



SUPPLEMENT TO The Official Gazette

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BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, 27TH DECEMBER, 1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th November, 1948.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, A. E. S. LEWIS, H. D. BLACKMAN, E. D. MOTTLEY, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, and V. C. GALE.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. WARD, WILKINSON, and CRAWFORD enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 8th November, 1948, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

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

Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month ended 31st October, 1948.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. Thomas for the half year ended 30th September, 1948.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE *RE* ALTERNATE NOMINEES TO STANDING CLOSER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— I have the honour to present the following Message:—

*His Excellency the Governor
To*

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Address of the Honourable House of Assembly dated 5th October informing him that at an informal joint meeting of members of the Honourable House of Assembly and the Council held on the 14th

of September, it was agreed that the representatives from Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee to be appointed under Resolution 6 of the Conference should be—The Honourable H. A. Cupe, O.B.E., M.L.C., and Mr. G. H. Adams, M.C.P.

2. A few days before the opening meeting of the Committee it became clear that not only Mr. Adams but Mr. Cupe also would be absent, and that Barbados would accordingly be unrepresented. After consultation with the Chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee, His Excellency informed the Secretary of State of the position and suggested, as an emergency measure and not to be regarded as a precedent, that Mr. Cupe and Mr. Adams should nominate deputies. Each of them did so, but the persons that they nominated at first found themselves unable to act owing to pressure of business. It was therefore necessary again to report the position to the Secretary of State for the information of Mr. Cupe and Mr. Adams, both of whom then made alternative nominations. One of Mr. Cupe's nominees has now taken his place in the Committee. Neither of Mr. Adams's alternative nominees has so far accepted.

HILARY BLOOD,

Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,
16th November, 1948.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution for £210 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-49 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, item 33, Clerical Assistance.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £1,500 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the purpose of renovating and refurbishing the Chambers of the House of Assembly, the Legislative Council, and the Attorney General.

Dr. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 to consider, later in the day, the money Resolutions of which I just gave notice.

Other Notices are:—

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— I intended to give notice of an Address with reference to the purchase by the Government of the Central Foundry site in Trafalgar Square but I recently

learnt that the Government is negotiating in the matter and, therefore, I do not propose to proceed with the Address.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly have learnt with surprise that the Commissioner of Police, Colonel O. St. A. Duke, M.M., has been required to retire under Section Eight, Subsection (2), of the Pension Act 1947-20.

2. The House would be glad to be informed in what way this is a special case as required by the aforementioned section.

3. The House understand that the Commissioner is only 52 years of age and is not desirous of retiring.

4. The House desire to place on record and draw to Your Excellency's attention the high respect in which the Commissioner is held by all ranks of the Police and by the public in general.

5. The House can only come to the conclusion that Your Excellency is being badly advised by persons without the requisite knowledge in this matter.

6. The House have the honour to ask that Your Excellency will cable in full the text of this Address to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to his annulling his decision in this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have satisfied myself, in respect of three Addresses which have been shown to me by the honourable senior member for the City, the honourable senior member for St. Philip, and the honourable junior member for the City respectively, that they all deal with the same subject matter, namely, the enforced retirement of Colonel Duke, Commissioner of Police. Strictly speaking, inasmuch as all three Addresses deal with the same subject matter, a poll should have been taken to decide which of the three should be given notice of but in view of the fact that the honourable senior member for the City has already given notice of, and read, his Address I would suggest to the two other honourable members to decline giving notice of their Addresses and that if the Address of the honourable senior member for the City does not meet entirely with their wishes, they could make the necessary amendments to it in due course.

Mr. LEWIS: I accept that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I accept that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am grateful to the two honourable members for accepting my suggestion.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Of my intention to move the suspension of Rule 60 later in the day, to deal with the Address of which I have just given notice, under Private Members' Business.

Mr. SYMONDS enters the House and takes his seat.

A BREACH OF THE PRIVILEGE OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— Before you proceed to call the Orders of the Day I should like to draw Your Honour's attention to, and crave permission to discuss, a matter which, I consider, is of great, public importance. I refer to the Message from His Excellency the Governor which was presented to this House a few moments ago, in relation to the appointment of alternate nominees to represent Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee,—a Message which, in my opinion, constitutes a breach of the privileges of this House of Assembly.

Surely, every honourable member must feel proud of the ancient rights and privileges, which have been handed down to us, of this Assembly and this is a rather glaring instance in which those rights and privileges are being overridden by a person or persons who seem to be out merely to dictate the policy of this Assembly. It is elementary — and I think all other honourable members will agree with me — even to attempt to argue that delegates themselves cannot relegate their authority to other persons. Even in Russia where Joe Stalin himself does the nominations, it could hardly be conceived that he would allow a delegate nominated by him to relegate his authority to someone else without his knowledge and consent. I must say that the one thing which I appreciate in this instance is that the members of this House who form part of the Government have seen fit not to associate themselves with this breach of privilege because they must see clearly the attempt which is being made to railroad us into doing something contrary to ancient custom.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member having drawn attention to this constitutional issue, does he intend before he sits down to move the appointment of a Select Committee to consider His Excellency's Message?

Mr. MOTTLEY: In due course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a motion will be made. Despite the statement, Sir, that this is an emergency measure and is not to be regarded as a precedent, we in this country know well, from recent happenings, that this is the insertion of the thin edge of the wedge. This is nothing but an attempt to create a precedent and despite the fact that the Other Place has seen fit to accept this suggestion, I regret very much that I as a member of this Assembly cannot see my way to accept it. It is true that it is customary to appoint a Select Committee to draft a reply to a Message of this sort from the Governor but this Conference will come to an end in a week's time and if prompt action is not taken in this matter Barbados will not have been represented. I regard it as a very serious matter indeed because, as has been said, the other islands in the Caribbean look to Barbados, in many instances, for leadership in this respect and it is for those reasons that I contend that honourable members of this Assembly should in no uncertain terms to-day express their disapproval of this high-handed action. I go further and say that if it had not got out that honourable members of this House would fight to the last ditch to prevent action of this sort taking place, possibly the terms of this Message would not be expressed in this way. I feel, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this House should resolve itself into a Committee to draft the reply to this Message to-day because if we allow this state of affairs to continue, God only knows what will take place next. I, therefore, beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee to draft a reply to the Message presented by the senior member for St. Thomas relative to the appointment of alternate nominees to represent Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am just rising to a point of order. I think that under Rule 186 the senior member for the City has to ask for the leave of the House if he wants a Select Committee to sit during the sitting of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for the City, as I understand him, is moving that this House go into Committee to consider this Message, not that a Select Committee be appointed for the purpose.

Dr. Wilson enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. WILKINSON: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion of the senior member for the City and I must say that this episode must go down as a disgrace in the history of Barbados. Here we have Barbados selected as the suitable place for the holding of the most important Conference that has taken place in the Caribbean for very many years and the Conference have done almost half of their business without Barbados being represented. Do not tell me that the persons who should know did not know that the Honourable H. A. Cuke and the honourable senior member for St. Joseph would not be returning to the island in time for this Conference. They knew it three weeks ago. I knew it and they knew it too, and what action did they take to have Barbados represented? I feel very strongly in this matter and even if at this late hour somebody is appointed, is it fair to such a person that he should attend the Conference when their business has been almost completed? He would only be in the position of listener. No, Sir; this is disgraceful! As the senior member for St. Joseph said before he left this island, the eyes of the world are on Barbados and, Sir, they are blinking now. I certainly think that there has been gross mismanagement on the part of somebody in this matter and that gross mismanagement has made us the laughing-stock of the Caribbean. I, therefore, second the motion of the senior member for the City (Cheers).

Mr. GARNER enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Before you leave the Chair, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER, I should like to say how regrettable is this situation which is causing the House to act in this manner. At the same time I should like to modify an expression of the junior member for St. James. By implication, he says that this Conference will come to end without Barbados having been represented but I would like to point out that this is a Standing Committee and that this is only the first meeting of the Committee. It is not, therefore, the one and only opportunity that the delegates from Barbados will have to attend and so I do not want it to go on record that Barbados will not be represented on the Committee. The Committee cannot complete its work at one meeting and there are going to be many more meetings for the purpose. I believe that those in authority in this island were aware of the absence of the senior member for St. Joseph and the knowledge that this Conference would take place on the 12th November; therefore, they should have made earlier provision for the representation of this island at the Conference. I regret too that the House is more or less in a slight manner to be blamed because it did not attempt to have this situation clarified before but I do not want to put much blame on the House. I want to put the blame where it should be put. I am saying that the Administration—by that term I do not want to mix it up with the members of the Executive Committee in this House—is responsible for this situation. The Authorities should have known that the senior member for St. Joseph would not be back in time for the Conference and I want to say that the Administration must be blamed for allowing this matter to lag and for forcing the House to take the step it is now taking. I agree with the two honourable members who have spoken that it is disgraceful in the extreme that this should have taken place and that this matter should have been allowed to lag for such a length of time.

Mr. MAPP: I should just like to make a brief comment. I believe I am right in saying that the appointment of these delegates was made by a joint Committee of both Houses of the Legislature. As it is, I should not say by a happy coincidence but by coincidence both delegates cannot attend. I am, there-

fore, wondering whether it would not be the proper procedure for both Houses of the Legislature to meet again and appoint these alternate nominees. It seems very logical to me. Both Houses met in the first instance and appointed the delegates inasmuch as this is a Standing Committee and not any ordinary Committee and it seems to me that both Houses should meet again and appoint the alternate nominees. I take it that we could have objected to the appointees and nominated two members from this House but we did not do that and I do not see why we should act separately in the matter now and adopt a different procedure now that we are appointing the alternate delegates. I agree with those who say that this situation is to be regretted and to use a stronger term it should be condemned. It looks silly that Barbados is not represented but, nevertheless, I should like to see the matter approached in the right method.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put I merely want to point out that under Resolution 6 of the Montego Bay Conference these delegates were to be appointed by the legislators of each unit in the British Caribbean area and in those colonies in which there are two Houses of the Legislature it was suggested that there should be a joint meeting of the two Houses to nominate their delegates. In any case, Sir, the definite understanding was that in case there were two Houses of the Legislature in a colony, as is the case in Barbados, there should be a delegate from each House and in a colony like Trinidad which has a unicameral Legislature, if the members of the Legislature so desire, their delegates would be appointed from their body. Inasmuch, therefore, as the Other Place decided to nominate an alternate delegate I think we are on safe ground in nominating an alternate delegate from this branch of the Legislature. I merely make that statement in reply to the remarks of the junior member for St. Thomas. But with regard to the entire question itself, we have not got far to seek and find out on whose shoulders the blame for this situation is to be squarely placed. His Excellency the Governor himself has stated in his Message to this House that a few days before the opening meeting of the Committee it became clear that not only Mr. Adams but Mr. Cuke also would be absent, and that Barbados would accordingly be unrepresented; that after consultation with the Chairman of the Standing-Committee Association Committee, he informed the Secretary of State of the position and suggested, as an emergency measure and not to be regarded as a precedent, that Mr. Cuke and Mr. Adams should nominate deputies. In other words, His Excellency the Governor himself is to be blamed for the present unsatisfactory position. Now, I think that we owe it to ourselves to make it very clear to the Head of the Administration that we in this Chamber do not intend to encroach upon his prerogative and we certainly do not expect that he will encroach upon ours (Cheers). Nobody in this colony expects the Head of the Administration,—so long as he is in his right senses and so long as he maintains his sense of responsibility, and so long as he knows what he is doing,—to attempt to dictate to the Legislature what it should do and if an official occupying his high office is going to place himself in a position in which he lets himself open to the criticism of the Legislature, then when he gets it he has only himself to blame. It may well be that he has been able to impose his influence on a certain branch of the Legislature with impunity and that, therefore, he thinks he can do it on the entire House with impunity; but I think that we as the elected representatives in this Chamber owe it to ourselves to

maintain the tradition of preserving all our ancient rights and privileges in the first instance, and in the second instance I wonder what excuse the Governor could have given to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for suggesting that there should be a change in the method by which alternate delegates should be appointed to the Standing Closer Association Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable member to constantly bear in mind Rule 126.

Mr. CRAWFORD: While I appreciate the fact that under a Rule of the House no member may use the Governor's name irreverently in debate, yet, Sir, I am sure that you will appreciate the fact that when that Rule was passed, the persons who passed it never envisaged that we would have a Governor who would so forget himself as to make this *faux pas* which has been made.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even if that may be the case, the Rule is still there and it must be observed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It is difficult to abide by the Rule in a matter like this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I know; but I can always count on the honourable member to observe it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: This is an exceptional case when, if we do not make our position clear and if we do not emphasize the fact that we are not prepared to allow ourselves to be dictated to by any official in this colony, what has happened to-day may happen again. This shows the direction in which the wind is blowing and I do not believe in locking the stable after the horse is out. The Head of the Administration and even the Secretary of State for the Colonies must realize that in this Chamber there are men who appreciate their responsibility, who appreciate their position, who appreciate what is expected of them, and who are not prepared to allow any imported official or anybody in this colony for that matter to attempt to infringe their rights in the first instance and in the second instance to usurp the position which morally or legally or traditionally belongs to them. I sincerely hope that throughout the remainder of the present regime we shall have no other instance of this sort and I also sincerely hope that the attitude adopted to-day by honourable members will serve as a deterrent to any succeeding Administrator who may so forget himself as to usurp the rights which belong to the elected members of this Assembly.

