

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 25th 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*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., F. L. WALCOTT, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, A. E. S. LEWIS, H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., V. C. GALE, M. E. COX, and C. E. TALMA.

Prayers are read.

MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting which was held on Tuesday this week have not yet been printed and circulated.

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

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the honourable junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. SMITH) was appointed Chairman of Committees for the day's sitting.

RESIGNATION OF MR. J. T. C. RAMSAY.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day is to consider a letter from the honourable junior member for St. Peter resigning his seat as a member of this House. Under Rule 54, unless any honourable member objects, I shall direct that the letter be recorded in the Minutes and then declare the seat vacant. (After a pause). No honourable member having taken any objection I direct that the letter be recorded in the Minutes of to-day's proceedings and I declare the seat vacant.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Before I move the passing of an Address to fill the seat rendered vacant by the resignation of the junior member for St. Peter I should like to say that I came to this Chamber about three years as the result of the seat having been vacated by the same honourable member and to-day I am moving the Address to have the seat filled in similar circumstances. I believe that Mr. Ramsay's

work could be more appreciated outside than inside this House. The most conspicuous part of his service in this House was that of Chairman of Committees and I feel sure that we shall miss his services in that direction very much indeed. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Address to His Excellency the Governor do now pass:—

BARBADOS.

To His Excellency Sir Hilary Rudolph Robert Blood, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados.

May it please Your Excellency.

A vacancy having occurred in the General Assembly owing to James Tartan Collymore Ramsay, Esquire, a Member for the parish of St. Peter having vacated his seat.

We, the Representatives of the people in the General Assembly, pray that Your Excellency-in-Executive Committee will be pleased to issue a new Writ for the election of a member to serve in the General Assembly for the parish of St. Peter in place of the said James Tartan Collymore Ramsay.

Mr. GALE: I should like to second the motion for the passing of this Address and in doing so I should like to pay a small tribute to the retiring member. He has been in this House for some years and as the member for St. Peter said, he performed the duties of Chairman of Committees during this session and I must say that he did so with credit to himself and to this House. He was very impartial and I think that all the members of the House are satisfied with the way in which he conducted the proceedings as Chairman of Committees. As a member of this House I would say that he was quite a fearless man. He expressed his opinions fearlessly in the way in which he saw things and I am sure that he had the confidence of all the members of this House. Now that he has retired I am sure that this House regrets that he is no longer a member.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable member for St. Peter to be so good as to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: As Your Honour pleases.

FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR 1948-49.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for 1948-49.

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

HEAD XXIX—MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I am asking permission to add an item, Liaison Officer for West Indian Students in the United Kingdom, to be numbered 48. It should have been inserted under Head, Education, but I temporarily forgot to do so. The Government has received certain communications from the Secretary of State for the Colonies as to the necessity for appointing a West Indian Liaison Officer to assist in the welfare of West Indian Students in the United Kingdom. After these communications, the Government of Jamaica agreed to co-operate and to place the services of Mr. G. E. M. Mills, a Jamaican, at the disposal of the British West Indian Colonies and British Guiana for this purpose. He is a B.Sc., (Honours) of London University, has an excellent academic and athletic record and his services will be available for this appointment for a period of two years. Barbados will pay 9 per cent. of the annual cost, British Guiana 18 per cent., and Trinidad 23 per cent., and 9 per cent., comes to £135. We also have to provide 9 per cent. of his pension and these will bring our contribution to about £145. The Government is, therefore, asking this Committee to agree to this appointment and to our contribution. As honourable members have heard, our contribution is considerably less than that of either Trinidad or British Guiana. My personal experience, twenty years ago, was that Barbadians were the most neglected of all colonial students in the U.K. and I am sure that Barbadian students would be very glad to know that there is a Liaison Officer in the United Kingdom who can assist them in all those necessary things which are relative to extra-mural life of students. When I went over to England as a student, the Director for Colonial Students told me that he was responsible for students from every other colony except Barbados. We have gone a long way since then. There was no Hostel twenty five years ago and something of this nature was done in an unofficial way by the Colonial Office during the War. It is now proposed that it should be done permanently and I, therefore, ask leave to add item 48, Liaison Officer for West Indian Students in the United Kingdom £145, to this Head. I now beg to move that the sum of £35,882 be voted under this Head.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to get a little information in respect of certain items under this Head. Take first of all the item which the honourable member just added. I refer honourable members to item 32, Students in the United Kingdom £80, under Head 20, Education and to the explanatory note on page 31 of the Estimates which states:—"New Item. Includes provision previously made under Head 28, item 24, Colonial Centre, London. To be administered by the Director of Colonial Scholars for the general benefit of Barbadian Students in the United Kingdom." I am just wondering whether the item which has been added under this Head is in addition to item 32 under Head 20. I would just like to know that if this person who is appointed does not prove to be satisfactory whether we can relieve him of the trouble he may be having and get somebody else. I would

like to know exactly if I shall be able to correct dissatisfaction easily in case it arises. Next I should like to refer to item 35, Payment of passages of Public Officers on first appointment £1,000. We had previously agreed to vote £200 for this purpose. It appears that in 1945-46 we spent £203 and in 1946-47 £949. This year £1,000 has been included in the Estimates for 1948-49 for the payment of passages of Public Officers on their first appointment and I would like to find out if the honourable member knows that there are going to be a number of imported officials during this year and that that is the reason why this vote has been increased to £1,000. It seems to me to be a big provision we are making and I should like to know the reason for this large increase in the amount.

Mr. ADAMS: As far as I know we have an Attorney General and a Financial Secretary coming. No other appointments, to my knowledge, have been made or are being contemplated. I have been reminded that now that the Hospital is a Government Department, the first appointments to that institution will be included.

Mr. COX: Before the question is put I should like to make a few remarks first of all in respect of item 26, Maintenance of Garrison Savannah £128. On the last occasion when the Estimates were being considered by this House I raised the question of the absence of sanitary conveniences at the Savannah for persons attending the Races. The junior member for St. Michael assured us then that if the Government would give the Turf Club the opportunity to erect these conveniences they would be glad to do so. Since then, I have not seen anything done and I would like to say that this lack of sanitary conveniences creates a hardship on persons attending the Races. Everybody knows that horse-racing, especially as far as the owners are concerned, is a very remunerative business. Quite a lot of money is won or thrown away on race days by persons who attend the Races and I think that it is time that some sanitary accommodation be provided for those people at the Savannah. I feel too that a shelter or shelters should be provided, so that when rain falls, people could shelter from it. I feel that something should also be done to give greater satisfaction to persons who patronize the Parimutuel. Again, persons who patronize the 3/- stand are locked in and if they have occasion to go out they are called upon to pay another fee to re-enter. That, Sir, in my opinion, is not fair and I think that all these points which I have raised are worthy of consideration by the Turf Club with the view of improving the present conditions. Another thing which I should like to know is whether the Government receives anything by way of rent for the use of the Garrison Savannah by the Turf Club.

Mr. HAYNES: I am glad that the senior member for St. Michael raised his last point because it always appeared to me that the rentals for the Savannah, especially for Race Meetings, are absolutely infinitesimal. There should be seats and other proper amenities on the Garrison Savannah, as is the case with the Queen's Park Savannah in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and greater rentals should be charged for the use of it. At present I believe the infinitesimal sum of £5 is charged by the Government for the use of the Savannah by the Turf Club. One could hardly believe that a Government could charge that peppercorn rent for the Savannah. Really I cannot understand what the Government was thinking of when it did a thing of that sort. I hope that the present Government will look into the matter. I am very glad that the senior member for St. Michael has brought it up and perhaps he will influence the Government more than I can.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. GALE: As far as the point about latrine accommodation is concerned, the Turf Club did have in mind the erection of latrines for the accommodation of the public in attendance at Race Meetings but it is very difficult to get a suitable site. You cannot make the Savannah look unsightly by erecting latrines in the centre of it and the other places where they can be erected are in proximity to the residences of people up there. The Turf Club has not been able, so far, to find suitable sites for the erection of latrines but they have the project in mind and will carry it into effect as soon as they can find a suitable site or sites. The senior member for St. Andrew has talked about the infinitesimal amount which the Government is receiving for the rent of the Savannah but I should like to inform the honourable member that during last year the Government received £9,000 out of the Sweepstakes which are run by the Turf Club. The honourable member made reference indirectly to the Trinidad Turf Club. The Trinidad Turf Club pays absolutely nothing for the use of the Race Course at Queen's Park Savannah. Horse-racing is looked upon as a sport for the public of Trinidad and nobody is charged one half-penny to go on the race course. Everybody who attends the Races at Queen's Park Savannah see them free of charge from any part of the Savannah.

Mr. COX: I do not quite understand the junior member for St. Michael when he says that the Turf Club cannot find a suitable site or sites on the Savannah for the erection of a latrine or latrines. After all people have W.C.'s in their homes and I do not see how there can be any difficulty in finding a site for the erection of a latrine at the Savannah. I see no harm in erecting a latrine in the vicinity of the stables and I would go further and observe that when the manure is being removed from the stables it must be offensive to the persons who reside in the neighbourhood.

Mr. HAYNES: I only hope that the members of the Government heard the remarks of the junior member for St. Michael. He said that the Turf Club paid the Government last year £9,000 out of their profits. What has the Government to do with the profits of the Turf Club as far as the rental of the Savannah is concerned? If a person who rents a building to do business makes a fortune out of his business, that has nothing to do with his landlord as far as his rent is concerned. I think the honourable member's argument is very poor and I only hope that the members of the Government will not pay any heed to what he has said.

Mr. ADAMS: There are some rentals by the Government of government property, principally to a few merchants in the City, that are disgraceful; that is a legacy of the unhappy past. There is government land which is rented at £1 a year which would be rented in the market possibly for £200 or £300 a year. Our hands are tied in regard to some of these leases. There is one government property which is leased at a rental of £5 a year but the lease is not up until 1970 and unless we pass a special law to cancel it we have to wait until the lease is up. I am not sure what the lease is for the Turf Club. It did not occur to me what the position was with regard to the Turf Club but now that it has been drawn to my attention I think the honourable members who raised and supported the point can rest assured that this Government is not prepared to let the present system be perpetuated, especially in regard to an organization such as the Turf Club.

The question that the sum of £35,882 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXX—INCOME TAX AND DEATH DUTIES DEPARTMENT

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the sum of £36,098 is voted under this Head.

HEAD XXXI—LABOUR DEPARTMENT

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the sum of £965 is voted under this Head.

HEAD XXXII—DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £168,531 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—There is a lot to be said in connection with this Head. First of all, there is that old bone of contention, item 2, Executive Engineer. Now, Sir—

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid that I can allow no discussion on that item because it is fixed by law.

