question of the Reporters' salaries.

Mr. ADAMS: That will be dealt with by the Printing Committee.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking honourable members to meet again on Thursday and I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Thursday, the 18th day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon. We did not meet last Thursday because of sport and the majority of the House were willing to help those

honourable members who like that form of pleasure. I am asking honourable members to see that if we go on at the rate at which we are going on, we will have to meet on Thursday as well.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the words "Thursday, the 18th day of March, 1948," be deleted in order to insert the words "Tuesday next, the 23rd day of March, 1948."

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: A motion has been made that this House do now adjourn to Thursday, the 18th day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon. An amendment has been moved that the words "Thursday, the 18th day of March, 1948," be deleted in order to insert the words "Tuesday next, the 23rd day of March, 1948." The question 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.

A division was taken as follows:—

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in a "tie", eight honourable members voting each way. In accordance with precedent I vote with the "Noes". I should like to explain that the ordinary adjournment is for a week and I vote with the "Noes" although it is against my wish. The question now is that the words "Tuesday next, the 23rd day of March, 1948," be inserted in the blank created. 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 23rd 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.