The question that Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee to draft a reply to His Excellency's Message in relation to the appointment of alternate nominees to represent Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee, is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. WARD: In drafting a reply to this Message, it must be borne in mind that none of us knew that it was coming down to us and we have to draft the reply in such a manner as to show our disapproval of the particular method which the Head of the Administration has adopted in respect of the appointment of these alternate nominees to the Standing Closer Association Committee. Sir, this, in my opinion, is nothing short of dictatorship. As I said in this House last Tuesday, we are giving up our rights and privileges to someone who will dictate the policy around this table. This House should send a very strongly worded Address, in reply, to the Head

of the Administration, making it clear that neither he nor his successors in office should attempt to do such a regrettable thing to this Assembly. I feel that it is our duty to express the feelings of the people of this colony. We who represent the people in this Assembly all know very well that the public in general is definitely against the method which has been adopted in this particular instance. Sir, I feel that we in this House should be calm in all our doings and should not rush wildly into any actions but, Sir, when we get our Head being advised by people who are trying to squeeze us in all forms, people who are imported from other parts of the world not knowing the conditions of civilized people such as there are in Barbados, I feel we should let it be known to them that we are not wild people as they are; that we do not live among wild, uncivilized people and animals, and that they must learn to appreciate that fact when they come to a civilized country among people who have as much or even more respect than they. If the Head of the Administration is taking advice, he should take it from people who have resided here for some time and who are capable of knowing what is right or what is wrong on both sides and not on one side only. I feel that this House, regardless of Party, will approve of a strongly worded reply to this Message and will let the Head of the Administration know that the people of this island will not sit down and take things from him or any other high official in this way. The Legislature of Barbados is, I believe, one of the oldest legislative institutions in the British Empire and it would be disgraceful on our part if we allow treatment like this to be meted out to us in this year of grace, 1948. We have not been begging the British Government to carry on for us; we are capable of carrying on our affairs and we will not be dictated to by people who cannot carry on their own affairs. We should reply in strong terms and let His Excellency know where we stand.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I certainly hope that this reply will be couched in the strongest language that is possible. But, Sir, I do not put all the blame on the Head of the Administration. I am putting the blame chiefly on his advisers. I consider that he is wrongly advised on many matters that are taking place in this Island now and the blame partly lies on the English Government in respect of the men whom it is sending us today. If you visit some of the offices of some of these officials you will see that all the dignity of those offices is gone. I would go nearly so far as to say that they are "carioca" boys (Laughter); they are propaganda ministers and smalltown lawyers (Renewed Laughter) and I say we are suffering today as the result of the advice that is given by these imported Englishmen.

Mr. SYMONDS: Mr. Chairman,—I want to join those honourable members who have voiced protest against this insertion of what I regard as the thin edge of the wedge. We are being loudly told, from every quarter, that we are shortly going to have a greater measure of Responsible Government and in the face of those glowing promises, what do we find? We find that we are being treated as goats are treated, that is to say, with slips being hung up before them just out of their reach while they starve. To-day, our system of government is gradually being abolished. We are gradually relinquishing the powers which members of this House wielded as representatives of the people on the various Boards in this Colony. We are abolishing the statutory Boards for Advisory Boards without power and are placing them in the hands of officials in the hope that in the future we shall have a greater form of

Responsible Government with a real, responsible, ministerial set-up. While we are doing that, passing away all the powers which members elected by the people had in this community for seeing that the wishes of the people were carried out, it appears to me that those who administer the affairs of this Island have begun to feel that it is enough to give a promise to members of this Assembly and they can do anything. It is time that we cry "halt", if not we will wake up one morning and find this Assembly simply a debating hall and that we have sat here and passed away all of those rights and privileges by which the representatives of the people in this Chamber have, for years, enforced their will in the management of the affairs of this Colony. It is all the more important at a time like this, with an enlarged franchise, with a greater number of people sending the kind of people whom they want to this Assembly, with a majority of working class representatives in this Chamber, it is all the more important that any insult which would not have been offered to the members of the Assembly in years gone by should not now be tolerated and I am appealing to every member in this Chamber to show a united front to-day, in order that those who have so insulted our intelligence, thereby insulting the intelligence of every elector in this colony, should be given a sharp warning. We are a most loyal people in the British Empire. We are British to the core and have justifiably earned the name of "Little England" because of that loyalty; but because of that loyalty and because we have got 16 labour representatives in this Chamber, we must not be treated with such scant disrespect. I regard this as an insult to the masses of this colony who have shown their desire to place the destiny of this colony in the hands of such people as they feel will truly represent them. If we allow an incident of this kind to pass unnoticed, there will be further incidents taking place and the confidence which the people have reposed in us to champion their cause and to lead this island on to the stage where we shall really have government of the people, by the people, and for the people, in the interest of the people, instead of that, we will be having government by dictators for the benefit of dictators. We say emphatically "this must not be in this island of Barbados." We expect that the promises made to us, whereby greater responsibility in Government will be handed over to the representatives of the people, will be carried out and we expect and demand it because of our not only professed but sincere loyalty. We repudiate acts of this kind and we ought to demand from the Colonial Office and from all those who represent the Colonial Office a greater amount of respect for the people's representatives in this colony. Again I say it is time that a halt be called to the extension of a system of more governors and new governors in this colony. It is time that we in this Assembly put on the brakes, as far as allowing new minor governorships to be set up in our midst is concerned, and I again urge honourable members, not only to repudiate this Message but to join together and send a protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies pointing out that we in Barbados, though loyal, will not submit to this kind of treatment; that we will take whatever means lies in our power to show our objection to treatment of this sort which is not merely an insult to the representatives of the people in this Chamber but to the people of Barbados themselves and to the intelligence of the people who elected the members of this Assembly.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman,—I want to be very candid in this matter. It appears as though this debate will be protracted. We have heard—and

it seems as if we are going to hear—many things that are extraneous and do not really concern the subject under discussion. Now, let me say from the outset, Mr. Chairman, that there are some official minds that I have never been able to understand nor will be able to understand, nor care to understand. I have no excuse to offer for them and I, for one, would join in condemning any action which I consider is unfair. I have heard remarks from persons defending certain unfair actions of some officials—

The CHAIRMAN: I want the honourable member to stick to the Message before the Committee. Do not refer to any appointments or anything of that sort during this debate. I have allowed sufficient latitude already and I am not allowing any more. Stick to the issue.

Mr. MAPP: I am very surprised that you should come to that conclusion when I am speaking. I am not dealing with any appointments or anything of that sort. I am referring to statements which have been made and which are extraneous to the subject which is under discussion at the moment. Surely, Mr. Chairman, I am entitled to do that! As I was saying I have heard certain remarks on the opposite side of this table about using strong language—even foul language—in a reply of this sort,—remarks coming from people who have defended officials in respect of wrong acts on their part,—and I cannot help feeling that much of this criticism is witch-hunting to-day. As I have said, there are some official minds in this island that I have never been able to understand and I claim the right, as a member of this House, to condemn any action by them which, I consider, to be unjust. I do not want anything from them. I crave nothing from them. I do not want to meet them. But members on the other side of this table are importing into this debate extraneous matter which has nothing to do with the subject under discussion. It does not suit certain of us, as responsible members of this community, to sit here and hear that sort of thing going on and not protest against it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is making some wild statements. I wish he would be more precise. The honourable member is accusing previous speakers of importing extraneous matter into this debate, or witch-hunting, or using foul language and of referring to matters other than the subject in issue. I would like him to specify exactly what he is referring to because, so far, I have heard nothing to justify his allegations.

Mr. MAPP: Surely, Mr. Chairman, it does not require 1½ hours to debate a matter of this sort in this House, just to condemn the attitude of an official. That is all I am commenting upon. It is being bound up with politics. I was hoping that this debate would have been finished sometime ago; that we would have got on with the reply which we have in mind, finish it and proceed to other business! Instead, we have been hearing a lot of rigmarole which does not suit this Assembly. Both Houses of the Legislature met and nominated representatives on the Standing Closer Association Committee, and I submit that both Houses should meet again and nominate the alternate representatives. As a matter of fact, I do not at all agree with a nominated legislator being appointed a representative on that important Committee; he does not know what the people want. The Head of the Administration, having discovered that the nominees to this Conference would not be back in time, endeavoured to find out if they had any persons in mind whom they could recommend to take their places and having found that out he comes back to the Legislature

to find out if we approve or not. It is up to us to say whether or not we approve or whether the method adopted is wrong. Instead, there is a great deal of witch-hunting and of trying to bore holes in certain officials because they do not stand in the favour of certain people and because of certain statements which have been made in other quarters.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman,—That anyone could think or suggest that this matter should be taken lightly by the honourable members of this House is, in my opinion, indicative of his ability to read the writing on the wall. This matter, Mr. Chairman, is not bound up with politics; this is bound up with the future of Barbados. Our ancient colony and its customs seem to be thorns in someone's side. For the past four years our Constitution and our rights and privileges are being attacked. Here to-day we have a glaring example of what the Head of the Administration thinks of the members of this Honourable House; it is an example which should make every serious minded inhabitant of Barbados stop and think of the future. This island, Sir, is becoming somewhat overrun with the idea that there is no one locally who is capable of running it; that, Sir, is what we are facing here to-day. What sane mind would suggest to us that a person who is appointed as a delegate should relegate his authority to someone else? Mr. Chairman, if I appoint my factory manager, could he go and appoint another factory manager in his place? No, Sir, this is not commonsense! This is an insult to the integrity of this House and it is happening daily. The Colonial Office had better wake up and read the writing on the wall. We are being surrounded. Our liberties and rights are being undermined and I am issuing this warning as seriously as I can. I have had bitter experience in the last War of the difference between a colonial and other people. Mr. Chairman, I have tried to control myself. It is a matter about which I am rather bitter. This little island, loyal for hundreds of years, is now to be told that it is not capable of representing itself even in its own House of Assembly; that is what it comes to, Sir; nothing else! And, Sir, I hope that we, as a people, will work together to see that our rights and privileges are not taken away by those who—well, Sir, perhaps I had better not go any further. Sir, the junior member for St. Thomas referred to witch-hunting. I do not know what he means by that term but I think every honourable member will understand me when I say "look out for those who are job-hunting in high places." (Cheers).

Mr. HAYNES: I have listened to the various speeches on His Excellency's Message with great interest and I am glad to see that the members of this Chamber are at last realizing that things are coming to a pretty pass. Week after week we sit down here and pass Addresses. Some are not even answered and others are answered in such a way that they can be characterized as replies to children of 5 or 6 years of age. I am glad to see that this House is now waking up, judging by the speeches I have heard to-day, to the seriousness of the situation. We are going to be impotent if we do not put our feet down and stop this serious inroad in our Constitution and it is most important that we make reference to it in our reply to His Excellency the Governor. If we do not, presently we shall be getting orders in Messages from Government House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—Before I move the draft reply to His Excellency's Message I merely want to say, in passing, that nobody would accuse the junior member for St. Thomas of being able to see farther

than his nose and, therefore, we should not be surprised at the remarks he made. He has tried to make it appear that we have taken the stand we have to-day, for reasons other than those which we are discussing and that we are annoyed with certain officials for certain expressions they have used in certain quarters, presumably, with reference to certain people. If it would satisfy him to hear me say so, I will say "yes; we agree to that too. We are annoyed because leading officials in this colony refer to members of this House as numb-skulls and nit-wits. We are annoyed because a leading official in this colony, waiting at a meeting for the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, said for the others to hear him 'There comes monkey-nuts.' " If he says that we are annoyed at remarks used by certain officials in respect of certain people in this island, he is perfectly right.

Mr. MAPP: I rise to a point of order. I did not refer to the honourable member. If he chooses to draw the strings, it is his business. The honourable member knows that there are certain persons who have offered excuses for local officials in respect of certain appointments which they have made but I have never offered any such excuse. Let him continue to say what he likes.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—I beg to move that the following Address be the reply to His Excellency's Message:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly beg to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 38/1948 with reference to representation from Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee to be appointed under Resolution 6 of the Conference.

The House of Assembly would like to express their astonishment over the action taken by Your Excellency in the matter and find it impossible to appreciate that Your Excellency did not regard it as imperative that the matter should be referred to the Legislature for their further consideration.

The House with the greatest restraint on their feelings are compelled to point out to Your Excellency the fact that not only have their established constitutional privileges been grossly violated but that Your Excellency has seen fit to set out in your Message the fact that you have undertaken to infringe their constitutional privileges with your eyes wide open.

The House must record their surprise and profound disapproval of actions like these coming from the office held by Your Excellency and respectfully inform Your Excellency that they do not expect that a similar incident will occur again during Your Excellency's regime.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—I should like to second the motion for the passing of the Address which has been moved by the senior member for St. Philip but I think the wording of the Address should be discussed very carefully before we agree to it. I am in full agreement with what has been done because I think that this is a breach of the privileges of this House. The delegates whom we appointed have been asked to nominate alternate nominees and I think that the Head of the Administration has acted very unwisely in that respect. I do not know where he got his advice from but I think that his action should be repudiated. At the same time, I feel that we ourselves, in making our speeches in the House of Assembly on an important matter like this, should speak with restraint and dignity (Hear, hear and

Cheers). If we want to be respected as a House of Assembly we must act like respectable people. I was surprised at some of the remarks made in this House to-day about officials; those people should not have been brought into this discussion at all. (Cheers). This is a matter of replying to what we consider a breach of the privileges of the House. We think that our privileges have been infringed and we have a perfect right to stand up and uphold those privileges. But if in the speeches we make we do not observe the dignity of the House we are forgetting our own dignity. (Cheers).