Mr. HAYNES: I was craving your indulgence, Sir, but I shall have to bow to your ruling.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—I want to make a few general remarks under this Head on the policy of the Department and I want the senior member for St. Joseph to listen to me because I am very sore on this matter. I crave your indulgence, Sir, to speak on item 8, Foreman Mechanic. I am not questioning the salary which is fixed by law but I want to say—

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but the salary of this office is fixed by law and I am afraid that I cannot allow any discussion on it.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am rising to a point of order. I claim that these items under (a) personal emoluments of this Head, with the exception of the Director, are not fixed by law. The mere fact of putting the salaries attached to these offices in the column "Fixed by Law" does not make them fixed by law. The Act was passed in 1945 and in neither the Estimates for 1946-47 nor the Estimates for 1947-48 were these salaries put in the column "Fixed by Law" but they have been taken bodily now by somebody and put in that column in these Estimates for 1948-49. I asked the senior member for St. Joseph at an early stage of the consideration of these Estimates to be prepared to explain the matter to me because as far as I can understand the Act, it does not contain this new method of fixing these salaries by law; it just provides that the Governor should make these appointments and that the money should be paid out of the Treasury; it does not provide that these appointments shall be made by Special Resolution which, we understand now, is to become the legal method of making appointments of this nature. If somebody in authority has deliberately printed these salaries in the column "Fixed by Law" this year when in previous years they were printed in the column "To be voted," then this House is entitled to an explanation of the matter. I fail to understand why these salaries should have been voted during the consideration of previous years' Estimates if they were the law of the land. Take the Colonial Secretary's Department and recent appointments to it. A special Resolution was passed by the Legislature before those appointments became legal and a similar step was taken in respect of appointments to the Department of Science and Agriculture but so far as the Highways and Trans-

port Department is concerned, it is the only Department in which its appointees are dealt with in this manner, that is to say, their salaries are inserted in the column "fixed by law" without a special Resolution having been previously passed to enable that to be done. This certainly needs to be explained. We cannot have four or five methods of declaring persons to be Civil Servants, and some explanation should be given, not only for the benefit of the members of this House but also for the satisfaction of the persons concerned.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to speak on items 32, 33, and 34—Crushing and Stationary plant equipment and tools, Road rolling equipment, and Transport train respectively. Now, we are spending a large sum of money on this Department as a whole and it has been drawn to my attention that there is a man who is seeing after all this plant and equipment for which we are voting these large sums of money and that he knows nothing about this work. About six months ago, we, in this House, increased the salary of the Foreman Mechanic of this Department to £400—

THE CHAIRMAN: On which item are you speaking?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am speaking on item 32.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item 32 does not deal with the Foreman Mechanic.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: We cannot spend so much money on a Department unless we have skilled people to do the work which requires skill. I understand that a Mr. Warner—Capt. Warner of the Volunteer Force—is the man who is seeing after this plant and equipment. He may be an admirable man as a man but I do not believe that this House, when it increased the salary of that office, intended that it should be paid to a man who does not possess the necessary qualification for this job and there are many men in this island who have the qualification to repair the Government's machinery in this Department. If they want to give this gentleman a job they can send him back to the Volunteer Force, now that we are about to pass a Bill to resuscitate the Force. It is not fair to those technicians who are qualified to fill this post to take a man from the Volunteer Force who knows nothing about the work to be done and put him in it. Sometime ago, the Superintendent Mechanic was acting in another capacity in this Department and this gentleman was put to act as Superintendent Mechanic. To my mind, that is disgraceful. You are putting this gentleman in an invidious position because he cannot command respect from the men of whom he is in charge if they realize that he knows nothing about the work. These men have diesel engines to look after and the man who is supposed to be the boss mechanic is not as skilled as the workers under him. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that a strong protest should be made in this matter. The four members of this House who are members of the Executive Committee may not be responsible for appointments to these posts but we are voting this large sum of money for this Department and personally I would not sit here silently and vote the money for this office—Foreman Mechanic—knowing that the person who is seeing after this machinery is not a qualified man. This is a small island and when one does not approve of something that is done one is accused of being personal but I do not mind an accusation of that sort when I know that the person who is occupying this post is not capable of holding it. I do not know who has appointed him to it but I suggest that he be sent back to the Volunteer Force or be appointed to some other post in the Service.

Messrs. MOTTLEY and BRANCKER entered the House while Mr. Walcott was speaking and took their seats.

Mr. BRANCKER: There are one or two items under this Head about which I should like to make a few remarks. This is undoubtedly one of the worst run, if not the worst run, Government Departments in this colony. I shall speak firstly on item 42, Plant, tools, spares and equipment £11,710, under sub-head (c) Extraordinary Works, of this Head. I would really like to know what is going to happen. As far as this plant and machinery are concerned, they are under the supervision of an officer who is known as the Superintendent Mechanic and as far as I know there is a lot of plant and machinery in this Department; yet we are being asked to vote £11,000 more for this purpose. What is the supervision which is being exercised in respect of this plant and machinery? I understand that the Superintendent Mechanic has been given time off, for the past several weeks, to go all over the island interfering with what he knows nothing about, that is, the supervision of road work. He is a motor mechanic with highly specialized knowledge of that kind of work and my suggestion is to let "the cobbler stick to his last." In a Department in which it is proposed to spend as much as £168,531 of the taxpayers' money in the coming financial year, surely we should not have roads looked after by the gentleman who is acting as Executive Engineer and who probably knows as much about road work as you, Mr. Chairman, or I. He is put to act as Executive Engineer, and I should really like to know how many jobs he can do at the same time. He is Superintendent Mechanic; he is Engineer in charge of Water Craft. Certainly there could not be many calls upon this gentleman's time if he can do so many jobs and be presumed to be doing them efficiently. It is very unfair, especially having regard to the fact that we have laid it down that the Executive Engineer should be a qualified Civil Engineer. We have been told that the office has remained vacant for many years simply because we could not find a suitable man and now we discover that the Superintendent Mechanic of the Department is considered capable of filling it. If we accept what is taking place as correct, we could, in my opinion, have filled that office ever since because Barbados is filled with competent motor mechanics. This gentleman, in addition to his multifarious and other activities, is put to direct the road overseers in the performance of their duties. He has been put in charge of these overseers, some of whom are well educated, intelligent men who have qualified themselves by taking Courses and obtaining Diplomas in Road engineering. There is on the permanent staff of this Department an Associate Member of the Technological Institute of Great Britain and this Superintendent Mechanic is placed over those overseers, not because he is similarly qualified but because, it is said, of the lighter hue of his skin. We must let the public feel that so far as this Department is concerned, no question of race or colour will be allowed to interfere with the working of it and that no partiality will be tolerated. If the officers of this Department are not satisfied to work under qualified and certificated men of a darker complexion, let them be told that it is not obligatory on their part to remain and the quicker they are got rid of, the better for the Department. I pass on, Sir, to item 32, Crushing and Stationary plant equipment and tools. All this plant and equipment, Mr. Chairman, it is clearly the duty of the Superintendent Mechanic to look after and although he has that job in the Department he is given time off to do the du-

ties of an obviously whole-time office, the office of Executive Engineer for which a salary of £650 by £25 to £750 a year is provided; he is appointed to this office to the satisfaction of the Head of the Department even though it may not be to the satisfaction of a single taxpayer in the colony. As regards Transport, Sir, we are asked to vote £2,400 for the marking and maintenance of traffic lines and signs, road signs and bus stops—item 27—and the explanatory note states:—"Increase due to provision for re-siting and replacing bus stops and road signs and for wages and uniforms of car-park attendants in connection with proposed one way traffic scheme." So far as bus stops are concerned, people have been trying for years to get bus stops in certain districts. It is in the interest of the people who drive the buses that they be not required by unreasonable passengers to stop sometimes at house after house. For instance, between the Black Rock terminus and Paynes Bay you will get passengers on buses who are living in houses near one another and the driver must stop at distances of a few yards each for each passenger to get out. There is no thought or care for the unfortunate driver. In former days, material was not obtainable for bus stops but material is now available and yet no stops have been put along the route I have mentioned, although on other routes there are bus stops at far distances from the town. This Department, as far as the Transport Branch is concerned, is exposing itself to the criticism of being partial towards certain concessionaires. There are two concessionaires who can get anything they want on application to the Department; they have no trouble at all but in the case of the others, unnecessary objections are raised when they make application or applications are made on their behalf. If a concessionaire is required to have ten buses and he happens to own fifteen and wants the extra five to be on service, they tell him that the extra five are not to be considered at all. Apparently those extra five are not buses. Let it not be forgotten that the poor people depend on the buses to take them around and about. Honourable members of this House, except perhaps the junior member for the City, have their cars but the poor people depend on the buses and in certain districts they like to travel on a particular type of bus; they do not want to be compelled to travel on the "Leeward" Buses, for instance, if they can do so on the "National." Every man has friends. The Department wants to keep some people out of the business although those people are doing all they can to keep their buses in first class order and have some of the best units on the roads. In respect of this item 27, Marking and maintenance of traffic lines and signs, road signs and bus stops, let it be not confined to certain routes over which two favourite concessionaires run their buses but let it be extended to every route and give every bus driver the opportunity of a reasonable amount of respite, so that certain of them will not be required to stop every few yards or every few feet to put down certain types of extremely unreasonable passengers. Now, Sir, I come next to items 35 and 36, Highways and Parish Roads respectively. You know that from time to time questions are asked in this House about when does the Government propose to do certain roads. For instance, the senior member for St. Andrew at nearly every meeting of the House asks when does the Government propose to start the East Coast Road and the Government invariably replies that they are awaiting the appointment of an Executive Engineer of the Department. If they had appointed the Superintend-

ent Mechanic or some other motor mechanic Executive Engineer, that road would have been done some time ago. There are highly qualified, properly certificated men in these parts who are available for filling this post but so far as I can gather, the unpopular hue is against them. The obvious man to appoint as Executive Engineer is a man who is a qualified engineer and who is willing to carry on with the job. You do not have to have somebody from England or to wait for some English gentleman who may be seeking a job to apply. We must not go on waiting for them. You remember what the Governor of Trinidad stated in that circular which he sent to the Heads of Departments in that colony. Let us appoint local men wherever and whenever possible and when I say "local men" I mean not only Barbadians but West Indians in general. If we have, as I know we have, a properly qualified, certificated man available, why not appoint him to the post? Another thing is this. We are experimenting with ministerial responsibility and Heads of Departments should be told that when it comes to any question of principle or policy they must go to the Ministers responsible for their respective Departments and tell them that they propose to do so and so. Let the Heads of Departments understand that they are merely Heads but that so far as policy is concerned they must be guided by the Ministers responsible for their respective Departments and I am sure that if that policy is pursued and the Minister in charge of this Department takes it in hand and keeps the Director in his place you will get things running quite differently from how they are being run now. There is one other item to which I should like to refer and it is item 25, House allowances £420. The explanatory note states:—"To pay an allowance at the rate of £30 per annum to every Overseer who resides within the district to which he is posted." £30 per annum is \$12 per month. Those of us who have experience of house rentals know what it is for one to have to live out of one's district. Fancy giving an Overseer a rent allowance of \$12 per month! You require the man to live out of his district and then you say to him "We give you the magnificent and princely sum of \$12 per month as rent allowance. I am sorry that you, Sir, are in the Chair because you have a lot of experience about these matters and would be able to place it at the disposal of this House. What kind of a house could an Overseer obtain to rent for \$12 per month? I remember that in former days the Central Road Board used to give overseers a rent allowance of \$20 per month each and in the parish of St. Andrew or St. Lucy where there are only two or three suitable houses available, the rent automatically went up to \$20 per month. No one could get a proper house to rent to-day at \$12 per month. You either give an Overseer a proper rent allowance or you want him to live in some dilapidated shack in some part of the country. Finally, Sir, I come to item 24, Unestablished Staff, £34,957, the explanatory note to which states:—"Includes provision for leave pay to public employees. Increase due to provision of increments and additional appointments." Now, Mr. Chairman, as to this item I do not know whether within the terms of reference to Mr. Adams, C.B.E., such persons as the unestablished staff of Government Departments come but I must point out to the Government that the unestablished staff of this Department are having a very hard time. \$1.12 per day which these road labourers receive is completely inadequate. If I ever saw a case in which poor work was being done by these labourers I could never complain. How could anyone in the hot sun be reasonably expected by any em-

ployer, especially an employer who is in a position to pay, to give a full day's work when he receives only \$1.12 per day? The least that could be done with this rate of pay is to double it. The work is hard and is done under a hot tropical sun for many hours a day. And do not let us forget that these casual labourers would look forward to Christmas like private employees do. But there is no Christmas bonus for them, except through you, Sir, and me. These labourers get no pay when they do not work and I feel that as far as the unestablished staff is concerned we should find out the maximum number who can be put on the weekly roll. A person does not enjoy a holiday if he does not have money in his pocket to spend and something in his plate to eat. I suggest that these labourers be put on the weekly pay roll, so that when it comes to Christmas Day, Xmas Bank-holiday and New Year's Day it will not be a case of no work no pay where they are concerned. I think I have covered most of the ground in those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, and I am looking forward seriously to this year's deliberations under this Head of the Colonial Estimates and to a marked improvement in the state of affairs so far as the Department of Highways and Transport is concerned.