THE CHAIRMAN: The honourable junior member for St. Philip caught my eye.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—So much has been said already that there is hardly anything for me to say.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—I wish to speak on the motion for the passing of this Address. When I spoke on this matter in the House I said I disagree with the action of His Excellency but I am not going to change the boot from one foot and put it on another. If we are passing an Address in reply to His Excellency's Message I agree with the junior member for St. Michael that we should show, in so doing, that we possess that dignity which, we are contending, he failed to observe. If in the Address we use undignified language, if we cannot express our disapproval without resorting to cheap language, then we would be failing in our dignity. The phrase "with your eyes wide open" is not becoming of the members of an ancient Assembly such as this. We should express ourselves in language befitting any Assembly. I will not vote for this Address, worded as it is. I feel that it should be amended. It was drafted in haste and I grant you that with the feeling of vexation, words may have been used which were not intended to be used; but I cannot vote for an Address which contains words that I do not feel I should support. My attitude will always be the same, whether I disagree with the Governor or anybody else. Four weeks ago I drew the attention of this House to something that took place in this colony in connection with the Administration. To-day I am not in agreement with this action of the Head of the Administration but I am not in agreement with the words "with your eyes wide open." If I stand alone I am going to vote against the inclusion of those words in this reply.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am very glad to see the emphasis that is being laid on the fact that we should observe the dignity we are expecting others to observe. Sir, we have all come here to-day to get off our minds something that is worrying the entire community, together with the matter before us; therefore, I will excuse the mixing of these matters. But, Sir, I am going to move that you report progress and ask leave to sit again, so that the mover and seconder of this Address may take steps during the luncheon interval to have as many copies of it as possible typed and circulated among members and let the House, in its collective wisdom, get down to business and pass a dignified protest against what we regard as a breach of our privileges. I should like to remind the House, in case I am not here, that we are dealing now with the appointment of substitutes for the delegates, inasmuch as the delegates have already been appointed. I now formally move that you report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not think we should report progress in this matter. If progress is reported it strikes me that we shall hardly reply to His

Excellency's Message to-day and we shall then have nobody representing us at the Conference of the Standing Closer Association Committee. While I readily agree that we should, as far as possible, use parliamentary language in this Address I cannot agree, even with the junior member for St. Michael, that if there are people in this country, blue-eyed, English or otherwise, who have been using derogatory terms in respect of natives because they are black, we must not stand on the floor of this House and say what we think about such people. When a member on the other side of the table referred to some of us on this side of the table as witch-hunting, I think he was attempting to draw a red herring across the trail. There is no question of witch-hunting nor, even as the senior member for St. George said, is there any question of job-hunting about this matter. I agree that a more parliamentary expression could be used than the term "with his eyes wide open" and I am appealing to the senior member for St. Philip to take those words out. I feel that a person should be big enough to accept a suggestion, even from persons in the opposition, if he sees the wisdom in it. I personally see the wisdom in taking out those words and I shall vote for this Address with those words deleted. If those words are deleted I see no necessity for reporting progress and I think we should pass the Address now or when we re-assemble later in the afternoon. We should also proceed to recommend some person to serve as an alternate delegate at the Conference.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to inform the Committee that originally those words were not mine; they were suggested to me and if it is suggested now that they should be deleted I have no objection to the deletion of them. I ask leave to delete the words "with your eyes wide open" in order to substitute the words "without provocation."

Leave is granted the honourable member and the Address is amended accordingly.

The Chairman: The question is—

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to make this suggestion again. This is an Address of some importance. We have attached so much importance to this matter that we postponed the Orders of the day to deal with it and I still feel that the members of the House should have copies of the Address, so that they can see the exact wording of it. The way in which a document is written can convey an entirely different meaning from that which the writer intended. It is, as I have said, a matter of importance and I see no reason why this House could not pass this Address later in the afternoon. There may be very little time left for us to have a joint meeting with the Other Place and in my opinion that is what should be done to regularize the position. I hope honourable members are going to agree to my motion, otherwise I shall be forced to use the means at my disposal to get my point carried.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: Earlier today I gave notice of two money Resolutions which are fairly urgent and I also gave notice that it was my intention to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 so as to deal with these Resolutions later in the day. I am therefore asking leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to proceed with Government Business.

Mr. DOWDING: I object. I feel that the matter which was before the House before we ad-

journed should be dealt with before anything else is done. That matter is an urgent one, it concerns the privileges of this House and we should not do anything before we deal with such a matter.

Dr. CUMMINS: I will make an explanation for the benefit of the honourable member. One Resolution is for a sum of money to pay for extra help in the Post Office over the Christmas period and the other Resolution is for the purpose of renovating and refurbishing the Chambers of the Legislature and the Attorney General during the forthcoming recess of the Legislature.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am quite prepared to remain here this afternoon to deal with these Resolutions but let us finish the other matter first.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) was put and resolved in the affirmative, the following division being taken:—

Ayes:—Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, BLACKMAN, GALE and Dr. CUMMINS—9.

Noes:—Dr. WILSON, Messrs. CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—8.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes:—Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD and Dr. CUMMINS—14.

Noes:—Dr. WILSON, Messrs. CRAWFORD and GARNER—3.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be now suspended in order to deal with the two Resolutions of which I gave notice earlier today.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

COST OF RENOVATING AND REFURBISHING THE CHAMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Dr. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £1,500 for the purpose of refurbishing and renovating the Chambers on the top floor of the east wing of the Public Buildings during the forthcoming recess of the Legislature. The items in connection with this work are fully set out in the addendum to the Resolution and I do not think that there is anything to which objection can be taken. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: This Resolution only came to us yesterday and some of us were out last night so

that we did not have sufficient time to go through it. I quite appreciate the necessity for some improvement to be made to this Chamber and to the Council Chamber, but I do not see the necessity under the heading "Lunch Room" for a fridaire costing £100 approximately. That money will buy a lot of ice. I do not see that it is necessary to have a fridaire with the House meeting once a week on an average. I see that provision is made for four rugs costing \$80, a carpet for the Speaker's room \$75, and for some toilets, basins, towel racks and so forth \$1,200. I would like to know whether any provision is being made for the accommodation of ladies in this House and if we are making alterations to this Chamber we should make provision for ladies. Apparently there are going to be six electric fans supplied. With regard to the Attorney General's Office, as far as I know the people who work there do not work very often at night; this Office is closed very shortly after 4 o'clock and it seems to me that the provision of lights and fans therein is an expense which should be avoided. But I am definitely not in favour of the provision of the fridaire. I beg to move that this Resolution be reduced by £100.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

The question that this Resolution be reduced by £100 was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes:—Dr. WILSON, Messrs. CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—9.

Noes:—Messrs. SYMONDS, HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, BLACKMAN and Dr. CUMMINS—7.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE re CLERICAL ASSISTANCE.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for £210 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure under Head 29, Miscellaneous Services, Item 23, Clerical Assistance. The purpose of this Resolution is to provide money so as to get extra assistance in the Post Office for the Christmas period. This is the usual Resolution which comes before us every year so that the Post Office might efficiently carry out its duties in the service of the public. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am in favour of this Resolution but I want to draw to the attention of the Government that there are people on whom Postmasters and Postmistresses call to do work for the Government on these occasions and on occasions when employees are on vacation, and when permanent appointments are to be made these appointments are given to other people. I want to draw to the attention of the honourable mover that it is not fair for people to work for the Government—it may be that they have worked for six years—and then priority is given to ex-servicemen. If you are helping ex-servicemen help them when things are equal, but it is not fair for anybody to be acting in a job and then when an appointment is to be made you put somebody else there. I feel that if you can have the convenience of a man acting in a job, if he is capable of filling the job it should be given to him when it is vacant. It has been drawn to my attention that preference has been given to ex-servicemen when these appointments are to be made and I say that it is not fair to ask people to act on such occasions and then help ex-servicemen. I do not think that any ex-serviceman should feel disappointed when a man who has acted in a job is given the job: I do not think that

an ex-serviceman should be appointed over the head of one who has been called upon to act. I hope that whenever future appointments are made preference will be given to people who have been acting in jobs for many long years.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I also agree with the principle of giving priority of appointment to those who have been acting in jobs. However I cannot associate myself with any remarks wherein it would be said that the service of ex-servicemen should be so ignored that they should not have at least equal chances of appointment with people who have been acting in jobs. A man who has been acting in a job has been here at ease and has been quite safe while the ex-serviceman has risked his life, has offered to lay down his life in order that others should remain at home in safety. I am quite prepared to support any appointments whereby ex-servicemen who have risked their lives to serve their country—more than what a lot of us would have done—should be recompensed. I am quite prepared to support at any time when an appointment is to be made, the giving to an ex-serviceman at least the same chance as a man who has been acting in a job. I strongly support the policy of giving a man who has been acting in a job priority to filling the job rather than giving that priority to somebody else and complaints have been made to me that that has been done. Where a man has been acting in a job for years I feel that he should be given the opportunity of filling the substantive post; but where there is an ex-serviceman who has risked his life on behalf of the country I feel that he should be given the same opportunity of filling a post as a man who has been acting in that post.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION RE ORGANISER OF GOVERNMENT HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas—

Mr. CRAWFORD: The motion for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) was made for the specific purpose that these two money Resolutions should be dealt with.

Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of order. I asked leave to move for the suspension of the Rule in order to deal with Government Business and I mentioned these two Resolutions.

The next Order of the Day was called:—To move the passing of a Resolution to authorise the Governor to enter into an Agreement with a person to serve in the Office of Organiser of the Government Housecraft Centre subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule to the resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: This is a Resolution to give the Governor power to make arrangements for someone to carry on the work at the Housecraft Centre in Bay Street. Under the terms of the appointment, the period of office of the present occupant comes to an end at the close of the financial year. Honourable members will remember that this Centre was being

carried on with funds from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation and those funds also come to an end at the close of the financial year. It is therefore necessary that a Resolution of this sort be passed immediately in order that negotiations may be entered into on the other side so as to find someone to carry on this work. I think that honourable members will agree that this Centre has been doing some very good work amongst the young people of Barbados and it would be nothing short of a calamity if it were forced to be closed down. The Schedule to the Resolution sets out the salary which will be paid to the next holder of the office, no Cost of Living Allowance will be paid and the Resolution seeks to give the Governor permission to pay the passage expenses of the office. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: I would like to enquire from the honourable mover whether local sources have been explored in order to see if there is anyone with suitable qualifications for this job. I would like to know whether it is possible to obtain somebody locally for this job or not.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I have been watching the work which is being done by this Housecraft Centre for some time and I can say that this work has been a distinct service to this community. If the person who is to succeed the present holder of the office has the same spirit of service and the same ability to give instruction in this work as the present holder of the office, then I feel that the money will be very well spent. This Housecraft Centre has been an experiment and, in my opinion, it has done a great deal of good in this community. I repeat that if the person who is succeeding the present holder of the office has the same public spirit and the same ability as the present holder, then I would have the greatest pleasure in supporting the motion for the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. GARNER: There is a lot in what the honourable senior member for St. George has said. Quite recently, I think, we gave a course of training in England to one of our natives but it is of no use our sending our natives to England to study and then when we want to fill a job we send out for an English person. It is time that we start and give jobs to people whom we have sent out for training. I think that we would be well advised to send back this Resolution to the Government and let them do something about that. After all, we know how the set-up is in England and we also want to fill positions in the West Indies too. When we send out people to be trained and then do not find lucrative jobs for them, we are not worth our salt as a Labour Government.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am supporting this Resolution because I happen to know something about this Centre. The lady in charge of this Centre has been doing great and useful work for the benefit of the community from the time that she has been here and I regret that the Government cannot retain her services for some time longer so that she could be of greater benefit to the community. I look forward to the day when we will have these Centres in the various parts of the island so that our people can have good training in housecraft and domestic science. I feel that the lady in charge of this Centre is not only a charming person but she has rendered great service to the people of Barbados and the West Indies as a whole. I feel that the Government should explore all possibilities and use all their influence in seeing whether the services of this lady could be retained for a longer period in this island for the benefit of the island. This lady is not merely doing a job as you would

appoint an Englishman to do a job; but she is also training people so that they can be useful to the community. I hope that the Government will retain the services of this lady if they can possibly do so.

Dr. CUMMINS: The holder of this office has the degree of B. Sc. and I am not aware that there is anyone in the colony holding that degree and who could be appointed to this post. However I will take the remarks of honourable members to the proper authorities, and intreat them to explore the Caribbean area first when the time comes to make this appointment.

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

BARBADOS REGIMENT (CHANGE OF TITLE) BILL

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Order No. 3 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:— Second reading of a Bill to change the title of the "Barbados Volunteer Force" to the "Barbados Regiment."

Dr. CUMMINS: The object of this Bill is to change the title "Barbados Volunteer Force" to "Barbados Regiment" as the former title is no longer considered appropriate. I must admit that I am not acquainted with the reasons for this change but it seems to me that the Officer in charge of the Force is desirous of having the title changed and certain things are being held up pending this change of title. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

The two Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60.

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to deal with Order No. 33 as the next Order of the Day—a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) Act, 1947.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It now being 3.30 o'clock, the time has come for the consideration of Private Members' Business.

REPLY TO GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE RE REPRESENTATION FROM BARBADOS ON THE STANDING CLOSER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 60 in order to proceed with the Reply to the Governor's Message discussion of which was begun earlier in the day.

Mr. LEWIS: It is unnecessary to do that. The matter is not one of the Orders of the Day and it is merely a question of asking the House to proceed with it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Orders of the Day are on the Order Paper already and unless we get leave to proceed with something else we have to go on with them as they stand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am inclined to agree with the honourable junior member for the City.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to make the Reply to the Governor's Message No. 38/1948 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Reply to the Governor's Message No. 38/1948 was being considered before the luncheon adjournment, the House was in Committee.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When we were in Committee on this Reply before the adjournment for lunch the honourable junior member for the City was speaking.

Mr. LEWIS: I had suggested that in the interim we might have had copies of this Address in reply to His Excellency's Message circulated. I do not know if any copies have been provided but I feel it is an unsatisfactory way of dealing with a long Address like this without copies of it being circulated. Something has been done in cutting out the words "with your eyes wide open" and inserting the words "without provocation" but I am not going to admit that I would be so undignified as to provoke the Head of the Administration. I would merely use the words "without justification." I do not know if the honourable member will accept that suggestion but I would make the amendment in that way.

Mr. MAPP: I do not think that we should put in the words "without provocation"; I think that the words "without justification" would be a better term to be used. Even if His Excellency were provoked he had no right to do what he has done.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Having regard to the context of the passage itself the word "justification" is a very much stronger word than "provocation" but if the honourable member wants to use the word "justification" he can do so. As far as I am concerned he can use the words "without without" (Laughter).

Mr. LEWIS: That is the attitude of the honourable member; anything that comes before this House must be made into a Party row. Because the honourable member differs with another honourable member on some political issue he will not even accept the assistance which you will give him with justification. He has done that on several occasions. I say that I would use the word "justification" because I am convinced that the Head of the Administration has had sufficient time to have this matter settled in the correct way especially as Barbados is not the only place which has appointed deputies for the original delegates.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We know that the honourable member likes to quibble. He likes to regard every meeting of the House as a meeting of an old ladies' debating society and he likes to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's". If he wants to amuse himself let him amuse himself; if he wants to use the words "justification without provocation" I will accept that.

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

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Reply in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that this Reply as passed in Committee do now pass.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Reply as passed in Committee do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes have it. I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Philip and the honourable junior member for St. Michael to present this Reply.

Mr. CRAWFORD: As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. GALE: As Your Honour pleases.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT TO CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have just received a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning with an amendment the Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1921—3. The amendment is a very minor one and we may proceed to deal with it at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave that this amendment be considered immediately. Clause 2 of the Bill as passed by the House reads that Table "B" of the Act is amended by the addition of certain words and the amendment proposes that the Clause should read that the Second Schedule of the Act is amended by the addition of the words. Possibly that is the correct nomenclature. I want to invoke the aid of Rule 262 in order that this amendment may be dealt with immediately.

There being no objection, the hon. member was granted leave to deal with the amendment.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—Are you permitting any comment on the first reading of this amendment or on the second reading of it?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the second reading.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that this amendment be now read a second time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I merely want to comment that this was one of the old ladies' meetings at which I tried to help the hon. member with this Bill. He brought in the Bill in a deplorable condition, he tried to be a legal draughtsman and this is the result. He adopted then the same attitude as he has adopted to-day when I put other Clauses of the Bill in proper order.

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

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, the amendment was agreed to.

ADDRESS *RE* RETIREMENT OF COLONEL DUKE

Mr. MOTTLEY: I ask leave to proceed with the Address of which I gave notice earlier to-day. I have made as many copies of it as possible and I have had them circulated to honourable members. The Address is in relation to the enforced retirement of the Commissioner of Police.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I will begin by saying that I hope honourable members will appreciate and let it be shown that this matter is above any Party matter. I should like to feel when we have passed this Address that we, as the elected representatives of the people and not as members of any particular Party, will see ourselves in the sense of West Indians. It will be observed from the actual text of the Address that no blame or even the suggestion of any blame has been cast on any member of the local Government. Undoubtedly during the course of the debate it will have to be pointed out the sort of treatment which has been meted out by certain Officials in this colony to members of the Civil Service. The Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly have learnt with surprise that the Commissioner of Police, Colonel O. St. A. Duke, M.M., has been required to retire under section Eight Subsection (2) of the Pensions Act 1947-20.

2. The House would be glad to be informed in what way this is a special case as required by the aforementioned section.

3. The House understands that the Commissioner is only 52 years of age and is not desirous of retiring.

4. The House desires to place on record and draw to Your Excellency's attention the high respect in which the Commissioner is held by all ranks of the Police and by the public in general.

5. The House can only come to the conclusion that Your Excellency is being badly advised by persons without the requisite knowledge in this matter.

6. The House have the honour to ask that Your Excellency will cable in full the text of this Address to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to his annulling his decision in this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the honourable member propose to move the House into Committee to deal with this Address?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I should prefer to deal with it in the House. Let me say that I should have no objection at all—in fact I should welcome any help from any honourable member who can find words more appropriate to describe the feeling of this House in this matter to the Head of the Administration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I contemplated that there might be some disagreement with the phraseology used in the Address and it might be more convenient to deal with it in Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am perfectly willing to accept any phraseology which will more strongly convey to the Head of the Administration the feeling of the House in this matter. The first paragraph of the Address points out quite clearly that Colonel Duke has been required to retire under the Section of the Pension Act which gives power to the Head of the Administration with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to call on any Civil Servant to retire at the age of 50. There are several things which must concern hon. members of this House in this matter besides what we consider as unfair treatment of a Civil Servant in calling upon him to retire without, up to now, giving any explanation for doing so. We must be concerned with the economic side of the matter because we must have a Commissioner of Police in this Colony, and if at the age of 52 a man must resign and draw a pension to be paid by the Government and somebody else must be appointed to carry on and receive a salary, then I say it is time

that we let our voices be heard in the matter. That is one phase of it. We are not interested in the Commissioner of Police as a man; we are interested in him as an Officer in the Civil Service of Barbados and as such we are bound, as the elected representatives of the people, to demand for him what he cannot demand for himself. It strikes me that this is a matter into which hon. members will have to demand an enquiry before it is all over. What are the facts surrounding this case? We have got to look at this matter as Colonials, West Indians or whatever you like to call us; we have got to look at it as the Leader of the Opposition in the United Kingdom regards matters when foreign policy is affected. I want to stress the point that whatever the pigmentation may be, hon. members must see this matter in the true light and in the true perspective in which they should see it as Colonials or West Indians. At the outbreak of hostilities there was, is one of the small sister colonies, a man in the person of Major Duke who possessed the Military Medal and I am told on good authority that this Medal is very near to the award of the Victoria Cross. This Medal is awarded only in cases of bravery of the sort which few of us are apt to display. We found that this man offered to join His Majesty's Forces to defend democracy as was evident to the British people at that time. He was told in a despatch to proceed to Barbados and become Commissioner of Police here. Ever since then we in Barbados came in contact with this soldier, this fellow West Indian and above all, this humane man. It was therefore a rude shock when, a few days ago, the news went around the City and suburbs that the Commissioner of Police had been called upon to resign. Everyone questioned: "What are the reasons for it? I am sure that every member of this Chamber has been approached by someone or other and asked: "Can you tell me the reason why Commissioner Duke has been called upon to resign?" We were left in the most unhappy and unfortunate position saying: "We do not know; we cannot tell". We thought that the persons responsible in a matter of this sort would have at least given an official explanation, but we are left to speculate as to the reasons why this Officer has been called upon to resign. People must speculate as to the reasons for this Officer's dismissal because it amounts to nothing less than a dismissal in polite terms. If a man at the age of 52 is willing to work and he is politely told to resign, that is nothing but a dismissal. What I am worried about, what most hon. members are worried about is the fact that this would appear to be the thin end of the wedge. On the face of it we can see clearly that this step was taken with the Commissioner because it was felt that this is the fellow with whom they should start. It was thought that he, not being a Barbadian, there would be a lone voice crying in the wilderness, but they did not count on the fact that whether this Commissioner is a Barbadian or not, as long as he is a Colonial and West Indian, we in this Chamber would at least offer him the necessary protection as far as lies in our power. It is true that hon. members should not take advantage of their position as members of this Chamber to say things about people outside, more especially members of the Civil Service, when those people can have no actual redress so to speak; but this afternoon I am bound to say a few things whomsoever they may hurt. I make no apology for the things which I will say.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those things of course will be confined to the matter of the Address.

Mr. MOTTLEY: They will be confined to the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of this Officer. We find that Colonel Duke in administer-

ing his duties as Commissioner of Police though quiet in demeanour was rather strong in character. That is the expression of opinion among all sections of the community. We find that he understood the ways and appreciated the difficulties of West Indians and he had to disagree with other Officials who think that as long as you are a West Indian, even a West Indian Official you have to work for them and not with them. It is public property that certain Officials in this colony have expressed the idea time and again that they are out here to teach natives culture. I would like to say that the type of people whom we are getting here to-day can hardly begin to teach anybody in this colony any culture; but lest it be thought that I am, and at least many of those for whom I speak, are anti-English, let me say that we in this colony still recognize and appreciate the fact that there were in our midst English characters like Dr. Dalton beloved by all, and up to the present the Director of Agriculture, popular characters like the Captain in charge of the Police Band. Nobody in this colony is anti-British or anti-English but what we do object to is the fact that they are people coming here holding high offices and strutting around and saying that they are here to teach us culture and if a West Indian dare disagree with them this particular section of the Pension Act is used. Several Officials in this colony are earmarked to be kicked out of office and let us ask ourselves the reason for it. We appreciate the fact that there are displaced Englishmen waiting for positions in these Colonies now that they are not wanted in the East; but because of that do not ask us to sit down and say: "Well, you are offering us a federated West Indies, you are offering us more responsibility and so you can tell a person that he has twenty-two days to get out of office." We are not standing for this treatment. I know that nothing that we say here to-day can possibly make the Secretary of State for the Colonies change his mind. I would like to say that even if the threat of the sympathetic strike in the Police Force was carried out on Sunday last some of these pig-headed officials would have butted their heads against a wall in thinking that when they kicked out a military Officer they had the opportunity to arrest him and others. I want to make my position clear and I will do it this afternoon in no uncertain terms. Even under the Master and Servant Act if you hired a domestic servant and you were dismissing her you would have to tell her the reason for her dismissal. The most unfair treatment has been meted out to the Commissioner of Police; ever since it was appreciated by many that this gentleman was not *persona grata* with the English celebrities in this colony for the simple reason that he saw men and not colour. Say what you might, give praise to anybody you like; but in our day you have to say that without Colonel Duke's recommendation the Administration would have hardly seen fit to take one of the men from the rank and file a man of colour and make him an Officer of the Force. Ever since then certain people in this colony held up Colonel Duke and looked upon him as a man who wanted to change the the West Indies. Is that one of the reasons for his enforced retirement and rumour has it that the Head of the Administration, like Pilate, is washing his hands—"I know nothing about it." When the history of Colonel Duke's dismissal comes to be written it will be seen from what he saved this country. There are people who were foolish enough to suggest that a Curfew be imposed in this colony so that people would be stopped from walking about after 7 o'clock at night, and Colonel Duke dared to disagree with the Head of the Administration. He asked: How could my men carry out that decision? He said: "Don't get panicky

because you are having a few cane fires." What sort of man would he be who is appointed to a post and has not got the courage to disagree with some things? If that is one of the reasons for Colonel Duke's dismissal then I hope we will know. It is true that because Colonel Duke was courageous enough to say that Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarships are not for English officers but local men and because he recommended men from the rank and file for these Scholarships, is that the reason why he has been dismissed? When I say that the rank and file of the Police are displeased over this affair I am not saying that just to make a splash; that is quite true. People are saying: "We are West Indians and we will be the next to go." I hope that when we are returned to the House we will see the wisdom of not allowing any one man to have this power of calling on people to retire; let us get that Section out of the Pension Act. Quite recently we had the Commissioner of Police daring to disagree with men like the Attorney General and the Colonial Secretary. Let them refute that in the Press. He disagreed with them on matters affecting the good Government of this Country. It is because this gentleman did not agree with these men—and some of the other English Officials that he has been asked to resign? Let them say that Colonel Duke is medically unfit or that he is not a good policeman. He is not a good policeman because he would not do some of the things which they wanted him to do. While I am dealing with this matter a lot of things must come out. The honourable senior member for St. Philip made reference earlier today to a remark at which I regret the honourable senior member for St. Thomas appeared to have taken umbrage; but it is true that you get a man like the Attorney General referring to black men in this country with names of derision. Everybody is not looking for a job. A lot of honourable members may not like to hear this but we find that with all this patting on the back, sweet talk, striking on the shoulder and inviting people to lunches—people can be as nasty as some of them are. Quite recently when the Head of the Administration and other celebrities met in a northern parish, an eminent and distinguished learned Englishman brought this to me—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member referring to the parish of St. Lucy?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Very near to St. Lucy. When these gentlemen were not altogether in a state of sobriety, the Colonial Secretary was heard to say: "How I hate these blasted negroes in this country!" And was reminded he was still Colonial Secretary. I have chapter and verse for that and then they want to fool us with all this nonsense! These gentlemen must go. Then you have the Attorney General making servants of Clerks in the Civil Service.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member need not be too far-fetched in making his point.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The field is wide; it is wider than I can get. I will make these remarks on a public platform because they cannot be denied. Some honourable members will say that local people do the same thing; but when the local people do it we can tell them how they were reared up and stop them quickly. We are not standing for this treatment from any European exiles who come out here. If they hate the negroes in this colony then let them go because we are not going. I am sorry that the Colonial Secretary is not in this Chamber to hear what I am saying. Is it because the Commissioner of Police refused to allow these gentlemen to ride about the Police horses as they like that he has been dismissed? The minute that anything goes wrong the first