Dr. WILSON entered the House while Mr. BRANCKER was speaking and took his seat.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman,—The first item on which I want to speak is item 24, Unestablished Staff. Sir, I feel just as strongly as, or more strongly than, the honourable member who has just sat down on this question of the wages paid to the unestablished staff of this Department. We are all looking forward to the recommendations of Mr. G. H. Adams, C.B.E., hoping that these labourers will receive wages commensurate with the work they do and the high cost of living. I want to mention something relative to the employees of this Department, more especially the mechanics. Since the individual who is more or less filling the role of Foreman Mechanic has been taken on I understand that there is a checking of tools and that without any notification having been given to the mechanics their names were sent to the Police Post in Bay Street and posted up there and that detectives were walking through that Department enquiring into the circumstances. Sir, I consider that a very disgraceful state of affairs. It may be that tools could have been missing long before many of these mechanics were employed by the Department and it was possible that while the men were at work, detectives could have gone and searched their homes, and attempted to disgrace them. I think that the matter has been reported to at least one member of the Executive Committee and I only hope that it will be investigated and that many of the other outstanding grievances, some of which have been mentioned to the senior member for St. Joseph, which employees of this Department have will be redressed. Next I come to item 22, Travelling expenses £3,000. This question of travelling allowance has been drawn to the notice of this Government on many occasions in this House and I must say that it is very unsatisfactory. Sometimes these workmen have to be working as far as 4 miles from the City before they are considered for travelling allowance. Many of them live in the City and are required to work in St. Andrew and other outlying parishes and unfortunately for many of them, even though the lorry or lorries may be leaving the district or districts in which they are working at the very time they knock off, they cannot get a lift on those lorries. I feel that just as private employees provide means of transportation—the Electric Co. and the Telephone Co., for example—for their em-

ployees, so too should this Government provide means of transportation for its workers to and from work if it does not want them to travel on its lorries. Very often some of these men have to rise as early as two o'clock in the morning in order to be able to get to their work in time and I think that the Government should have some sympathy for them and take them to and from their work in the country districts. I take it that if they are taken to and from their work they will give better results and I am hoping that that matter will also be looked into. I refer next to items 32, 33 and 34. I notice that the Government is spending something like £6,060 yearly on the maintenance of the plant and machinery of this Department. I also notice that the sum of £979 is being paid to the two Foundries in this island for repairing machinery belonging to the Government; that is approximately one-sixth of the £6,060 which is voted for the maintenance of the plant and machinery. I think that the time has come when a Department such as the Highways Department, which has so many skilled workers, should establish a proper maintenance service whereby they may be able to employ fitters, turners and workers of that type to repair the Government's machinery and so reduce this high expenditure which, perhaps, goes into the pockets of a few people; employees such as these would, at the same time, have security of tenure and would be able to look forward to the receipt of a pension. That is another matter to which, I hope, the Government will give its consideration. With regard to the filling of the post of Foreman Mechanic I will say at the outset that it is a disgrace and casts reflection on somebody. When this post was advertised, the applicants were required to have at least three qualifications (1) a practising mechanic of 10 years' standing at the time of application, (2) must be serving in a supervisory capacity and (3) should have a thorough knowledge of combustion engines; those were the qualifications which were stipulated and the salary at the time was £250 per annum. Well, Sir, you will recollect that in 1946 we voted this salary of £250 and a qualified mechanic was appointed to the post. That mechanic died and the post was never filled until quite recently a soldier happened to be put into it. I do not know if he has been employed to shoot the workers over there or not but I would like to say that his appointment is a disgrace and a reflection on somebody.

The CHAIRMAN: What item are you speaking on?

Mr. COX: I am speaking on items 32, 33, and 34. When this post was advertised, one applicant received a reply from the Colonial Secretary's Office as follows:—

"Sir,

I am directed to refer to your application for the post of Foreman Mechanic and to inform you that after careful consideration it has been decided not to proceed to fill this vacancy."

Now, after it was clearly stated that they were not going to fill this office — Foreman Mechanic—we find that a man who knows absolutely nothing about machinery is called in and pushed into it.

The CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled that that item is fixed by law and cannot be discussed.

Mr. COX: The Foreman Mechanic has to deal with the plant and machinery of this Department and I am speaking about the person who has been appointed to be in charge of that plant and machinery. I go further. I would like to say that it has been reported to me that at one time a plug seemed to have been missing in one of the units. When it was taken to this gentleman he went with it

to the Transport Foreman who is a trained mechanic and who told him that the engine would have to be taken down. To continue, Sir. After it was stated that they could not get a man to fill the post of Foreman Mechanic for the salary of £250 per annum, this House increased the amount and if the money which we have voted for this purpose is frittered away in this manner we should not vote any more. I am saying that this House would be acting judiciously if it suggested that this particular individual be sent back to his former post and that a trained mechanic be appointed to this post. It is no wonder that we have to spend £979 to have these machines repaired by the Foundries; it is the result of having people occupying posts who do not know anything about what they are doing.

There is only one more point I would like to make and it is in connection with item 26, Leave pay to casual employees £200. I feel, Sir, that this amount is totally inadequate for this purpose. Under the Public Employees Leave Regulations Act, 1935, these employees are allowed a period of three weeks' leave—one week from duty and two weeks' sick leave—and I think that it is time that the regulation be amended so that these people can get, especially when they are ill, at least two months' leave because nobody, after all, has any control over health and the excessively hard work which some of the people of this unestablished staff have to do—day in and day out, sometimes in the rain and in the hot sun, without receiving wages commensurate with that work to enable them to keep their bodies as healthy and as vigorous as they should be,—makes them susceptible to illness more so than people who are well fed. I think that some consideration should be given to these casual employees as far as leave is concerned and that the present period of leave should be extended.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—As regards Item 37, Upkeep of guard-walls and suck wells, I think most honourable members have read about the serious accident which occurred in St. George recently owing to the lack of a guard wall or some other protection around a suck well. Further, if one drives around the country one will notice very few signs indicating the location of suck wells. I am told that these things are neglected owing to the absence of an Executive Engineer, a post that has been vacant for nearly five years or longer. Every year we vote the salary but yet no one has been appointed. I understand that that post can be filled by a man who is willing to take it provided he is granted a house by the Government. Consider all those flats at the Garrison in which the Government is practically allowing people to live free at rentals of \$15 and \$20 per month, and the Government thinks hard to give one of those tenants notice to quit so as to provide housing accommodation for an important official like this and enable him to come here and take this job! Years ago house rent in Barbados was normal. We all know what it is to-day and we will never get proper officials to come here unless we make some provision for them by way of housing accommodation. Some of those flats are rented by people who have no interest in the island for \$15 or \$20 a month—absolutely ridiculous! These amounts are hardly sufficient to pay for the washing of the walls while officials cannot come here unless they are fleeced by private landlords with rentals of \$50 or \$60 or \$70 or \$80 a month. I believe the honourable member who is spokesman for the Government knows what I have said to be correct because I am told on good authority that the Colonial Office has a man for the post of Executive Engineer but that

he is not coming unless housing accommodation is provided for him. If a small matter like that cannot be settled by the Government I would like to know what can be settled by it. One goes to the Director of Highways and Transport and asks "why has not so and so been done?" and the reply invariably is "I am regularly in the office and cannot get out to do my work and I do not have my second to help me." That is all well and good but year after year we vote these large sums of money for this Department and get very little work done. The public has become tired of what I would call procrastination on the part of the Department of Highways. It is time that those who have the power to act should act and one wonders how a simple matter like this has escaped the attention of those in authority. The next item to which I would like to refer is item 41, Special reserve for extraordinary flood damage. The sum of £2,000 is voted for this purpose, yet year after year only £700 or £800 is spent except we get copious rains. Why swell one Head of the Estimates with money which you cannot spend unless something happens? If we should have a flood, the senior member for St. Joseph would come here with a Resolution to relieve the situation and I am sure that the House would grant the money. I consider that all these things need a little attention by those who have to look after them. Another item about which I would make a brief remark is item 32, Crushing and Stationary plant equipment and tools. I would like to know if all these crushers have been placed in one shelter yet. Years ago they had these crushers in various parishes so as to save transportation costs. I believe there is one in St. Lucy and another in Christ Church and there should be at least one in St. Andrew (Laughter).

Mr. GARNER entered the House while Mr. Haynes was speaking and took his seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—I want to speak on items 22 to 42 inclusive. I shall begin by saying that this is only my second session and I do appreciate the criticisms which are offered in this House when we come to deal with the Department of Highways and Transport. Now, I want to say this: It must be obvious to this Government at least that it is time that some other advice be tendered at this Department. I make that statement for this reason. However well-meaning the Director may be it must be perfectly clear to this Government that having appointed him to work under the existing law is nothing of which it can be proud; in other words, anyone who takes the trouble to read the law will see that so much power is put into the hands of one man that you wonder whether this is the only Government Department in the whole island. The Director of Highways and Transport works to-day under an Act which, Mr. Chairman, was originally intended for a Board and all the powers which were vested in a Board are now vested in an individual. That, I say, is the principal reason why honourable members are afforded the opportunity year after year of offering these criticisms, some of which in many instances are very constructive. Now, I am going to deal chiefly with item 27, Marking and maintenance of traffic lines and signs, road signs and bus stops. There are several places where signs are placed adjacent to deep gutters, which makes it rather dangerous for persons, particularly the fair sex, who when alighting from buses have to display great agility to prevent themselves from stepping into water. I feel that greater attention should be paid to the placing of these signs and some of them should definitely be removed from their present sites. I suppose that it is well to say this: I observed quite

recently in the *Official Gazette* that notice has been given that in the very near future the Authorities will institute one-way traffic — a very admirable thing — and that there will be no parking on certain streets — another very admirable thing; but I have not seen any tentative arrangements made for parking places for the owners of motor vehicles. There again I do not know what is being done but I am bound to make the observation that if the Authorities continue to accept people's money as payment for licences for vehicles such as automobiles and then they suddenly bring into force these regulations without having provided necessary places for parking, it is going to create a tremendous difficulty. I make that observation for the benefit of the honourable member in charge of this Department and I repeat that to bring these regulations into force without making the necessary provisions for the parking of cars will in truth and in fact create some hardship. I should also like to call attention to the absence of any sum of money in these Estimates for the repair of sidewalks. I know I shall be told that sidewalks are the property of persons who own the buildings adjacent to them but I cannot find any existing statute which says that those owners must repair the sidewalks. It is no good going on to state year after year that the sidewalks belong to the owners of buildings adjacent to them and yet nobody can stop those sidewalks. The sidewalks, except in one or two instances, are still the property of the public, and they are allowed to remain year after year in a terrible condition. Let the Government either put these sidewalks in a proper state of repair or call upon the owners of the buildings adjacent to them to put them in a proper state of repair. There are sidewalks in this City which are in such a terrible condition that if a person walking along them do not do so carefully he is liable to break a foot or meet with a fatal accident. As I said, I expect that the reply is going to be that these sidewalks are the properties of private individuals; it may be so but I have heard it argued the other way. In any case I think that something should be done to put these sidewalks in a proper state of repair. I pass on to item 36, Maintenance of Parish Roads £6,500, the explanatory note to which states:—"Of St. Michael, St. Andrew and St. Lucy, 100 miles at £65 per mile." I wonder if the honourable member in charge of this Department can tell us how many of those miles of roadway that is to be done are in St. Michael. I want to know for many reasons because there is a feeling in the City that sooner or later the question of roads will be made a political issue; that there is the possibility of roads being done in certain areas for political reasons, without taking into consideration the number of miles of road which are to be done; in other words, that the repair of these roads will not be equitably distributed. Finally I would repeat that steps should be taken to amend the Highways and Transport Act—even the Director of Highways and Transport, I believe, would welcome such amendments—so as not to permit the Director to be the target in many instances of abuse; the Act as it stands savours of dictatorship in that it places too much power in one man's hands. In respect of transport even in the City interpretations are put upon certain sections of the Act by one man and there is no right of appeal. However zealous the Director may be in carrying out the letter of the law, it must be borne in mind that whatever is done will not affect concessionaires only but also the teeming mass of people in this country, the great majority of whom have no other means of travelling except

by omnibuses. The time will come when I shall say more in this matter.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to ask you to take some note of what I drew to your attention earlier in this debate. I feel that it is a matter on which the senior member for St. Joseph should make some statement.