people you call upon are the Police. What is there to prevent the Head of the Administration from saying that the next Sergeant Major must retire at 50? The Sergeant Majors in this colony are soon going to be Englishmen and even with the proposed salaries Schoolmasters will soon be Englishmen if we do not speak out. When you see these high salaries proposed do you think that people such as we have now will fill these positions? Some of these Englishmen show you one face in the typical English style and behind your backs another thing. We have got among us some very refined people from England, people from whom we have been able to learn a lot; but when you have these "Saga boys" walking about in sandals with their toes out, what culture can you learn from them?—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must ask the honourable member to stick more closely to the matter which is before the House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I object to the Attorney General referring to the honourable senior member for St. Thomas as "monkey nuts". He must not do that; he must know his place. I am not taking advantage of people's physical condition; I ask honourable members to look at the Civil Service and see if you have not got people there who should be called upon to resign but they have not called upon them to resign. Do these people not look as if they are dead? When certain Englishmen could not stand the idea of seeing men of the Navy come in here and mix with the coloured women of Barbados, were they annoyed when representations were made to Colonel Duke and he had the courage to say that he could not throw everything out of bounds? Is that the reason why he has been called upon to resign? The men of the Navy like our lassies and when representations were made that they should not mix with them and that places should be put out of bounds, Colonel Duke was strong enough in character to say that he could not agree with that. When I say in paragraph 5 of the Address that the House can only come to the conclusion that Your Excellency is being badly advised by persons without the requisite knowledge in this matter, do not let anybody go away with the idea that I mean that His Excellency was advised by the Executive; I mean the Attorney General and the Colonial Secretary. Say what you like they are the persons who would be responsible in this matter. I do not think that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas would be a party to that. It was said that a black man was not eligible to become the Chief Medical Officer of Barbados but Trinidad took him. Let them reply to that; he was unsuitable for the post here because his colour was black. I have all sorts of friends. What I dislike is untamed Englishmen coming as exiles to make an English colony here. Let us say with one voice that if these officials are treating our people as they like then they must go. The other day the Colonial Secretary threatened to dismiss a Civil Servant—Mr. Rocheford—and Mr. Campbell was big enough to come to his rescue. I am just saying these things to show why Colonel Duke who possesses the Military Medal, which you can only get for gallantry and bravery of the first type, has been asked to retire. What will the people in Nevis and St. Kitts think of Colonel Duke who left them to come to Barbados and is now told to retire? I feel that the Head of the Administration has been badly advised. I hope that honourable members will support this Address; I have made it clear that there is no party issue involved. The Executive Committee had nothing to do with this matter; the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General are

advisers to the Governor in Council and I notice that a lot of bad advice is being given. I repeat that we must take out that Section of the Pension Act which gives the Governor power to make this recommendation. They sent bush down here, they sent weeds and now they send blood.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member must not infringe Rule 126.

Mr. MOTTLEY: We appreciate the position with certain officials and their subordinates. I ask honourable members if they think it is fair for the Attorney General to look at a subordinate and say to him: "Get this straight; when I call you drop that and come to me." You cannot talk to people like that; you cannot even talk to Ding Ding like that. They can issue circulars to Civil Servants telling them certain things, but the Civil Servants will tell us what is happening. I think I have said enough in connection with this Address and I will appreciate any amendment which will drive it home more strongly to the Head of the Administration. I have much pleasure in moving that this Address do now pass. (Cheers).

Mr. WARD: I rise to second the motion for the passing of this Address. It is regrettable that this House should have to discuss a matter of this sort. In my opinion Colonel Duke is a gentleman who is held in high esteem in this island, a gentleman who associates with all types of individuals. I feel that if the Head of the Administration has forced Colonel Duke to resign, he should give some good reason for doing so. As the honourable senior member for the City has said, Colonel Duke has not even been treated as well as you would treat an ordinary servant; he has been given no chance whatever to defend himself—the type of thing against which we are fighting today. All over the world today there are Trade Unions which try to take up the cause of people who are kicked out of office without reason, and we, as a Labour Government, have to take up the cause of Civil Servants who feel that the sword of Damocles is dangling over their heads and are wondering where they will be tomorrow. When we come down to the real facts we find that one of our own people has been treated in a very rude way and there is the feeling that today is yours and tomorrow is mine. Let nobody fool himself; whether he is in the Civil Service or in the Police Force his day will come. Every man must realise that he has forces greater than himself in power on the other side. Here it is that Colonel Duke, a West Indian, saw an advertisement that Barbados wanted a Commissioner of Police and he left his own people and came to us. He proved himself to be a man and it is for this House to prove that we, as West Indians, are behind him in every way. The honourable senior member for the City has put forward the points admirably in moving the passing of this Address and I do not think it is necessary for me to go over those points. It is getting late and nearly all honourable members want to express their feeling in this matter. We are not merely expressing our feeling as members of the House; we are expressing the feeling of the island as a whole and we want the Head of the Administration to know that the people of this island are totally against the decision in respect of Colonel Duke especially when they do not know the reason for his sudden dismissal. I do not wish to be very radical but I would like it to be known that we in this island are prepared to help our own people whether they are in Barbados or in the West Indies. We have reached the same culture as any imported exile from Europe. We are on the side of West Indians; we must fight unitedly so as to establish ourselves in a key position so that

we can run our own administration, otherwise we will be losing the opportunity of making a new West Indies for ourselves. Hitler once said: "Germany is for the Germans" and we say that the West Indies must be for West Indians. On the question of advice having been given in this matter, the honourable senior member for the City has made some remarks which have been used, and in my opinion regrettably used, by men in high offices in this island. They should be helping us but they are here as wolves in sheep's clothing. I should like it to be known that we will not tolerate any such things in this island. They must go or they must be missing. (Cheers). We must not let down our people; we must protect the people whom we employ; we must discharge our duty honestly and not allow such terrible things to be going on. I was surprised to hear that the Deputy Leader of the House was treated as he has been treated. I have been a member of this House for many years and I have had dealings with English gentlemen; Sir, I do not know if the Colonial Office feel that we are going downwards but from the type of individuals which we are getting today—we are getting weeds as the honourable senior member for the City has said. I feel that we could do better in this island where appointments are concerned. Unless we take some action the people whom we employ will not have any feeling of safety. There will be the feeling that today is for Colonel Duke and tomorrow will be for another man; therefore it is our duty to remedy that state of affairs; we must give the people whom we employ confidence where their tenure of office is concerned. It is our duty as the representatives of the people to do away with this particular Section of the Pension Act; no one man must tell us what we must do; we do not intend to be dictated to by any particular individual. We have to pay the money and we must have a voice in saying how an individual must work and how he must be fired. As I said before, there are other honourable members who are anxious to speak on this matter and I will leave room for them; but I must say that it is a most regrettable state of affairs in which this gentleman has been robbed out of his office, and we must do all that is in our power to help him. The damage has already been done as far as he is concerned but we will see to it that in the future no damage is done to any individual in the Government Service so long as we are here and have some voice in the matter. We must find means to remove undesirables from among us.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not think I can generate as much heat as the honourable senior member for the City or even as much as the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has generated in speaking on this matter, but this is an issue of paramount importance to the colony and to the Civil Servants because it is a question of security of tenure. There are a lot of people in this Chamber this afternoon, people to whom this matter must apply. When you employ people you have to give good reasons before you can dismiss them; you cannot dismiss people as it was done in the old days. Not long ago I brought up the matter of an appointment before the House and some honourable members were mute then while others tried to defend the principle; it was a small matter but the principle was wrong. One honourable member had the effrontery to say that it was not a Government matter, but he was talking nonsense on that occasion. I am glad that this has happened to somebody as high as Colonel Duke; if it had happened to a cantoneer of the Highways Department the issue would not have reached this proportion because some people would not have felt it their duty to defend it. I do not know the reasons

for the dismissal of this Officer as have been suggested by the honourable senior member for the City, but on broad principle you can see where the wind is blowing. I have told this House already that we cannot allow any strangers to come to Barbados and make a Kenya or Ceylon up on the hills for European officials and leave the natives down at the bottom. This matter in connection with Colonel Duke is an indication as to how people will act if they have the opportunity. We have had people in this colony acquiescing in things—maybe to get a husband for a daughter—but we have had this sort of business going on for some years and it has now reached this climax. What do we find? Colonel Duke has been forced to retire; I am not blaming the Secretary of State for the Colonies because I had the privilege of seeing the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies myself and I told him that West Indians should be appointed to high offices in the West Indies even to the office of Governor and he agreed with that. This thing has happened in Barbados; this is a matter of legal advice. Some people think that because a man went to Oxford or Cambridge he went to Heaven, but justice must have its place. We have passed an Act relating to security of employment for people other than Government Servants and in that Act we have laid down specific things. What has Colonel Duke done? Is it a breach of duty? Is it inefficiency, negligence, misconduct, or any other just cause which could lead a responsible officer to recommend his dismissal? Well Sir, as I have already said, I am glad that this has happened to Colonel Duke, and I am glad for another reason. Fortunately for me, I happen to enjoy my life and the colour of my skin; some people accuse us of being racial and they can only see things in their way of seeing them. I am glad that Colonel Duke is a white man because we cannot now be accused of being racial; where a white man is affected we can also defend a principle. I know that people like myself suffer from this colour of ours but whenever there is a principle involved — as a matter of fact from the first day I landed in this House I had to defend a principle where it affected a white man and I stood by it. We cannot tell these Englishmen whence they came because we do not know; but we in Barbados are not going to stand for any of their second hand treatment; they cannot take people who hold high positions here and treat them as they like. Colonel Duke does not belong to any party; if he belonged to any Party I would have made a motion that he should resign. He cannot belong to any Party. Honourable members must realise that this is a matter which affects the lives of people in this colony and if the Government starts it what are they leaving for private employers to do? There are a lot of employers who would dismiss a servant because she comes in with her face looking as if it had not been washed. We cannot treat Colonel Duke like a yard boy. We have in this colony a Harbour Master who more looks as if he is ready for the grave than Colonel Duke and nobody has called upon him to resign. No, he is an Englishman! If you get near the Harbour Master you will know how strong he is. Even if it were an Englishman it would be a bad step to take, to retire anybody in a manner like this; but those of us who are studying political life outside this colony will know what is happening. Burma and Ceylon have been shut off and there are about four hundred million people in India and we in the West Indies with our western civilisation always have a ready heart for Englishmen. That is the tradition of three hundred years; we have been loyal to the British Throne for all these years. If we cannot have a Government, a

culture and a status of our own then we are not fit to say that we live in a democratic age. It takes things like these to bring out what there is in people. If Colonel Duke had not been called upon to retire I would not have had this opportunity of saying these things this afternoon. I am glad that we have been given the chance to deal with a matter such as this. What I regret about the matter is that some of us are too poor and the rich do not always see these things aright. It would give me great pleasure to have a delegation of members from this House presenting this Address to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and then he would know what is happening. You have to deal with these people at first hand; it would surprise honourable members to know that a lot of rubber stamps are being used in people's names. Mr. Greenidge would not have been on the Commission to British Guiana if somebody had not gone to the Colonial Office and let them know that he should be a member of the Commission. I say that we have to make direct representation to people in these matters.

We have to send this Address to England and I want to make myself clear; I cannot use words too strong in condemnation of this atrocious act. To my mind they have taken a man who has been working for this Government for nearly ten years and have sent him off worse than they would send off a yard boy. If what the honourable senior member for the City has said is correct, it makes me feel that something is wrong and we are somewhat lethargic. It is true that the Colonial Secretary can talk about these negroes here because he came here and heard his friends talking about them. There are those who have been trying to pat some of the Englishmen on the back, going to their houses and drinking cocktails. The people who have sent me here cannot give me any cocktails and the only cocktails I can drink are those which the Government provide for me, because if there is a spree at Government House it is my privilege to eat some of the things which the people's money has bought. If this matter happened to be in connection with our Trade Union movement the employers would have had to look up early and see what could be done. We have made an agreement that before you can dismiss anybody the matter must be taken up and there must first be some period of suspension. This is a matter of a public nature affecting every member of the Civil Service and the community as a whole. I feel that nothing we say here this afternoon about this matter can be too strong and it is not being done with any malice. I quite agree with the honourable senior member for the City that there are some Englishmen whom you can like and respect; you can learn something from them. I do not want it to go on record that no outsider should be employed in Barbados because we too have suffered from our own people in certain appointments. However we can deal with those from whom we suffer here because they cannot run away but usually we cannot get any chance at these other boys. A number of representations have been made to me and I will say that since I have been a member of this House even on the question of salaries and wages I have never yet confused the issue in respect of so many people of all types. I do not hide my policy; white, black and what you call coloured people have come to me about this issue. Therefore it is a public matter and I feel that in such a matter we should be very clear and candid. I do not want merely to talk and let people know how vexed I feel over this matter; I want some action to be taken about it because I feel that this Officer should be reinstated. It is not merely a question of passing an Address; the only way we could agree to this Officer not being reinstated is if they can bring reasons to prove

that he is not carrying out his duties properly. If there are reasons for his dismissal—if you have a man who is inefficient then get him out of the place; but if you have one who is doing good work you cannot dismiss him like that. It seems to me that as soon as you have a man who is not a hog people think that he is too soft to do work. Some people would like to have the use of Government employees and if they are not allowed to use them they get vexed with those who are responsible for those people. This is an indication to honourable members of this House and to the public that wherever there is a bad principle it should not be supported. Only about four weeks ago I drew the attention of this House to something that was wrong and somebody wanted to defend it. As long as I have breath I will defend a principle as long as it is right; I feel that I have lived long enough that I can give up my life for right things. If my brother, sister or anybody were involved in anything, it would have to be, for my part in it, something which I can support. As an honourable member has said, this is a West Indian nation and I warn this House that if we are not very careful we will find that the same thing will happen to other members of the Civil Service. I would remind this House that not many years ago a senior officer was treated in the same way. I agree with the statement that the members of the Executive Committee know nothing about this matter but I would like to tell them that a peculiar twist can be given to it; if there is anything wrong they must let the Head of the Administration know about it quickly. I remember that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was practically insulted by one of the chief administrative officers of this colony; because he had to deal with a certain matter he was told that it was none of his business. I know that we have to stand for a lot of insults. With regard to the remarks made of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, I should like to say that the honourable senior member for the City has got very good information and if it is true that those remarks have been made, that only shows how much respect the leaders of the Administration have for the people's representatives in this Chamber. I do not doubt that those remarks have been made and it seems to me that there is a hole somewhere and it cannot be found. I want to say that you can see the writing on the wall and honourable members should realise that this issue this afternoon is but one of the many which have been hatching. I read in today's paper a denial relative to a senior Officer in the Judiciary being asked to resign and it is a good thing that we have had this denial. The newspaper said that they have had reliable information and I say that it was a minute from the Secretariat; because if it is not a minute from there then it does not mean much. We have had many instances in which we have been told that a wrong construction has been put on matters so that we have to be very careful about reliable information. But if they are referring to the Chief Justice I feel that he is the type of man who would retire if he did not feel that he is capable of carrying on. I say; let them mix up some Englishmen in this knocking off affair and let us see that they do not mean to discriminate. When we question them about the matter let them say that Mr. So and So has gone too. They should not send off people so as to let in others; I could never support anything like that. I am a Trade Unionist and it is my duty to fight things like these in respect of private people. We have to protect people who hold positions of responsibility in this colony and we have to put an end to these atrocious acts. —(Cheers).

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to support those honourable members who have been expressing themselves

in favour of the passing of this Address. I want to begin by saying that Barbados owes a great debt to many a distinguished, public-spirited Englishman who has done good work in the colony. I know nothing about the charges which have been made against responsible officials by honourable members this afternoon and therefore I am not prepared to be associated with any such charges without being assured that there is some foundation in fact for them; but this is a Barbadian and West Indian issue which hinges on the question of elementary British justice. This is no Fascist country; this is no dictatorship; this is a British democracy in which he who plays the piper calls the tune. I say this afternoon that the fault is not that of the English, the fault is in ourselves, and we find ourselves in the peculiar position this afternoon of having to pass an Address like this. We have been giving away privilege after privilege and right after right and it is on that account that we find ourselves in this unfortunate position of having to go cap in hand and ask for an explanation in this matter. When such an Act as the present Pension Act was passed giving power to the Governor to be exercised in this peculiar manner, a privilege of the House was passed away and I am glad that honourable members are beginning, now that the horse is somewhat out of the stable, to realise that we should put our house in order. The point which I want to make is this; this is a matter which affects every Government servant in this island from the high officials down to the casual labourers and we would be failing in our duty to our countrymen and to the electors of this island if we stood silently and did not protest against a dismissal of this kind without an explanation being given. It is an elementary principle of British justice that no man should be denied his right and it is on such a principle that British democracy has been built up. In a dictatorship you arrest a man and behead him without giving any reason whatsoever. It is an insult to this honourable House and to the people who have elected the members of this House to call upon any Government servant to give up his office without giving any explanation to such Government servant or to the House. This action on the part of those who are responsible for it, is a discourtesy to this House and it is against all the dictates of ordinary British justice. It is against the principle of elementary justice into which we have been drawn and which we have learnt to love and respect, and it is clear to me this afternoon that somebody has blundered in a matter which affects and will affect the lives of every one of our Government servants. Rumour has it that there are many more Government servants who have been earmarked for dismissal in this Nazi-like manner and it is time that members of this House protest against any such action. We have always welcomed distinguished Englishmen in our midst and I hope the day will long continue when we will have them in our midst; but it is time that we take a stand in the interest of West Indians generally to see that they have a fair share in the appointments and that when they are appointed to posts no one takes advantage of them. Not long ago when an attempt was made to arrange facilities for the emigration of Barbadians to England we were told of the difficulties which stood in the way; we were told that they did not relish the beginning of a colour problem in England and in my opinion we did not do everything in our power to force England to take some of our people when she wanted labourers. We have always been hospitable to English strangers in our midst and I repeat I hope the day will long continue when there will be distinguished Englishmen in our midst; but since we are founding

a West Indian nation it is time that we do everything to see that an increasing number of Barbadians and West Indians are promoted to the highest executive offices in our midst, and to see that when they are so promoted no undue hardship is put on them or that no advantage is taken of them.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think that any speech on this matter coming after the one which has been made by the honourable senior member for the City must be in the nature of an anti-climax. The speech made by the honourable introducer of this Address included almost everything that could be said in connection with this matter; he has said a lot of the things which some of us intended to say and it is unnecessary to repeat them after the honourable member has already expressed them in the manner in which he has expressed them. But even at the expense of being accused of repetition I think we may be allowed to say that we regard the compulsory retirement of Colonel Duke without any reasons being given for it as a scandal in the Public Service of this colony. Barely a few weeks ago the Head of the Administration himself congratulated the Commissioner of Police on the occasion of the Police Day celebrations at Kensington and spoke in the most highly congratulatory terms of the efficiency with which he conducted the Police Force and the *esprit de corps* which existed among the men under his control. We may therefore be pardoned for expressing our complete astonishment to find that within a short time afterwards the same Head of the Administration is calling upon the same Commissioner of Police to retire in circumstances which, to say the least, must cast a blot on his reputation in the Public Service of this colony. So far as I have been able to ascertain, the reasons which have been given for this enforced retirement of the Colonel are that a younger man is wanted for the post, and that point has already been dealt with by previous speakers. For that matter even the Head of the Administration himself is an older man than Colonel Duke; and we have also heard it rumoured that somebody else has been selected for the post and therefore it was necessary to make it vacant. I believe that rumour. We are all aware that the Palestine Police Force has been the breeding ground for Colonial Police Officers and since the British mandate over Palestine has come to an inglorious end, we can quite imagine that there are dozens, perhaps hundreds, of former members of the Palestine Police Force who are cooling their heels in England and are just waiting to get out to the colonies to lord it over the natives in these parts. It is therefore fairly easy to understand that in the near future we may see some blue-eyed favourite who has served his novitiate in Palestine coming to Barbados to take the place of Colonel Duke. Moreover within the past few months we have grown accustomed to seeing the spectacle of many of these displaced Englishmen who formerly served in various parts of the Colonial Empire being foisted on the British West Indies. I should like to refer to the recent appointment of Major Wakeham as regional Information Officer in the West Indies; he has served as a Bengal lancer for fifteen years and with the General Staff in India for five years and he has now come down to the West Indies—so we are told—in order to spread information with regard to the development of projects in the West Indies. Major Wakeham knows nothing about the West Indies; he knows as much about Jamaica or Trinidad or Barbados as I know about Timbuktu, Kabul or Samarkand; but he is a displaced English Official and therefore we in the West Indies are to be saddled with the necessity for finding some place for him. Unfortunately for

Colonel Duke his parents committed the cardinal sin of having him born in the West Indies. If he were a Britisher he would still be in his position today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take it that by using the word "Britisher" the honourable member means a United Kingdom Official.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sorry, Sir; I mean an Englishman. Colonel Duke has had a most excellent record in the Colonial Service; he has served in the Great War having been commissioned on the field of battle in France; he was awarded the Military Medal with a Bar and he has given most efficient and distinguished service in the Leeward Islands before he came here and his record in this colony is one of which any public official can be proud. Therefore his enforced dismissal without any reasons being given for it must cause intense dissatisfaction and intense resentment on the part of West Indians who feel that if and when capable West Indians can be found to fill the highest positions in this colony, there is no reason why imported officials should be pitch-forked into these positions. I agree with the previous speaker who emphasized that we, in this colony, have taught something to some of the Englishmen who have come down here. Here and there we have had some English officials who have taught us something for which we are grateful, or whose record of public service has, in one way or another, assisted in the development of this colony; but I think that we are rapidly reaching the point at which we can fill nearly all, if not all, of our important posts with qualified natives. We therefore owe it to ourselves to see to it that any attempt which is being made to prejudice the claims of West Indians in favour of people born in the United Kingdom is frustrated at the very earliest opportunity. I also agree with the previous speaker who claimed that the Government is not to be blamed for this particular incident. (Cheers). I go further and say that I do not believe that the Government is happy about it; I am of the opinion that the Government knew nothing at all about it before the public did; but I also feel, and I think I have sufficient reasons for this observation, that if the advisers of the Governor were different this incident would not have taken place. The present members of the Executive Committee have sat on that Body and for the last few months they have seen the Adams' Report with regard to the Civil Service in this colony and it must be assumed that they were capable of appreciating the implications of this Report. They must have appreciated the fact that certain salaries were attached to certain posts—and from other things in the Report too—with the ulterior motive of filling these posts with imported officials. The members of the Executive Committee agreed to the sending down to this Chamber of the Resolution which included these salaries when they knew in their heart of hearts that in respect of the posts which were created very few, if any, West Indians would be appointed to fill them. Furthermore I am confirmed in my conviction that the Head of the Administration assumed that he could take the step which he has taken with regard to Colonel Duke when the present members of the Executive sat on the Executive and agreed to the sending down to this House of a Bill to put even more power in the hands of the Governor relative to the public officers of this colony. It will be recalled that the Civil Establishment Bill which accompanied the Resolution sent down to this House a fortnight ago contained this Clause:—

"It shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee from time to time by order—"

- (a) to establish offices in the public service of this island;
- (b) to determine the number of persons who may be appointed to such offices;
- (c) to prescribe the qualifications to be possessed by persons appointed to such offices;
- (d) to determine the emoluments to be attached to such offices; and
- (e) to authorise the payment of the cost of passages of officers and their families travelling outside the island."

We have never had any such Clause in this colony before. As I have said, this Bill sought to give the Governor wider powers in respect of the public officers in this colony and if we find that the Executive Committee agreed to do that, they would also agree to what it was proposed to do with Colonel Duke. Therefore we cannot completely absolve them from blame in this matter for the simple reason that if they had made it perfectly plain to the Governor, as the Opposition proposes to do, that the time has come when the public service of Barbados should be controlled by a Public Service Commission with a constitution determined by law and not by any official sent down here from the Colonial Office, he would not have dared to take the step which has occasioned this present protest. Further, if I were in the place of the present Executive Committee, especially bearing in mind the fact that they claim that they are in fundamental disagreement with this action and they know nothing about it—if they really want to impress the public that they are in disagreement with it, they should resign. When you have unwarranted action like this being taken on the part of the Head of the Administration and his closest advisers, people whom we are told that under the present constitutional experiment are responsible for formulating Government policy, even although the appointment of officers in certain categories still remains in the hands of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it behoves those who are responsible for our affairs under this experiment towards self-government, to dissociate themselves in the most absolute manner from any action taken by the Head of the Administration with which they profess to be in disagreement. Mere talk in the Assembly is not enough. We feel that an injustice has been done to the gallant Colonel and I sincerely hope that the rumour mentioned in this Assembly by the hon. senior member for the City that his dismissal is due to the fact that he refused to bow down to one of the imported poohbaahs is not entirely true. These officials who come here temporarily like passing ships in the night, have to be made to realise that if they find Barbados as it is to-day when they leave Barbados, the colony will still be going on. I agree with the hon. senior member for the City that if these officials are throwing their weight about too much and if they are getting too big for their boots, the best place for them is outside Barbados. And we have to bear in mind that in the case of these imported officials we are really doing them a favour when we squeeze them out of the colony. We have seen officials for whom Barbados got too small, leave on promotion. Colonel Duke has left his job and now he has to live on a smaller remuneration; but when the Colonial Secretary or the Attorney General leaves here you can bet your bottom dollar that he is going on an increased salary to a more important post. Therefore such officials will welcome any attempt on the part of this House to get them out of Barbados. I do not believe that a debate on this matter is enough. While I agree with the final paragraph of the Address as moved by the hon. senior member for the City calling on the Secretary of