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

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

On re-assembling,

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

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

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

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment for lunch, the House was in Committee of Supply on the Estimates for 1948—49.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1948—49.

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

HEAD XXXII—DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the adjournment took place we were considering Head XXXII of the Estimates and the honourable junior member for the City was speaking.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—When we adjourned I was making the point that we should be perfectly satisfied that we are correct in having these amounts fixed by law. The Department of Highways and Transport Act does not provide for any special Resolution. This is the first time that these amounts appear as being fixed by law and I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will reply to my satisfaction because I am in great difficulty. The last Appropriation Bill had these amounts in it and if they are not in the Appropriation Bill which we will pass this afternoon, some difficulty will arise. Some mistake has been made and so far as this House is concerned, the position here in these Estimates is very misleading. The Crown Law Officer who is supposed to have drafted the Department of Highways and Transport Bill should know more about the matter than anybody else but these amounts have been voted all the time and in the Estimates which are now before us there is the information that the amounts are fixed by law. If it is right that these amounts are to be fixed by law then the information which appears in the Appropriation Bill should be put in the correct column. These amounts have been deliberately transferred from the column "To be Voted" to the column "Fixed by Law". There are Acts which provide for special Resolutions and I think that it would have been much better if the Government had continued to allow these amounts to be voted; later on they could alter the position and let the amounts be provided for by Special Resolution as has been done in other cases.

I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will be able to explain the position so that when the Auditor General has to pass these amounts they will be in order. I would also like the honourable member to tell me if the Transport Board agrees with six passengers being in one seat in the buses; if the bus concessionaires say that they are in agreement that five passengers should occupy one seat in these buses who is to be blamed when six passengers are still occupying one seat to the annoyance of the long-suffering travelling public?

Mr. ADAMS: I do not see that there is any difficulty in respect of these two columns. The Department of Highways and Transport Act was passed in 1945; the present Department was constituted by that Act and nobody raised the point at that time about having a Special Resolution. This House was extraordinarily anxious about the privileges of the Other Place.

Mr. LEWIS: I remember specifically that when the Act was being passed, when the Department was being created, the then Attorney General got up and said: "Let us put the Director under the Act; let us create the Department and see what Officers we want and we will come back and put them under Act." That is in the debates of this House; that is before we knew about any Special Resolutions.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member says that, it seems to be extraordinary. The whole object of doing this is to get away from continually coming to this House with amendments. If an Officer dies or resigns you have to come back and amend the Act. It is either a question of the honourable member not remembering what happened correctly or if he is quoting the *Official Gazette*, the *Official Gazette* has misinterpreted the late honourable senior member for St. James. I do not see how the honourable senior member for St. James could have meant that. If the honourable junior member for the City had looked at the page opposite the items and followed the note he would have seen that it refers to Resolutions Nos. 37 and 64 of 1946 and No. 63 of 1947. Resolution No. 64 of 1946 is what I call the big, comprehensive Resolution which came before the House in 1946 making all these new salary scales. If the honourable member has any further information he can give it.

Mr. LEWIS: What I am telling the honourable member is this: when they had the local Crown Law Officers and members of the legal profession in this House advising them, they did not know about the 1945 Act in 1946 or 1947 because the various amounts were voted then. If I am making a mistake, the local Crown Law Officers and legal advisers have also made one. The Department of Highways and Transport Act was passed in 1945 and the then Attorney General as the honourable senior member for St. James said this: "Do not let us burden the Act with all these things; let us appoint the Director, let us see what departments he wants and let us come back and put them under the Act." The Estimates for 1946-47 came out and on my motion a Select Committee of this House was appointed to go into the expenditure in connection with this Department. I told them that this Department was being created as a Government Department and let us have a Select Committee to enquire into it. Last year another Select Committee was appointed in connection with the Department and I was asked to serve on that Committee also. As I see the position, these offices have been created merely by the Estimates and the

Government has not taken any steps to amend the Act. If the honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that this is the law, how did they alter the salary of the Executive Engineer and put it on an incremental basis this year? If it is law there must be some instrument and the Executive cannot change it every minute. If they had said they have discovered that these things are now passed by law, I would say that I cannot argue with them because that is their interpretation of it; but I would like them to put these people's mind at rest as in the case of the General Hospital, the Department of Science and Agriculture and the Colonial Secretary's Office. Why has this Department been left out of this new method? In 1947-48 the amounts were voted and the information on this occasion is that they are fixed by law and somebody should see that they are taken out of this column. If a new member of this House took up these Estimates he would say that these amounts have been fixed by law, and when you make a check of it you will see that it is not so. Up to March, 1947, the Government did not know that these Officers were appointed by an Act and that the salaries were fixed by law. This new Department was created in 1945 and these new Acts say that the Governor shall appoint Heads of Departments and such other officers and servants and at such salaries as shall be approved from time to time by special Resolution of the Legislature. What is going to be the position of the Hospital employees next year? No special Resolution has been passed in relation to them and the offices are only created in the Estimates. A special Resolution was necessary when they re-organized the Hospital because the Act provides for such a Resolution. The Government will be in the unfortunate position of knowing that the officers are not even in the Estimates with the particular Head because they are only set out in an Appendix.

Mr. ADAMS: I thought that the honourable member had some point on which he could enlighten the House. Cannot the honourable member see that when the Act does not say anything about a Special Resolution you do not have to work by a Special Resolution but you put the amounts in the Estimates? Where the Act does not refer to a Special Resolution these amounts can be put in the Estimates and that is what has been done here. I would have replied to the honourable member long ago if I thought he did not have any extra points. This is the only Act which does not refer to any Special Resolution and therefore you work by the Estimates. Until this Act is amended, and I hope that it will not be amended, these amounts will always come down as having been fixed by law. Honourable members must remember that you cannot have an additional messenger without amending the Act because everybody is set out in the Act. With regard to the point raised about the Executive Engineer—I reply now to the honourable senior member for St. Andrew—the Executive Committee had reached the decision before the last application was withdrawn, that flats should be made available to officers coming from abroad. It seems to me that the application was withdrawn between telegrams coming and going. I do not think that we should let a person wonder before he accepts an appointment as to whether he will have trouble in finding a house. As far as the point raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, who is not now in his seat, is concerned we have had difficulty in trying to find somebody for the post. We have been told by the Colonial Office that we would not

get the man whom we want for that salary and a recommendation was made as to increasing the salary. There is no question of any racial discrimination because applications were received from two West Indians and one Englishman all three of whom have been considered, but their qualifications are not as high as what we want. We have asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies to get a first class man for us. We have heard much about the Foreman Mechanic; the criticisms have been brought to the notice of the Government and the matter is actively under consideration. We are in the habit of informing the Head of the Administration every Wednesday morning of any criticisms that have been made in the House, so that they are brought as early as possible before the Head of the Administration and discussed by the Executive Committee on Thursday. Honourable members can therefore rest assured that their criticisms are reported to the Governor, that they are dealt with and no case goes unheeded. In reply to the honourable senior member for the City, there are 545 miles of road in Barbados; there are 193 miles of arterial roads, 108 miles of parish roads in St. Michael, St. Lucy and St. Andrew and 244 miles of other parish roads. In St. Michael there are 50½ miles of parish roads, in St. Lucy, 38½/3, and in St. Andrew 13.4 miles. With regard to travelling expenses only a few months ago we passed Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Regulations and honourable members will see the note on that item. The honourable member's criticisms will be brought to the proper quarter both to the Civil Service Commissioner and to the Executive before he reports. With regard to the question of leave, we will have some advice on that. As regards item 32, "Crushing and Stationary Plant equipment and tools" and item 34, "Transport train," they were used as a smoke screen so as to deal with items. Relative to the matter of overhaul and maintenance, the honourable member has been told that work was held up because of what was being done. As to the question of the upkeep of guard-walls and suck-wells, I suppose that the honourable member had the answer to that question given him before he got up. If the money is not required it never leaves the Treasury. In respect of the parking places, these are the work of Mr. de Syllas, Architect and Town Planning Officer. As far as their suitability or non-suitability is concerned, I should like to remind honourable members that these parking places are just experimental. If some honourable members think that some of these parking places are in the doors of the Post Office as soon as they become nuisances they will be removed but honourable members know what traffic in Bridgetown is like and there are not many places in Bridgetown where these parking places can be put. One complaint made even with the calibre of the honourable junior member for the City is hardly sufficient to say that these parking places have been wrongly put down.

Mr. LEWIS: I want to know if the policy of the Government is to be blamed for six persons being in a seat in the buses. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has not answered that question. The travelling public have seen in the Press correspondence about six people occupying one seat in the buses and as far as unemployment is concerned, conductors and drivers are being robbed out of their living and the public are being inconvenienced. Five people should be travelling in a seat and the public do not know who is to be blamed for the present state of affairs because everybody says that he is not to be blamed. I am asking who is to be blamed

for it since the concessionaires say that they are quite content to have five people occupying one seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Only a few minutes ago I was speaking with Mr. Skinner on this question of transportation and what he actually told me is that arrangements are being made to have the Regulations for carrying six passengers in a seat amended; but he wanted to be satisfied that the concessionaires had a full complement of buses before the Regulations are amended. That is the information which I got from the Director of Highways and Transport about fifteen minutes ago.

Mr. SYMMONDS: In connection with Item 24, "Unestablished staff, £34,947," I want to again draw to the attention of the members of the Government who are responsible for the presentation of these Estimates that it is impossible to do justice to these Estimates if every honourable member around this Table must refer to the Clerk who is already hard-pressed in dealing with matters in this House for information relative to the various Resolutions which have been passed. We ought to have a copy of all the relative Resolutions bound and put here before us so that we could refer to any particular Resolution. Even the old members of this House who assisted in passing a Resolution may have forgotten where to find it. I repeat that it is very difficult to do justice to these Estimates; we just have to accept blindly everything that we are told in good faith. I am not referring to any particular speaker but I prefer to see things for myself. I see no means of finding out how many casual labourers are employed under this particular Head. I want to emphasize that many of these casual labourers have large families just as Civil Servants have and they have the same ambition to educate their children as other people have. It is time, as the honourable junior member for St. Lucy mentioned earlier today, that some attempt be made to find out the maximum number of these employees who can be employed all the year round and so place them that they can be entitled to pensions instead of having them dependent upon the goodwill of the House in the matter of grants. You cannot do justice in this way because you do not know how many people you are talking about. As regards the amounts being put under the heading "Fixed by Law", some honourable members feel that they should be under that heading and others feel that they should not be there. I myself am not satisfied that the explanation given by the Government is as water-tight as it should be, and if some more information were put before us when we are considering these Estimates I feel that matters would be better decided upon. I do not want to delay the passing of these Estimates but I definitely feel that whatever the Civil Service Commissioner may recommend, these people who are the real muscles and sinews of this Department should receive proper remuneration in order that they may be able to support their families and appreciate the fact that they are Government servants.

The question that the sum of £168,531 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIII—AIRPORT

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £7,995 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXIV—GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to move that the sum of £2,693 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: In connection with item II, "Technical equipment, £1,300", I have put some questions in this House asking that Radio Amateurs in this island be taken from the phase of suspicion and given licences to operate their sets in the same way as everybody else in the world. I understand that all in a hurry some sort of temporary licences and temporary permits have been given to everybody who applied for them. These people know nothing about the Regulations under which they are working; they have not been given their places in respect of the regular band under which they work, and they have not been able to get any enlightenment on the subject from the Government Electrical Inspector. The fact that an attempt has been made to issue temporary licences will prevent me from saying some of the things which I intended to say under this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see anything about radio amateurs under this Head.

Mr. LEWIS: I just wanted to know if permanent licences will be issued to radio amateurs because they are willing to pay for them.

Mr. HAYNES: Every year we vote money for this technical equipment and nothing is done because they say they cannot get this equipment which is most essential. I think the Government Electric Inspector should get after the Electric Company so that proper equipment might be obtained for the outlying parishes. The Inspector has told me that he cannot check this Company without this equipment. Another matter is that when there is a "short" in the lines it cannot be checked as quickly as it should be checked because there is no modern convenience which can be used. The Manager of the Electric Supply Corporation says that he cannot get what is known as a wavelength. Sometimes for three or four hours people are without any light because a search has to be made for the "short" in the lines. I repeat that this money is voted every year, none of it is spent and there is the usual story that this equipment cannot be obtained! I do not know who the Minister in charge of matters relating to this Department is, but I would like him to go into this matter. We are hoping that this matter will be brought to the notice of the Head of the Administration tomorrow morning as we have been told that matters are brought before him every Wednesday morning.

Mr. MAPP: In connection with item 10, "Incidentals, £200." I should like to say that owners of private receiving sets feel that they do not receive the *quid pro quo* for the tax of 10/- per year which they pay to the Government. That is a kind of entertainment tax which is becoming very burdensome to the people of this colony. More poor people are putting receiving sets in their homes and I feel that the Government should consider allowing these people to pay this tax in instalments. This is a very troublesome tax, the majority of the people who own receiving sets are against the law in this respect. The buses are not properly examined to see whether they are carrying suppressors or not, and the car owners feel that they should not do anything at all in this regard. One honourable member says that these suppressors will

smash his car if he puts them in. I feel that the Government should do something so as to relieve people of this burden, because a burden is definitely inflicted on owners of radios. Another thing is this; people listen at home to programmes relayed by Radio Distribution Ltd; they pay for that and yet they have to pay a tax to the Government! I do not see why Radio Distribution should not pay that tax. People are being taxed for everything. I hope that the Government spokesman will take cognizance of the feeling of the people in the matter and see that something is done about it.

Mr. WILKINSON: I want to support the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Andrew in respect of item II, "Technical equipment, £1,300". I think that the state of affairs is most unsatisfactory and unless the matter can be made quite clear to me I shall make a motion for a reduction of the item. I would like to know whether the money which was voted last year has been spent or not. Honourable members will see that £44 was spent in the year 1946-47. I would like to know whether the money which was voted for the year 1947-48 has already been spent or not. We do not want this state of affairs to exist any longer.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The £1,320 which was voted last year has been spent. The £1,300 which is to be voted now provides for equipment for testing the Electric Company's mains. I agree with the honourable junior member for St. Thomas that those persons who own private receiving sets have a grievance because I cannot see that there is anything being done for them. The idea of establishing a Government Broadcasting Station is being considered, however, and when that Station is established I think the Government would be justified in continuing to collect that tax. With regard to licences being granted to radio amateurs, the reason for the delay in granting these licences is that there was a Conference going on and we were awaiting the decision of that Conference before issuing these licences.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to know when the licences are going to be issued. I can inform honourable members that the Conference is over, the proceedings have been printed and the Government Electric Inspector has a copy of the proceedings in his possession. Honourable members do not seem to understand what they are setting up in this island; there is the feeling that the Government Electric Inspector refuses to grant these licences. Cable and Wireless have got hundreds of pounds in machinery to see if people are breaking the law. In no other island are they treating people like how they are treating them here. However, I am willing to forego saying some of the things which I was going to say because temporary licenses have been issued. What I want to know is this: if they intend to issue these licences are they going to charge people for them? Another thing is that people cannot break the Regulations if they do not know about them. In Japan, Germany, Italy and in other countries with whom the Allies were at War, radio amateurs have been given licenses to operate, but that is not the case in Barbados. It might interest honourable members to know that I went into the office of the Government Electric Inspector sometime ago and he told me that the licences would be issued next week. If you cannot issue the licences because a Conference is coming off, then you should say so; but do not try to make a fool of me, and that is just what the radio amateurs say will be done. If a radio amateur ask the Government Electric Inspector about issuing licences he will say: "I have them on my desk to be issued". Tem-

porary licences have been given because I took steps in the matter; but the Government will not say whether they will charge these people a fee for the licences and put them in the proper band to operate. I have been to the head of the spring and it is on record that when British Guiana went to operate their Station they had these people to call upon, but in a case of emergency whom will we call upon? Cable and Wireless say that they will do everything to encourage these radio amateurs because they have been useful in cases of emergency; Barbados is the only part of the world in which these radio amateurs are being treated in the way in which they are being treated. I have asked the Colonial Secretary to help me in this matter; I want to know if the Government will take a step further otherwise I will say what I am forced to say.

Mr. ADAMS: I have got up merely to say that as Leader of the House, I am not going to allow the honourable member to say that this Government servant is a liar. He is one Head of a Department of whom it cannot be said that he is a dictator. It is difficult for me to answer the honourable member as I would like to answer him, but as far as the Government is concerned, the Head of this Department is only one of the cogs in the wheel of Government. The Government has no intention to stop any of these persons who previously had licences from operating but there are several things which have to be done. I have been informed that I was guilty of using the wrong band. Amateurs have used a band which was not theirs and this and other things are being smoothed out. I have not got the particular file before me but as far as I know anybody who applies for a licence is to have it. I am not shifting any blame to anybody's shoulders but this is one of those cases in which you have to be broadminded. When the Administration is in doubt as to the interpretation of an Act, it has to rely on the Crown Law Officers' advice. Sometimes these officers may differ and what might appear to be delay in the issuing these licences has nothing to do with dishonesty on the part of the Head of the Department.

Mr. LEWIS: What is the implication of the dishonesty?

Mr. ADAMS: That he is a liar.

Mr. LEWIS: He told me that he had these licences in his office ready to be issued; if that is dishonesty, it is very unfortunate.

Mr. MOTTLEY: They may be on the desk in his office and the Government might have told him not to issue them.

Mr. LEWIS: He never had them on his desk.

Mr. ADAMS: Is the honourable member in constant contact with the Head of this Department's office?

Mr. LEWIS: Yes.

Mr. ADAMS: Then I have to see that this office is not open to visitors. Every word which the honourable member says that the Government Electric Inspector says may be true, but there may be many other things connected with the issuing of the licences. I hope that the honourable member will not call me a liar. It is absolutely wrong to conclude that the Government Electric Inspector is lying because he might put off people from time to time. Every licensee will have to look up the Act and the Regulations so as to know what particular band he should use. Every one should know what the international wave-lengths are. It is a secret to some people but others will know that even the Government Broadcasting Station was using the wrong band.

The question that the sum of £2,693 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXV—HOUSING BOARD

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,572 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXVII—PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

The amount to be voted was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £4,603 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXVIII—OLD AGE PENSIONS

The amount to be voted was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £56,000 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the sum of £56,000 be voted under this Head. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—Under this Head I wanted to ask—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid that this Head has already been passed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Head XXXVIII be re-committed.

Mr. ADAMS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In connection with this Head I wanted to find out what recommendations, if any have been put into effect. We all know that on the last occasion when we were dealing with this Head it was felt that the age at which people draw these pensions should be reduced. The qualifying age is now 68 years. Quite recently we passed an Act which amended the Pensions Act in respect of Government employees allowing them to retire at 55. Everybody must know that the great majority of the people who draw these Old Age Pensions have been drawn from the working classes, principally agricultural labourers, and to allow the qualifying age to remain at 68 does not seem to be right to me. I am not converted to the idea that the qualifying age should remain at 68. I have had the experience—and I am sure that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has had the same experience—of people coming before me at the age of 65, people who have been working as labourers in this country from the time they were 14. If after working for a period of 50 years in manual labour it is not time for people to draw Old Age Pensions, then keeping them until they reach 68 is only with the idea of helping them on to the grave. I am sure that honourable members feel that, with this Government in power, every effort should be made to amend the Act so as to allow people who have reached the age of 65 to draw Old Age Pensions. My knowledge of the working people in this country is such that I feel that 65 is the right age at which they should draw these pensions. I appreciate that the Government would have to increase this amount if the qualifying age was made 65, but in St. Michael 90 out of 100 people who reach this age are always broken down from some infectious disease which prevents them from working. Again, it is still the law that blind people, people who have

been blind from their birth, cannot draw pensions until they reach 40 years of age. If you are blind, you are blind; if your circumstances are such that you are a pauper at 29 or 30 there is no point in keeping you until you are 40 before you are given a pension. I hope that this will be the last occasion on which I will have to speak on this matter of amending the law. I am entitled to observe for the benefit of the Government that the feeling of the people of this country is that people should receive Old Age Pensions when they reach 65. As regards the arguments about the people in England, their standard of living is different; they have been better fed. My opinion is that 65 is the right age at which these pensions should be received and I cannot compromise with my best friend on that. If the people in the Civil Service and those who do clerical work can retire at 65 what about those who have been working laboriously from day to day from the time when they were 14 or 15 years of age? I hope that the Act will soon be amended.

Mr. BLACKMAN: It has been found that if the qualifying age was reduced from 68 to 65 the amount of money which would be spent on Old Age Pensions would be double this £56,000; but the Committee of which I am Chairman have recommended that anybody who can produce a medical certificate to the effect that he is unable to work will receive a pension. There are several other recommendations which have been put forward covering the point made by the honourable senior member for the City, but as the Executive have not yet gone into them I do not think I should say now what those recommendations are.

Mr. COX: I should like to draw to the attention of the Government that there is no proper sanitary accommodation at the office at which these Old Age Pensions are paid. I think that proper sanitary accommodation should be provided there for the people's convenience.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS PROGRESS

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the honourable junior member for St. Thomas be Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the afternoon Session.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do again leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee of Supply we were considering Head XXXVIII of the Estimates.

Mr. SYMONDS: I want to support the remarks made by the honourable senior member for

the City with regard to these Old Age Pensions. According to the Good Book, three score years and ten are the span of a man's life. The tropical heat wears out a man's system and it is because of that fact that an effort is being made to grant pensions to Government employees at early age. I think that the time has really come when more consideration should be given to the labouring people of this colony who work, when they do work, for low wages because of the lack of industrialisation in this country. People are working under the disability of seasonal employment and I feel that an effort should be made by the Government whereby at the age of 65 people will be given a proper sustaining allowance for the remainder of their days because it is on their labour that the economy of this country has been built. It is the continued policy of the Government in relation to the payment of the people in the lower brackets which causes these people to be broken down in health when they reach the age of 65; because they lacked those vitamins which were necessary in the years they have passed. We have passed the Head "Housing Board" under which the clerical assistant who is an ex-soldier is paid £100 a year, and I think that is one reason why the Government should make every attempt to have the law changed so that every labourer in this colony should be given a pension when he reaches the age of 65.