State for the Colonies to annul his decision in this matter, I have very grave doubts as to whether the Colonial Office will back down on this decision. I am therefore sincerely hoping that hon. members who find themselves in this Chamber after the Elections will see to it that this able, energetic and conscientious Police Officer is given some employment in the colony, if he remains here, on a remuneration which will ensure that his income including his pension does not fall below what he was getting when he was the object of this unjust act. I am sure that hon. members will have it within their power if Colonel Duke elects to remain here, to see to it that he does not suffer financially as a result of this action on the part of the Head of the Administration and the Colonial Office. I also suggest that we might include in this Address some paragraph which will place on record our appreciation of the Colonel's services to this island. A Body such as this should let it be known to the world that we were satisfied with Colonel Duke in the performance of his duties, and Barbados will actually place on record some reference to those duties. I want to propose that paragraph 3 of the Address which was circulated this afternoon be inserted in place of paragraph 4 of the Address as originally proposed. However, it is getting late and I will not bother with this amendment. I appreciate the fact that those hon. members who have spoken previously have all seen fit to associate themselves with this Address before the House, and I hope that its unanimous passing will serve to impress upon the Head of the Administration and the Colonial Office that the people of this colony including their elected representatives will no longer tolerate these things.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I do not have much to say in this matter because I feel just as strongly about it as any other member sitting around this table. I am sorry that the Head of the Administration has allowed himself to be the victim of circumstances such as these. Whether he was advised to do this or he did it on his own account I am sorry to see this island coming to such an unhappy pass. When we have officers at the head of Government and they exhibit such a spirit of intolerance, sometimes through incapability, sometimes through ignorance, it is time that we sit up and protest very strongly. This is not surprising to me because I have seen and watched the attitude of certain Englishmen regarding the West Indies. At one time it used to be a matter of colour; now it is boiling down to place of birth and in the strict sense of the word, it is British against Colonial, because in the strict sense of the word, the people who live in England do not consider the Colonials on par with them. It is all right down here for a Colonial to say that he is a Britisher but when he goes to the Mother Country they do not take him as such. There is a vast difference between a Colonial and a Britisher in England. All I am saying is this: Whereas formerly the European was against the black colonials, now they are taking a turn against the white colonials and now it is the task of the black colonials to keep the true Britisher off his fellow "Britisher" in the colonies. Whatever be our task we accept it in good faith, feeling that we are West Indian and as representatives of the people, when anything goes wrong in our public services we are not only going to protest but we are going to take action. I have sat here and listened to every speech that has been made and feeling strongly in this matter I will say these few words now. Of course, I have no doubt that I will be returned to this House of Assembly; make no mistake about that; who think otherwise are fooling themselves. When I am returned to the House of Assembly and the

next year's Estimates come before me, if the Head of the Administration, the Colonial Secretary, and the Attorney General persist in sending this affable gentleman out of our midst, your humble servant is going to move that the salary of the Commissioner of Police be reduced or whatever steps can be taken will be taken. They had better be careful because somebody is going to retaliate when the time comes to do so. I am sorry that this gentleman, for whom I have always had the highest regard, — and I know there are many other persons in my company in that respect — has been more or less victimized; no doubt there is something aback of it; but I say this is the beginning of the end. We have just had another Englishman to come down here and revise our salary scales and he has made it very clear that the salaries which he has proposed are for Englishmen and I can see something in the wind. This move in respect of Col. Duke is the beginning of something of which we know nothing and I am appealing to honourable members to protest very strongly against it. Perhaps we may even appoint a delegation from among ourselves and wait on His Excellency and let him know how we feel on this matter, because we are not prepared to allow these little nit-wits from the Mother Country to come to dictate to us in our house. We feel that we are coming into power and we are thinking along the lines of West Indian solidarity (Cheers). We have been told in the past that we had five senses but now they tell me that it has been unmistakably discovered that we have six senses and that the sixth sense is "the mind to think for ourselves." We in the West Indies are coming into our own. We cannot allow Englishmen to come down here and just shift us about without our having a voice in our affairs. A stop should be put to it; our language should be strong enough to express our feelings. They should be made to understand that we, as West Indians, are going to stick together, whether we be white or black, when our interests are at stake. There is going to be, at some time or other, West Indian solidarity and black and white will unite as one. But until such time comes let us remind the Colonial Office that it is no use talking about Federation and at the same time side-tracking us through the back door. Those fellows are artists in diplomacy. When a fellow has a policy to pursue you don't believe he is the same man and that is why I have always been suspecting the Secretary of State for the Colonies — Mr. Creech Jones. I am afraid that some people overestimate the gentleman. I say that from the depth of my heart. They have a policy to pursue and I agree with the senior member for St. Peter, if it is only for the first time, that now that certain fields—India, Burma, Ceylon, Palestine,—are closed, the West Indies are to bear the brunt as we did in the days of yore when sugar was King. But as I said before, we are grown-up and are able to dictate our policy and forego the British policy. We are becoming intellectual and we have among us young men who are capable of doing these jobs. Don't let Mr. Creech Jones think he is sending somebody down here to teach somebody something. We can teach them a lot; they are coming into a home of hospitality and culture. They have the first move, just as in the game of draughts or cards; but sometimes he who gets the lead has the cards in his hands and cannot play them correctly. They have the lead but now we are saying "Halt!" During the coming session I shall move the passing of some Addresses whose purpose will extend beyond the West Indian border because I have a cause to fight with His Majesty the King. He is going to hear from me. We

have to get serious about these things because those people on the other side are serious about what they are doing; they are looking after bread and butter for their children and those things are fundamental. The British Government has been satisfied to send us, during all the years, third-rate people to teach us. Half of the time those people have been making us corrupt. The British Government did not send us the best people; it sent us nit-wits; people who needed culture themselves, and what they did was to make us corrupt. And they are practising those things to-day, even in respect of the high offices. The idea of firing the Commissioner of Police without even telling him what he has been fired for! That is high-handedness and we have to fight against such actions. We have to let the Governor know that we are holding on to our position in this House of Assembly. We know that if the Colonel goes somebody will be appointed to the post — perhaps they are going to send somebody from Palestine or some other part of the East—and we shall then be paying the Colonel a pension and a salary to the new appointee; that is the serious part of the problem because we shall need some of this money to do social work. We cannot afford to do both. At one time, perhaps, some of us suffered from inferiority complex — I have never suffered from it and I never will. The day I suffer from inferiority complex I hope to die like a dog! Tell a man what you think about him and be done with it! If this House is really serious about this matter, it will appoint a delegation from the House to wait on the Governor and express its feeling in the matter. This Colonel is an affable man, a very sociable man, a very entertaining personality, a man who, whenever I meet him, reminds me of the fact that I am an M.C.P. by his salute. He is not a wild Englishman; he is a cultured West Indian, if you please! (Laughter and Cheers). I want our action in this matter to go beyond mere words. I want something done and I am inviting this House to let us forego our business and to-morrow morning or Thursday morning go to His Excellency the Governor and tell him to tell the Secretary of State for the Colonies "No; can't do down here any more, my boy!" (Laughter and Cheers). Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to stop. I said that I was going to say only a few words but because of the strong characteristics which I have found in this gentleman I must certainly pay my respects to him and to express in no uncertain terms how I feel about this matter. I hope that this House will do something tangible and let our presence be felt, so that if they are hatching similar schemes about here, they will know that this House will not tolerate such actions, will mince no matters and will move heaven and earth to see that West Indian solidarity is upheld. (Prolonged applause).

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—So far, I must say that this debate has been on the very high plane of defending a principle, so much so, that we find the members of one Race being highly indignant of what they regard as an injustice to a member of another Race. No higher compliment could be paid this House than the acknowledgement of that fact. I, Sir, shall continue to maintain this debate on the high plane that is already set but, Sir, I intend to make some extremely strong remarks about certain people and things which I have been hearing during the last few months in this island. I intend to do so because it has created a state of uneasiness in this community which, I sense, will lead to trouble. I shall try, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to put this matter in what I regard as its true perspective. This House with its privilege of free speech, has for a long period

of time been the guardians of the rights of public servants and the population of this country generally and has defended them against any form of tyranny or injustice. So far as the public servants are concerned, there has recently come into being the Civil Service Association and that may now be said to have taken over some of the responsibility of this House. I shall refer to that later. So far as the Police are concerned, they have been virtually denied the protection which an Association would give them—I use the word “virtually” because I understand that they have applied for permission to form an Association but owing to the way in which the answer was worded from the Head of the Administration, they did not know whether to go ahead or not. The Police are not regarded as Civil Servants protected by the Civil Service Association. Now, Sir, this 1947 Pension Act gives the power to the Governor of this Colony, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to act in the way he has acted towards this officer. That Pension Act was passed at a time when we had the Civil Service Association and the Whitley Council. It does not concern the Police only and, therefore, it may be said that the public servants and the Legislature have granted the power to the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies to act as they have acted; because, Sir, if we agree to the opening paragraph of this Address, Section 8 of the Act reads:—

“It shall be lawful for the Governor to require an officer to retire from the Service of this island

“(1) at any time after he attains the age of 55 years, or

“(2) in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State, at any time after he attains the age of 50 years, or

“(3) in the case of a female officer on marriage; and retirement shall be compulsory for every officer on attaining the age of 60 years.”

Now, Sir, I said that with the protection of an Association, no doubt the Legislature felt that they could easily grant this authority. In the first instance, it was being granted to people who, it must be assumed, would not descend to any vindictive or arbitrary use of such a power; so, therefore, Sir, I feel that we never intended this to be used in the way that it has been used, at least without an explanation. I come more particularly now, Sir, to what I must regard as the Duke affair. It would seem that this unfortunate officer had the misfortune of being a Duke by name but not by nature. What, Sir, would cause uneasiness in an incident of this sort? Incidents of this sort, Sir, recall to one's mind things that one might not have noticed nor paid any particular attention to when they were happening. But there is a collection of incidents that makes one in this colony particularly uneasy about this Duke affair. The first thing, Sir, is the Report of Mr. G. H. Adams, C.B.E., with its creation of offices that engenders the suspicion that they are created for persons other than Colonials. Well, Sir, there is rumour of the dissatisfaction by a recent importation over the outcome of a case in the Law Courts of this island pertaining to the Parking Regulations. I am dealing, Sir with rumour. Then, Sir, there is the leaking out of an affair in which the Colonial Secretary of this island has recently attempted to bully a responsible officer of this Government who had to bless his stars, I suppose, that he was not entirely in the Civil Service; he was operating under a special Act. Then, of course, Sir, there is the attempted bullying of the Colonial Treasurer of this colony by another new importation — the Financial Secretary of this colony; that is a very serious matter. And then we have to leave the realm of rumour and come to the

reality that strikes us as bearing a very near likeness to fulfilment of these rumours, that is, Sir, the arbitrary and apparently unjust removal from office of Col. Duke. Col. Duke, Sir, appears to have won the esteem, if not entirely of his men—he is in the position of having to discipline men and there may be one or two, it is to be expected, who dislike him—but he has won the esteem of such a large majority of the men under him and of the public generally that this particular incident has certainly outraged public feeling. We understand, Sir, that jobs must be made for displaced persons and we have to be very careful that when they come out here they are not misplaced persons. Now, Sir, as some other honourable member remarked, this is an incident of far-reaching importance. I understand that one of the reasons or the reason given is that a younger man is wanted for the post; that is what I understand; it was hinted at in an article in a local newspaper and I say that we have a string of officers under the Commissioner of Police who may have that qualification and fill the bill for the post; but, Sir, I feel that as Commissioner of Police in this colony or, perhaps, any colony, it is necessary to have a man of experience, a man capable of making a decision on the spur of the moment and particularly it is desirable to have in such a post a man who has the goodwill of the mixed community in which he lives. It might create a disturbance if the Commissioner of Police makes a mistake; therefore, to fill the post with a younger man might be a dangerous thing to do. As far as the people who come to this island are concerned, especially when they come from what we call the Mother Country, it would seem to me, Sir, that they are of the opinion—I do not know where they get that opinion from—that they must of necessity treat people in the Colonies as being of lesser intelligence, as servants for them in many cases and as people whom the British Council has to be sent down in advance to teach culture. The specimens, Sir, which we have, even occupying permanent positions at public functions, leave much to be desired; they are of the Bohemian kind and we have seen them described as “blustering with bambolina boots” (Laughter). It is sometimes, Sir, wondered whether the specimens we do get, are not moral degenerates who have come to teach us their culture! However, I would like to issue the warning to them that I am prepared to join with West Indians of any colour to resent any treatment to West Indians that is not the kind of treatment which should be given to human beings. I am, Sir, going to suggest to my colleague to make his intention in this Address crystal clear. I suggest to him to use the expression “His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies” instead of “His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.” We want this Address to go straight home to the person for whom it is intended. Now, Sir, there is a word in this Address—not that I am afraid to offend but I think we might get greater consideration of our views if we put them in a manner which gives the Secretary of State for the Colonies the benefit of the doubt, inasmuch as we have hinted in the Address that he has acted on advice from persons who are not qualified to give it therefore I would suggest to my colleague to leave out the word “annulling” and use the word “re-considering” instead. I hardly think that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would mistake what we mean by that. Well, Sir, I know that even the mover of this Address, from his experience, knows that there is very little chance of getting this decision annulled. Those people are too brazen. We are more or less putting them to the test but they are not going to run away with their tails between their legs nor are they going to back down without a fight. Let this Address be, therefore, respectfully worded.