The question that the sum of £56,000 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIX—SEAWELL PLANTATION.

The amount to be voted was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,365 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XL—WATERWORKS.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £86,877 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There are two items to which I want to draw the attention of the Government; they are items 14, "Reservoir and Spring Keepers, £562" and 29, "Delivery of water by lorry, £500." In connection with the first item I should like to say that I have visited some of these reservoirs and I find that the keepers' quarters are very inadequate indeed. They might have been alright in 1848 when the Waterworks Department had a watchman's hut; but these people are compelled to live in these places for 24 hours a day while performing these duties for the Government. These places become the people's homes and I feel that the Government should provide better places for these people to occupy. It is an old time custom that because these people are poor they cannot bring up a family with the minimum of privacy which should obtain in any home. I feel that the Government should improve these conditions so that these people can bring up their children with that minimum of decency and privacy to which any citizen is entitled. It was all right in the old days when these people were looked upon as glorified watchmen; but now they should be given the minimum of protection and care. I hope that the Government will consider that this is a matter of primary importance. As to the other item, I want to say that we can appreciate that there has been a very serious

drought and many areas are still suffering from the lack of water. Some time ago we voted £2,000 and there is a blank here. I have been to the Manager of the Waterworks Department and he has been very sympathetic in this matter. We are now faced with the difficulty that the transportation of water is inadequate. In the parish which I represent—I do not think that this is the only parish in which there is a shortage of water—the people in districts such as Benny Hall, French Village, Indian Ground and Boscobel which are by no means near each other, suffer from an inadequate water supply. One tank of water cannot supply the people in these areas and I think that the Government should have additional transportation so that water can be taken to these various districts. I say that because all of us supported the vote when it came down and we all know that water is a pressing necessity. I think that if there are any means of getting water to the people it should be got to them as soon as possible. I hope that the Government will go into the matter of providing more suitable quarters for the reservoir keepers and of providing additional transportation of water to those districts where the supply is lacking.

Dr. WILSON: In connection with item II, "Unestablished Staff, £18,662," I should like to say that this is a very important batch of people. There is no doubt as to the importance of this trained group of employees upon whom we have to depend for the water supply of this island; and therefore, Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to the Government to give them better wages, bearing in mind that the majority of these employees have five or six children to support. I want to say that all is not well at Bowmanston; dissatisfaction is rife there. Apart from the question of wages it is felt that a mess room, a telephone, and a few more benches are absolutely necessary for these employees. It was in 1940 that these men petitioned the Government for the supply of overalls and boots for performing that part of the work which takes them into the wells. The Government does not deny having promised the men these items; the matter was subsequently considered and as a result the men were given 1/- a day extra for doing work in the wells and 6d. a day for cleaning the boilers. That is not considered as being good enough and I am suggesting that in view of the Government's promise to these men that they would supply them with these overalls and boots; that they give them the conveniences for doing the work which they have to do in respect of going into the wells and cleaning the boilers. In so far as the Resident Foreman is concerned, I see no reason why this Officer who has given many years' service and whose responsibility does not cease at the end of the day, should not be given more consideration. With regard to the Station Foreman, he is a very capable officer who has given over 20 years' service and I am appealing to the Government to give him over-time pay.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: As regards item 26, "Pumping Stations, £1,710," the note says that this amount is to cover the cost of replacing chain wheels and driving chains to the vacuum pumps of the Belle engines and one set of pump rods for the High Level engines at Bowmanston, which are badly worn. I should like to say that this Station is giving practically no water; I expect to see a Resolution sent down to meet the cost of digging wells and putting down pumps so that the different parts of the island can be served with water. I quite agree with the honourable senior member for St. Peter that one motor lorry is practically useless for the purpose of supplying these districts with water. (A MEMBER: They have three).

Three will not do it. I do not think that we should wait until this machinery comes from England; I understand that pumps can be obtained in Demerara. We can have a well, say at Mount Poyer and the water can be chlorinated and put into the mains. I am asking that places be searched out where wells can be dug and water obtained for the suffering people.

Mr. SYMONDS: I want to say that the relief promised to the people where water is concerned is long overdue. I am not blaming anybody because we have been unable to get the means for carrying the water to the people. While there are circumstances which have prevented the carrying out of the promise to the people, it is absolutely necessary for something to be done so as to relieve the grave disabilities under which the people live in the tenancies especially in those areas where we find that the pressure will not allow the water to be drawn from the standpipes at some times during the day. In the Drax Hall district people have to walk for two or three miles in order to get water for drinking and other purposes and I agree with the suggestion that water be carried into all these dry areas in the country where people have to walk for miles in order to obtain this very necessary fluid. This suggestion should be acted upon and a fleet of lorries should be employed to transport water to Drax Hall and the other dry areas in St. George and other parishes where the people are suffering. I appeal to the members of the Government who are responsible for initiating measures to do something immediately so as to relieve the present acute suffering from the lack of water.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is a relief to see that no adverse criticism is being offered in respect of this question of water because such criticism would not do any good. Everyone of us is interested in this question of a proper water supply. As regards item 13, "Pumping Expenses £38,103," I know that the Government is presently trying to get machinery for improving the water supply, however, I am taking every aspect of the question. As far as the relief of unemployment is concerned, I am wondering if the Government would not be well advised to make the selection now as to the digging of wells in order to supply water which will very much relieve the present situation especially in respect of the country districts and this will also afford employment for people, because some time will elapse before this machinery arrives. I counsel the Government to take the necessary steps so that people can get water; let wells be dug and unemployment will be relieved especially in view of the short crop this year.

Mr. ADAMS: This is no political matter; this is a matter of the relief of humanity and I suggest that that honourable junior member for St. George should have spoken with the honourable member on my left who is in charge of these particular matters, instead of waiting until to-day to say what he has just said. I have been informed that Crab Hill needs water. I cannot go into all the dry areas and I am asking honourable members to inform us as to the bad spots in respect of water because we can get more lorries. I am sure that the information of the honourable junior member for St. George about the conditions at Drax Hall will be brought to the attention of the Government. The question of doing something until the machinery arrives is receiving the attention of the Government. In introducing the Estimates I said that the Government is working out the details of some schemes and this is one of these schemes.

Mr. LEWIS: As regards the appointment of the Superintendent we find that every year the money is provided in the Estimates, somebody is acting in the post and the person who is acting is not recommended to fill the post. If provision has been made for a Superintendent and the salary is too small, let the Government say that they will increase the salary. In the case of the Executive Engineer for the Department of Highways and Transport they have increased the salary and provided a house. The Waterworks Department is doing without a Superintendent and I am wondering if the Government should not send out somebody to be trained for this post. Another point is this: when does the Government expect to get the final Report of Mr. Roddam?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the number of that item?

Mr. LEWIS: No. 2; there is no water, there is no Superintendent, there is nobody to look after the machinery and we want to get that now. The item is fixed by law but no appointment has been made and the people are suffering. I would really like to know when the Government expects to get this final Report from Mr. Roddam. I see that the Head of the Administration has referred to this Report as being long outstanding.

Mr. MAPP: I want to know something about this post of Superintendent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is fixed by law.

Mr. MAPP: The honourable junior member for the City spoke generally and I can speak generally too, I take it. However, I am speaking in connection with item 9, "Travelling Expenses, £925". Every year we have an Inspector acting as Superintendent. That is a bad state of affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see anything about that under item 9.

Mr. MAPP: He is drawing travelling allowance. Although you do not see that under this item—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is out of order.

The question that the sum of £86,877 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLI—SOCIAL WELFARE

The items and amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £311 to be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to have a clear statement from the Government about this Department because I do not share the view of some honourable members that you should cut it out. I believe that a Social Welfare Department is necessary in an age such as this. This Department wants to be more dynamic and I feel that if we get people with the necessary qualifications and the willingness to do the work that is necessary, we can go a long way. This colony has a big population: in St. Michael there are approximately 74,000 out of the 200,000 and in the rural areas there is a wide field for social welfare work. I do not think that we should have social welfare work superimposed without any expert guidance. Now that Barbados Welfare Limited is gone, something should take the place of that. I believe that the Social Welfare Department should be so organised that we should not look upon it and say that the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization is paying these Officers, but it is of no use to the colony to have these Officers being paid out of these funds. I feel that it is about

time that the Government make a bold statement as to having a proper Social Welfare Department organised and working on correct lines.

Mr. HAYNES: I thought that when the Labour Government got into power they would have shown what they could do in connection with social services in this island. Apparently, they are waiting and watching. It is astounding to see that Parochial Committees have been doing good work but all this work is going into the sea because they have not got any funds; yet on every ton of sugar produced this year in Barbados the sum of 10/- was paid in respect of social welfare! I do not think that we are doing anything like what we should do. If we did not have the money, I would say that we should leave this matter alone, but we have the money. I do not think that honourable members realise what is taking place; quite a lot of spade work has been done in various parishes but all to no avail. One cannot work without any tools; I know that several playing fields have been stripped of all their equipment. Is that the way in which things are to be carried on? Representations have been made to the Head of the Administration but no satisfaction has been given. I think that the Government would be well advised to take urgent steps and see what can be done about the matter. Playing-fields cannot be left neglected because they will go from bad to worse. I feel very strongly in this matter; the Government cannot say that they have not got the money to be spent in connection with social welfare matters; they have the money but nothing is done about these matters.

Mr. MAPP: I am speaking relative to item 6, "Transportation, £50." The note says that this amount is to cover incidental travelling expenses of voluntary social workers and that travelling expenses for the Social Welfare Officer and the Assistant Social Welfare Officer are provided for under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. I cannot understand what these Officers are doing, we are now providing money for this Department and it is a part of my duty to the public and the people whom I represent to ask what these Officers are doing. They are doing some work but they are not doing enough. People do not realise that we have these Social Welfare Officers because they do not make their presence felt. I hope that we will have a strong statement from the Government as to its intention in respect of social welfare. This is a matter which cannot be shelved; people in the villages are labouring in the twilight and in the dark and it is well that we take social welfare to their homes. I hope to hear a definite expression of policy from the Government in this matter. It is not enough for Committees to be organized and helped along voluntary lines; again I ask what are these Social Welfare Officers doing?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I, too, would like to add my quota to this debate. I would not like this colony to follow the example of Trinidad and abandon the whole thing, because if ever there was a time in the history of this colony when we have seen the necessity for social welfare it is to-day. I must agree with the preceding speakers when they say that they cannot understand what is being done. With regard to the Assistant Social Welfare Officer, I come in contact with her at times and I find that she gives the necessary assistance in any scheme affecting social welfare and otherwise in this island; but as far as the Government is concerned, I cannot understand what the policy is. I know that eventually the salaries that are being paid at present by the British Government will be passed on to this colony and we will

have nothing for them. I suppose the services of these officers will date from the appointment. I think we all appreciate the fact that an admirable organization is in bankruptcy; I refer to Barbados Welfare Limited. I hope that the Government will not allow the work which is being done in the various parishes by the various organizations to be abandoned. I feel that this is the time when the Social Welfare Department should come to the rescue of voluntary bodies. The necessity for social welfare work in this colony is so apparent that this Government should send down some sort of Resolution for the purpose of carrying on that work which was being done by Barbados Welfare Limited. I think that admirable work was being done. When these things are published it will be realised that these Social Welfare Officers are drawing big salaries and nothing can be seen for them. I think that if we went further to the rescue of the people where social welfare is concerned, a lot of the things which take place would not take place. I feel that a Resolution should be sent down for the purpose of supplying the organizations in the various parishes with playing fields. In this connection good work has been started by Major Peebles in St. Philip and I say that it is time that the Government come to the rescue of these organizations and save the people. Like the honourable senior member for St. Andrew I feel very strongly in this matter of social welfare work. We need it more than ever today and I am very much surprised at the attitude of the sister colony of Trinidad in abandoning it altogether.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—Honourable members are mixing up Barbados Welfare Limited with Social Welfare. The Social Welfare Officer and the Assistant Social Welfare Officer are paid from Colonial Development and Welfare funds but we have to maintain the office of these officers. I think that it is generally agreed that the Assistant Social Welfare Officer, Miss Arne, is a very energetic lady. She visits various institutions, makes recommendations and gives every possible assistance. I am in a position to say that at present there is an Advisory Committee to the Government Industrial Schools. This lady is the Secretary of that Committee and is doing very valuable and useful work. Only yesterday we visited the parishes of St. Philip and Christ Church in the interest of social welfare and as far as the policy of the Government is concerned I am glad to hear honourable members in this frame of mind because in the very near future the Government will be sending down for a sum of money to establish a Social Welfare Department. We feel that the time has come when Social Welfare work, instead of being done in a haphazard manner as is the case at present, should be looked after by a Government Department.

The question that the sum of £311 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLII—ARCHITECT AND PLANNING OFFICE

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £3,013 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not know if this Department is as bad as or worse than the Social Welfare Department. I know that we have agreed to establish this Architect and Planning Office but I would ask the Government to give it some serious consideration, that is to say, reconsider the matter and see whether

it is necessary to have it. We are not giving the public the benefit of the scheme which has been put forward by Mr. De Syllas and everybody is wondering why these officers are walking around. Perhaps they have come too soon.

Mr. MAPP: Sometime ago Mr. De Syllas made a comprehensive survey and recommendations for the changing up of the City and I do not know if the Government has done anything as yet to implement those recommendations. It seems to me that we are maintaining a white elephant by keeping these officers in this Department. I do not see that they have anything to do, except to walk about, because the recommendations of Mr. De Syllas are comprehensive. I do not know if the Government will begin to implement them this year but I hope that something will be done in the matter soon.

Mr. WILKINSON: This is a new Department and we would like to know what its officers are doing. We on this side of the table are tired of scheming and planning. We would like to know what is being done or is about to be done. I would like the senior member for St. Joseph to tell me what the officers of this Department are doing.

Mr. ADAMS: While the junior member for St. James may be tired of scheming and planning, none of his colleagues are. As far as this office is concerned, if we had passed the Housing Bill last session, these officers would have had their hands full. Even so, they still have their hands full. I think that even the greatest critic who has seen Mr. De Syllas's master plan will agree that he has not wasted his time. It is not, as honourable members said, a case of their having come too soon. Plans for capital works are engaging the attention of Mr. Crowe who has two young men under him learning and giving their services free. There are at present engaged on the following projects: building Erdiston, getting ready to lay out the houses at the Pine Estate, clearing the houses from the Bay Estate for the proposed hospital site—subject, of course, to the approval of the Legislature—and getting plans ready for the creation of a Community Centre and possibly an Assembly Hall. The work which they are now doing consists of the following:—extension of Hometown Police Station, alteration to the Speightstown Branch Library and Community Hall in Speightstown, erection of the Science block at Queen's College. They are also preparing plans for the new St. Leonard's Girls' School and the combined Parry and Cole-ridge School. So that the quantity of work actually being done now is very extensive. When the Housing and Town Planning Act is passed, their hands will be full, at any rate with initial plans in respect of the type of houses we propose to put at the Pine Estate.

The question that the sum of £3,013 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RECONSIDERATION OF HEAD VI—CUSTOMS

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head VI, Customs, be reconsidered. When the porters for the Rum Bond at Kingsland were put in, it was expected that the Government would have completed negotiations for the rent of the Kingsland Bond and that the matter would have been brought before the House before the Estimates were considered. Section 62 of the Trade Act makes provision for the appointment by the Governor-in-Executive Committee from time to time, on the recommendation of the Comptroller of Customs, of warehouses and I ask honourable members to allow this item to pass, although the recommendation about

the renting of the bond at Kingsland has not yet come before the House. This bond will enable the Government to provide for the storage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 million gallons of rum while it has provision now for less than 300,000 gallons. We are hoping that other places will be put at our disposal for this purpose, so that in any event more watchmen will be needed for these warehouses wherever they may be situated.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There is one point I should like to raise before these Estimates are concluded and it is this. I notice that there is no cost of living bonus provided in these Heads of Expenditure although I observe that under Head "B", Recurrent Expenditure, in Appendix 13, the sum of £50,000 is put down as Cost of Living Allowance to Government servants (or equivalent increase in emoluments). I want to know what is the true legal position as regards the cost of living bonus. We do not want to pass these Estimates and then on the 30th April the Civil Servants do not receive what they are entitled to. If we give them what we actually passed in the Estimates and no cost of living allowance, it will mean that we will be giving them less money than they are entitled to receive. Civil Servants budget by the month and not by the year, so I want to be sure that the cost of living bonus is provided for in these Estimates.

Mr. LEWIS: I am going to counsel the senior member for St. Joseph not to attempt to deal with this Rum Bond at Kingsland in this manner. I think that the conditions under which this Rum Bond is rented should be stipulated in a special Resolution as was done in the case of all other places which were rented for the storage of rum. (Mr. ADAMS: It will be sent down). If you are making provision for porters for a Rum Bond at Kingsland, you are agreeing to the establishment of a Rum Bond at Kingsland; that is how it looks to me and I am counselling the senior member for St. Joseph not to do it in this way. I want to know what is the position about the watchman at the Bush Hall Rum Bond. We have a watchman in Hineks Street and a watchman for a rum bond that does not exist yet. The watchman at Bush Hall is omitted from the Estimates and somebody undertook to tell me that the people at Bush Hall is paying the watchman up there. If under this Head you are making provision for porters, are there any porters at the Bush Hall Bond? We would like to know that things are done in proper form.

Mr. ADAMS: We cannot state where the warehouses are to be situated; that is for the Executive Committee to do. We approve or disapprove of the scale of charges for warehouses and this House has for years approved of the principle that we cover our rent by the warehouse charge. It is purely a matter for the Executive Committee to say "We are going to rent Da Costa's or Fogarty's building as a warehouse. The House cannot say "You cannot establish a warehouse at Bush Hall or at Kingsland." Thinking that the scale of charges would have come down to the House before the Estimates were introduced, the Executive Committee made this provision in the Estimates. I am suggesting to honourable members that we are obtaining a considerable amount of revenue from the storing and subsequent exporting of rum and we are very much behind hand as regards warehouse accommodation. Merchants are continually asking for warehouse accommodation. At the most we are storing 300,000 gallons of rum when we should be storing $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 million gallons.

Mr. WILKINSON: I thank the honourable member first of all for the information. The next question I would like to ask him is this. He said that

the rent is covered by the warehouse charges. That is all right when the tenancy is monthly but suppose the property is leased for 10 years, what is going to happen?

Mr. ADAMS: We have that in mind at the present moment and we propose to lease the property at Kingsland for five years. We have been told by people abroad "You can shut your eyes and bet your last dollar that for the next three years you are going to sell much more rum in Canada and Great Britain than before."

Mr. TALMA: I want to say at this juncture that the policy of not only renting but also of purchasing places for this purpose has been agreed on. A sum of £1,500 would be derived from the storage of rum at this particular centre and we have the definite assurance that rum will be required in the next five years from the West Indies, more especially Barbados and Jamaica. That goes to show that in 10 years or thereabouts every cent that may be spent in this connection would be recovered and it would be more beneficial to actually buy a building than pay an exorbitant rental. The question whether a few porters or watchmen should be engaged for these bonds does not arise. It seems so trifling when we consider that the whole island is dependent on sugar and its by-products.

Mr. LEWIS: There is one more point I want to make and it is this. There is no rum still near Kingsland Factory and if there is going to be cartage on this rum the Government is going to recoup itself. It may be reflected in the price that the man in the street will pay for his rum. The idea is that a lot of money is being made in this rum business and that it is shifting from the hands of certain people into the other people's hands and we are not taxing the people in the way we should to get revenue. If there is increased charges for freight, the price of rum may go up as a result. We hear the price of sugar and rum going up and we do not hear any investigation being made into it. I want to know that this project is not going to affect people in this country; it is something that should be gone into before any final decision is reached. Quite recently we have seen the price of molasses increase from 10c. to 30c. a gallon and there is a move on foot to keep certain people out of this trade. Certain things like this are tricks that are played on people who are not familiar with all the aspects of the business. I do not care what any honourable member says. I tell you that there is something happening about the rum business in this island that should make the people's representatives very careful in approving of anything that is being done without looking at it with a very critical eye.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There is a lot of reason in the argument of the honourable member who has just sat down because some honourable members seem not to realize that already the merchants have increased the price of rum. (A MEMBER: They had to do so.) An honourable member says that they had to do so but I would like to let him know that some of them made so much profits out of rum that they could not count the money. Are we going to sit here and allow people to make a lot of money and still increase the price to the consumer? When people make \$100,000 a year, that is different from a man making \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year. We have to be sure in our minds that the profit made by people who are dealing in rum will be properly taxed before we can agree to grant them further concessions. That is another aspect of this matter which the Government must realize and, if necessary, put it under the Competent Authority and let him investigate it and see if it is necessary to control

the price of rum. The same merchants are going to say that the Government does not put on a tax on rum but makes it difficult for the people in Canada and Great Britain to buy the rum. It is all well and good if these people make money and a lot of them do make money, yet they still tack on $\frac{1}{2}$ cent or $\frac{3}{4}$ cent on the pint if they can. I have seen a letter from one of the biggest rum dealers in this island.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but will he tell me the item that he is discussing?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I want to draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that I am speaking on the same matter on which the senior member for St. Joseph spoke.

The CHAIRMAN: I heard you talking about people making money.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: That is incidental. Rum is not a losing business. The people who lose on rum are the shopkeepers and before we can agree to anything we have to be sure that what we do will not result in an increase in the price of rum. I heard the Leader of the House talk about the Government going to recoup itself and that means that the tax would have to be passed on to the consumer. To honourable members it may seem a slight matter but to me it matters a great deal. Every time the price of an article is increased by the fractional part of a cent, people come to members of this House howling about it. I walk about and every time these increases are made people come to me and ask me "What are you doing?" Those honourable members who do not walk among the people will not appreciate what these increases in prices mean to the poor people. I must make my position clear and let the Government hear the voice of the people through me.

HEAD XIII—LEGISLATURE.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Head be now considered.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: As regards item 11, "Refreshments, £200", the Select Committee which was appointed to consider and report on this item has not reported and I am therefore asking that this Head be passed as it is. In any case this item will have to be increased because a supplementary vote for £105 has to come down. I hope that the Select Committee will do their business thoroughly and not meet in the haphazard way in which they had to meet last Thursday.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In connection with item 14, "Reporting and printing debates of Legislature, £200" I would like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to give us the assurance that when the question of the Reporters' salaries is gone into, the payment of these increased salaries will be made retrospective.

Mr. ADAMS: They will be dealt with in the same way as the refreshments.

Mr. LEWIS: It was impossible for me to attend one of the meetings of the Select Committee. On the question of the remuneration of the Reporters I should like to say this; three Reporters are employed to take down the debates of the Other Place and this House. The Other Place does not meet as often as this House; the reporting in this House is increasing, and naturally you will have to pay more money for doing the work. But in addition to that we want the transcription of the debates done as quickly as possible. I think that an arrangement should be made

for the Reporter from the Other Place to come over here and assist those over here when the Other Place is not meeting.

Mr. TALMA: I want to say that this is a matter which will be dealt with by the Printing Committee on which I have no voice, and because of that I want to make my sentiments clear. Now that this House is sitting for such a lengthy period per day and long speeches are made by some members, I feel that the question of a senior and a junior Reporter should not arise. I feel that both Reporters should be on the same basis and they should be properly remunerated. Honourable members will realise that the junior Reporter works even harder than the senior Reporter, although happily for the junior Reporter this afternoon he has the senior Reporter who will relieve him periodically. I hope that the Printing Committee will deal with the question of the Reporters' salaries in the proper way and that the increased salaries will be paid retrospectively.

The sum of £1,045 was voted under this Head.

HEAD XXIII—MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.

(10) *Maternity Hospital*

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXIII, Medical Departments, Sub-Head (10) Maternity Hospital be re-committed.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: Under this Sub-Head the sum of £3,380 was voted instead of £5,381. I beg to move that the sum of £5,381 be voted under this Sub-Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXV—HOUSING BOARD.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXXV be re-committed.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: In connection with this Head, the sum of £2,572 was voted whereas the amount which should have been voted is £2,527. The correct amount appears in column 3 of the Estimates under this Head. I beg to move that the sum of £2,527 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS THE PASSING OF RESOLUTIONS

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of several Resolutions in Committee on the Estimates for the financial year 1948-49 amounting to £1,109,999.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what the position is as regards capital expenditure. I understand that it has been set out as a forecast of what will be spent, but I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to let me know if the schemes are coming down separately or if they are coming down all at once. For the satisfaction of the Civil Servants I am asking what is going to be done about the Cost of Living Allowance? Last year we voted this Allowance in a lumpsum under one Head.

Mr. ADAMS: The note on page 91 of the Estimates makes it clear as to what is contemplated. Honourable members will see that there is a lump-

sum of £80,000 allocated to the Cost of Living Allowance to Government servants or equivalent increase in emoluments. If Mr. Adams' recommendations are accepted and implemented the payment of this Cost of Living Allowance will have to be stopped and that is why the matter has been put in this alternative way. We will pay this Cost of Living Allowance until the recommendations are implemented.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to point out that the payment of this Cost of Living Allowance will end on Wednesday next and in connection with a Department like the Department of Highways and Transport a lot of work will have to be done in revising the wages list. I am wondering if an abstract Resolution should not come before this House relative to this matter. I know that it might slip the Government that next Tuesday or Wednesday is the right time to have such a Resolution passed. I just want to make sure that these people will not be inconvenienced.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Some of these people are paid weekly. If the payment of this Cost of Living Allowance ends next Wednesday and something does not happen, work will be stopped and people will be knocked off. It is of no use having the money in the Treasury and having work stopped before any money is voted. The Head of the Department may say: "I am not putting on any more labour than that for which I have money to pay". That has happened already; the Head of a Department refused to employ labour because he had no money and he would not employ people on the strength of the House passing the vote.

Mr. ADAMS: If that is aired as a grievance then the honourable member should resign. I personally would resign.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I can resign.

The question that the Chairman do now report the passing of several Resolutions in Committee on the Estimates for the financial year 1948-49 amounting to £1,109,999 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, Resolutions for the grant of sums of money amounting to £1,109,999 being the Estimates for the financial year 1946-49 were read a first and second time and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to deal with Order No. 31 on the Order Paper as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Order No. 31 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—Second reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The second reading was passed.

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

The several Clauses of the Bill and the Schedules were read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case the Bill was a third time passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to take Order No. 21 as the next Order of the day.

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

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that Rule 60 be suspended in order that Order No. 21 be taken as the next Order is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church, — Second reading of a Bill to continue various expiring laws.

Mr. TALMA: This is the usual Bill that comes before this House every year to continue various expiring laws. It is non-controversial and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: It will be recollected that last year we omitted the Act which permits a person to ride on the bag of a bicycle. It was put in by the Other Place and the Bill was returned to us. Can the senior member for Christ Church tell me if it is included in the Bill?

Mr. LEWIS: I know that it is included in this Bill because I particularly looked for it. But what strikes me as peculiar is that the junior member for St. James should make the enquiry because last year when the Bill got to the Other Place it was said that the Advisory Board of the Highways and Transport Department, of which the honourable member is a member, had recommended that it should be taken out. It was omitted from the Bill and the House of Assembly was told nothing about it.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 are read and are agreed to. The Schedule is read and Mr. TALMA moves, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, that it stand part of the Bill.

Mr. COX: I just want to make a few remarks in connection with the Vagrancy Act, 1897, (1897—3). Section 11 of that Act says that the provisions of it shall not apply to the transactions of and the pari-mutuel conducted under the authority of the Barbados Turf Club. I would like to say that there is much dissatisfaction among the people who attend Races and invest money. I happen to be a lover of horse-racing and it also happens that I am hard hit by this pari-mutuel which is conducted under the authority of the Turf Club. No one knows what percentage they give you when you buy a horse to win and I think that not only should some explanation be given but that a better premium should be paid when the horse whom you back wins. The same argument applies to the 2/- Sweep. Another thing is this. One pays 3/- to enter the uncovered stand and when the rain falls one gets wet. While I am not prepared to vote for the deletion of The Vagrancy Act, 1897 (1897—3). Section 11, from this schedule I still feel that something better must be done on behalf of the people who invest money in this form of sport; if nothing is done and I happen to be here next year I shall marshal forces to have this Act removed from the schedule to this Bill.

Mr. MAPP: When the honourable member says that something must be done I do not know if he means that something should be done for the people who lose. This gambling is becoming a terrible burden all over the world and I would support the honourable member strongly in deleting this Act from this schedule. It is true that this form of gambling is not carried on in this island as is done in big countries where it is a racket but Government should, nevertheless, regulate it and prevent people from losing so much money.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Some honourable members are afraid of what the reaction would be on the part of those people who buy sweepstake and pari-mutuel tickets but there are thousands of dollars that are being expended by poor people who cannot afford it in the expectation that they will be a sweepstake winner. Something has to be done to curb this gambling urge. We do not permit people to throw dice for money in the streets but the Turf Club is permitted to carry on this form of gambling all through the year — from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. It is time that the Government should control the amount of sweepstake gambling that is going on in the island. When I was a boy, sweepstake tickets used to be on sale for two or three periods in a year but now they are on sale all through the year. Certain people believe that the purchasing of a sweepstake ticket is an investment, but it is not like an insurance policy by which you are assured of a sum of money after a number of years. What is worse is that the Barbados Turf Club completely controls this form of gambling. I have a sweepstake ticket here in my hand and it shows what percentage is to be paid as first prize; it used to be 15% but after a little pressure on the part of people who patronize the Sweep, it has been increased to 17%. There is no control over what they should pay; they pay whatever they like. If the people like gambling and they have this gambling urge let the Government carry it on itself, so that when these people become old and are a charge on the Government it will be in possession of funds to give them relief or we should step in and let the Turf Club know how much of this form of gambling we are going to permit. This is big people's business. Big people

such as the Aga Khan and Lord Derby keep race-horses but as soon as a small man happens to win a race-horse as a consolation prize, he has to look for the first person who can buy it from him. I am not asking any honourable member to say what I say because I take full responsibility for what I say. I do not believe in wholesale gambling like this but if the people like it, the Government should carry it on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Like the honourable member who has just sat down, the Turf Club has never had a cent from me. I have never bought a sweepstake ticket nor I would never buy one. But I see from the Estimates that we expect to get £9,000 in 1948—49 from Sweepstakes under the Gaming (Amendment) Act, 1941. The honourable member who has just spoken knows as well as I do that we carry on a little gambling every year but that is not legalized. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph smiles and he knows what I mean.

Mr. ADAMS: Inasmuch as the honourable member refers to me I will say that I am not aware of any organization to which I belong that carries on gambling. The question of gambling is an appropriate subject for a Debating Society. I agree with the senior member for St. Peter. Wholesale gambling corrupts a nation and if you will look at the history of the world you will find that those nations which were and are in a state of poverty have become so as the result of extensive gambling. I do not agree with him that the Government should carry on gambling; that is a thing that destroys a nation because instead of using reasonable means of raising revenue, you begin to raise revenue by gambling and demoralize the people. I often smile when I hear persons talk about unemployment, and malnutrition and starvation in Barbados. They are men who buy a 2/- ticket when they should be purchasing a meal for their wives and children. I will give an illustration. A man who comes into my office nearly every Saturday for a small tip said in my presence that he was hoping to win a sweepstake prize that time because he had 22 tickets. That is an unemployed man who lives on charity and he had 22 tickets. I have occasionally bought tickets just as the Bishop of London or the Archbishop of Canterbury may have put 2/- on the Derby. Nearly all English men and women put a small amount on the Derby and to that extent my gambling goes. You can justify the most immoral conduct by giving it a nice label. People have tried to justify the existence of brothels by saying "Let them pay a tax and take the money to run a hospital." I have heard it more ingeniously put this way: take the money obtained from the tax on brothels and spend it to cure venereal disease. You can justify anything. Here in the West Indies it has actually been suggested that we should have a State lottery to help the West Indian University. God help us if we have reached that stage! I would most strongly oppose any extension of the gambling existing at the present moment and it may be advisable to limit the number of tickets that the Turf Club can sell. Then the number of people who are going to constantly buoy themselves up with the elusive hope of winning \$18,000 or \$20,000 will be diminished and we would gradually get people having more and more the sense of responsibility and of working for what they want.

Mr. LEWIS: I am not so meek and mild as to say that people should not be allowed to take chances in life by investing small amounts in the hope of getting large amounts but I know that there are people who should be protected from themselves. If you limit the number of tickets that are sold you are

going to create a black market for the sale of tickets. What we should do is to see that the tickets are not on the highways for sale from the 1st of January to the 31st of December every year. It is a source of annoyance, although it provides employment for certain people. The sale of tickets should be regulated so as to give a breathing space in this form of gambling. I wish, Sir, to repeat something I said two years ago. It is this. While we are perfectly willing to regularise this gambling by permitting the purchase of a ticket on a race that is actually run on the Garrison Savannah I do not know whether the legalizing by the Government of the gambling by the Turf Club includes what is known as the Consolation Sweepstake that has absolutely nothing to do with the Races at the Savannah. They are purely collecting money by this means and raffling it; they need not run a horse and still they would print on a Consolation ticket "Spring Meeting" or "Autumn Meeting". I do not know if the senior member for St. Joseph can help me in this particular matter. The legal man who last occupied the position which the honourable member now occupies in this House could not help me. I want to know whether it is legal for the Turf Club to raffle money that is obtained from the sale of Consolation tickets; furthermore, the raffle takes place long after the Race Meeting has been concluded.

Mr. COX: What I am definitely against is this. Every Race Meeting the Turf Club takes out 15 per cent. and you can imagine the amount of money that goes into their coffers from year to year. I feel that the Club should be able to do with 7 or 8 per cent. and give a few more prizes to the many people who lose. I also feel that the disparity in the prizes for the horses is too great; the money should be more equally distributed.

The question that the schedule stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, the Chairman reports the passing of this Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. ADAMS in each case, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the adjournment of the House, I suggest that the Order Paper should remain as it is. I know it is the feeling of honourable members that we should not meet on Tuesday; but I suggest that we meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon so that we can deal with any amendments that might come down from the Other Place. Perhaps we could adjourn until Wednesday.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can move the adjournment for a fortnight and leave it to me to summon a meeting of the House if necessary.

Mr. ADAMS: Honourable members will have to bear that in mind. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday the 6th day of April, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon and I remind honourable members that there are many huge Bills with which we have to deal.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday, the 6th day of April, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.