Let us ask for the reconsideration of the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies because, after all, the matter has to be referred to him and the person to whom we are addressing our request has very likely not seen the original document. We know how these things are done. The Colonial Office at present may be headed by a Labourite but while that is so, there may be others who have friends for whom they wish to obtain jobs. Do not forget that the Principal Clerks in the Colonial Office are the people who manage the affairs and they also have friends to serve. I would further suggest that this House avail itself of the suggestion by the senior member for St. Peter and obtain personal representation of our feelings to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. We are in the happy position, if we are not making this a Party issue, of having the Leader of this House at present in England and, perhaps, in consultation with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Let us, therefore, even if we have to pull our own pockets and pay for it, send a cable to Mr. G. H. Adams asking him to interview the Secretary of State for the Colonies in this matter and stress our strong resentment and our strong desire for a favourable reconsideration of the matter. (Cheers). Well, Sir, I take it that we are unanimous in our resentment and inasmuch as the Leader of the House is at present in England and if we are not making this a Party issue,—Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard a remark that Mr. Grantley Adams would be placed in a difficult position—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I suppose the honourable member is referring to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph!

Mr. LEWIS: Yes, Your Honour. You know that even the Secretary of State for the Colonies wants us to be so confused that he has chosen a man by the same name to send down here to investigate the salaries and conditions of service of our Civil Servants. However, we have the senior member for St. Joseph at present in England and the Secretary of States for the Colonies might think it strange that we did not ask the honourable member to interview him and tell him about our resentment in this case. I am particularly sorry that this Address does not contain any reference to our admission of the fact that we have given them the right to act in this way. There may be instances in which officers are becoming prematurely decrepit and because there is no Act on the Statute Book to superannuate them, they might hold on to their offices to the detriment of other people in the Service; that is the reason why the Pension Act is worded as it is. I am not censuring the House for anything it has done. I am only explaining and I am sorry that this Address does not contain something to that effect. The Section of the Act might justify such action but we did not have in mind such use of the power given to the Governor of this Colony and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Perhaps if we draw it to their attention, we may prevent them from throwing back at us the statement that they have done what we have given them authority to do—we do not say that they must give us any explanation of their action. However, I am willing to agree to the Address as it is, but I still ask my colleague whether he is accepting one or both of the amendments which I have suggested and I am wondering whether he would accept the further suggestion that we ask the senior member for St. Joseph to interview the Secretary of State for the Colonies in this matter. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am making these suggestions because I look upon this incident in this way: We have definitely put in the Act that the Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies could do this thing. That has absolutely nothing to do with the

Government as such. I regret, Sir, that perhaps a matter of this sort was not—I take it that it was not—referred to the members of the Executive Committee who belong to the Party that forms the Government and it makes it all the more necessary for us to register our disapproval and ask for a reconsideration of the decision. Will my colleague, therefore, accept the term “His Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies?” Will he accept the word “reconsidering” for annulling? Mr. Deputy Speaker, while I am not afraid to offend, I am not pressing my points. Finally, I feel that in appealing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies we should give him the benefit of the doubt—we have that he will not stick to his guns and that the injustice we want remedied will not be remedied. Are we merely saying that we do not care whom we offend or are we attempting to get an injustice remedied? It is to that end that I am making the suggestions I am making. I am wondering whether this House would not go further—perhaps it would serve no useful purpose because the present session is drawing to a close—but in my opinion if we feel as we do about this matter and we do not get satisfaction before the time comes for this officer actually to leave the Service, I think that a Commission of Enquiry should be appointed to investigate the dismissal of the Commissioner of Police. But, Sir, I do not see that you can, at the same time, ask somebody to annul or reconsider a decision and set up a Commission of Enquiry. However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am convinced that this House can appoint a Commission of Enquiry to make the investigation suggested. After all, we have to vote the money to pay the pension that will be resulting from the enforced retirement of this officer and, as one honourable member has said in relation to that, the salary of his successor in office. The Act states “in special cases” and if no special case has been made out, then I take it that we are at liberty and have the authority to investigate what special circumstances led up to the using of this law as has been used.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take it that the honourable senior member for the City has accepted the suggestion for the insertion of the word “Principal” before “Secretary of State for the Colonies.”

Mr. DOWDING: Late as it is I feel that it is my duty to add my voice in this historic debate. The contemplation of the unqualified dismissal of a fellow-colonial is nothing new to me whatsoever. I have seen colonials both white and coloured having been forcibly asked to resign from their office in the Caribbean Regiment merely to make way for U.K. men. I say that fearlessly and I know that there are those who can substantiate what I have said. Unfortunately for us, in those days we were in Italy; fortunately for us to-day we are at home in Barbados and we are united in this matter. (Cheers). We have before us an Address which should be as strong as possible in its wording; it should go to the limit and let those in authority understand that when they are treading on our toes at home, they are treading on our toes in the wrong place. I speak with passion on this matter; I speak as one who has been preaching, from the day I entered this House, that we must beware of the constant importation into this island of experts from overseas. To-day the West Indies are becoming the home of all sorts and types of officials and otherwise from the Mother Country, people who are in need of a job and nothing else. Their qualifications in many cases are by far below those of men in this island who are capable of being appointed to positions in the island, or those of men from other parts of the West Indies. I feel that this undermining of our local intelligence and of our set-up is partly due to our own fault. Why is it that

to-day we are being taken for fools, that the people from the other side should send to us such poor decrepit representatives of a beautiful and strong nation? Why do we have thrust on us to-day officials who do not know how to dress themselves in their offices or in any public work? I have had the pleasure of seeing, when this House was invited to attend Dodds and other places, an Official attending in an open neck shirt and sandals with his toes out! Why are we having that sort of thing to-day? Something is wrong otherwise that would not happen. Why is it that the general run of officials from England to-day is what it is? The same thing which happened during the War is happening today; instead of being in the top rank the West Indies are getting like those who are at the bottom rank. We should be sent people of the greatest calibre; it is not fitting to send us the type of men which we are getting in these days when we are talking about the federation of the West Indies. This Official, whose unhappy plight we are considering to-day, has served the Mother Country; he has received outstanding honours in the War and to-day he is told: "Your services are no longer required!" A little time ago he was complimented on the manner in which he handled the fire which took place just outside this building, and we have standing in this island Traffic Regulations which would not have been standing if it had not been for him. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there must be something in a man who has gained the respect of the people of this colony to such a degree that, even with a certain amount of bungling by the Government, they continue to carry out Regulations which that man was partly instrumental in bringing about. I go back to wonder why we are being treated in this manner to-day. Why are we, an ancient colony whose traditions are well known, being given Officials who are by no means up to the calibre of local men? Are we not, to a certain extent, responsible for it ourselves? Are we not too quick to say: "Yes, spend £1,000 or £2,000 and import an expert? On this very day we had a Resolution before us relative to the filling of a post, and I am wondering up to now whether every possible source has been explored locally before we go overseas for somebody to teach people housecraft. We are much too quick to spend money so as to import experts into this colony. I think that money in the vicinity of £10,000 has been spent in importing officials who are called experts into this island. I hold that if we were stronger in our efforts to say that we intend to have local men to fill positions, even as high as the position of Governor, these officials would not be sent to us so easily. But we are too prone in this House and in other places to say: "No, there is no local man suitable for this position." It is regrettable that this is so. I have seen this writing on the wall from the time when I entered the Caribbean Army; I have seen U.K. personnel displace from Majors back down to Sergeants. The only people whom they did not displace were the Privates. (Laughter). They displaced Sergeants and Corporals, but not Privates. I feel rather bitter on this subject. I would not like anyone to believe that I am not strongly in favour of the Mother Country; but there are numbers of trained Englishmen locally and in the Colonies, and to-day it seems as if those whose authority it is to appoint officials are believing that there is no difference between an Englishman in the colonies and an Englishman in England. I can assure you, Sir, that the attitude of an Englishman towards a colonial in the colonial's home is one thing but there is quite another story when the colonial is in the Englishman's home. I fail to see what benefit we can get or what benefit the Mother Country to which we are so loyal can get, from officials of the type which are in this island to-day. I

will not mention these Officials by name because the course of this debate has clearly shown who they are; but I am wondering what is going to be the outcome of this matter. I regret that apart from the effort made by the two hon. members for the City, there is nothing stronger which we can do at the moment; but I once heard the Leader of this House say that this House can do anything except to turn a man into a woman and *vice versa*. If this House is as united as it is to-day there must be some means of seeing that this unfortunate Officer is reinstated. I would go so far as to say, if it is in order and if we could not do anything else, that we should bring forward some Bill or Act whereby if this office is filled by any U.K. man, we will be able within the space of three months to say goodbye to him and reinstate this Officer who has so ably carried out his duty in this colony for the past eight years. It is a great pleasure for me to be able to speak to-day on this matter—a matter on which I feel very bitter—and I do not hide the fact that I have had to shed tears over the fact that my colonials, my Army Officers, were being replaced merely for the sake of putting U.K. men into jobs; and when we said that we had come from the West Indies, we were asked if we knew English! During my two years in this House, on every possible occasion I have warned hon. members not to import officials, or experts or whatever they may be unless the local and the whole Caribbean area had been fully explored first. And in connection with that Resolution which we passed this afternoon, I hope that the hon. member who introduced it, will be certain that the local and West Indian area is explored before we import anybody from outside to fill this post. These imported Officials are all around us and I wonder how many of them ever get any work done. They seem to be more able in the carrying out of entertainment than in the carrying out of good, hard, solid work for which we, who are their employers, pay. We pay these Officials and we should call the tune. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I sincerely hope that late as it is, any honourable member who can add any strength to this Address will do so, regardless of the time which is now at our disposal. (Cheers).

Mr. SMITH: I did not intend to say anything on this Address (MEMBERS: Shame!) but when I sat and listened to the various speeches by honourable members, it makes me feel that there is a coalition among honourable members this afternoon. I sincerely hope that this same spirit will be in existence with every honourable member until the 13th of December. (Laughter and Cheers). I am wondering who is responsible for this large importation of foreigners into this island. From the time I know myself I have found strangers coming here, but from the remarks of honourable members this afternoon it looks as if this thing has only begun last year. I believe that this importation of Officials has been going on from the creation; they have been bringing in foreign people to fill jobs and forgetting our West Indian people. I am really ashamed of hearing some honourable members say that one of these Officials has called the honourable senior member for St. Thomas "monkey nuts". I can also remember that in 1944 when the electors of this colony returned a majority of coloured people to this House, it was said by some of the white people in this island that "they are a lot of monkeys." There is no doubt that that Official has heard something from the white people in this island. The honourable junior member for St. Philip has said that Colonel Duke is a very decent and well-trained man; I know that too. When he is passing you he will salute you as an M.C.P. He has done more than some of the ordinary policemen,

because some of them will knock you down and they will not even look at you. I say that regardless of colour, class or creed, Colonel Duke deserves everything that has been said of him this afternoon. I do not know what the Commissioner of Police has done that could be responsible for his being asked to resign; I do not know, as a representative of the people, whether he is right or wrong; all I can say is that they have not even treated him like a ten-cent boy, because in dismissing a ten-cent boy you should tell him why you are dismissing him. Even in the case of a person who has committed a crime, the Magistrate or Judge tells the person for what he has been charged. Therefore the Commissioner of Police has been treated worse than a ten-cent boy, and it is up to us, as the representatives of the people, to say who is responsible for that. We are the people's representatives and we are not standing for any of this rot any more. We must show our colours; we must stand up like men and represent the people. It is our duty to see that the Colonel is reinstated because we do not know for what reason he has been called upon to resign. Whoever is responsible for this dismissal care so much about the representatives of the people as not to say one word to us or to the Executive Committee as to why this Officer has been dismissed. It is high time that we have a ministerial set-up because we would have a Minister in charge of this Department and he would have been able to tell us something about this matter this afternoon. (Cheers). If we had a Minister in charge of this particular Department I would not be here so late this afternoon, because this Minister would have been able to put his foot down on whatever is wrong. But we have no such Minister at the head of this Department and the Head of the Administration has done what the Pension Act requires. What has happened this afternoon will cause us to fight for Ministerial Government for this colony. Some time ago the Head of another Department tried to exercise his authority in respect of some bus concessionaires and there again we have no Minister in charge of that Department. I would not go any further this afternoon than to say that it is our duty to see that Colonel Duke is reinstated. The honourable junior member for St. Philip says that he will be returned to this House and I say that I also will be returned to help in the fight for the reinstatement of Colonel Duke. I am appealing to honourable members to keep this same spirit of coalition until the night of the 13th of December.

Mr. COX: I feel that this question has been fully debated; I too feel that an injustice has been done to this Officer. We all know that this Officer has been with us for some years now and I do not believe that he has one enemy in this community. We all feel that he has done his job without any partiality and so it came to us as a surprise to hear that he had been called upon to resign. Not so long ago I know that a certain influential member of this House threatened a Civil Servant that he would cause him to be dismissed because that Civil Servant did not share that member's political point of view. That sort of thing is going on; and we have some of our own people playing into the hands of Officials. That is responsible in part for what has happened to this Officer. I merely suggest that if we want to do justice to the community we have to stop playing into the hands of these Officials and get down to business in the service of the community. So far as the point raised by the honourable junior member for St. Joseph relative to Ministerial Government is concerned, I feel that it should be the duty of all honourable members to do their best in trying to bring about such a system of Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER; The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I gather it is the feeling of the House that a slight departure be made from the usual custom in connection with the presentation of Addresses which are normally presented by one or two members at the request of the Speaker. In this case, in view of the momentous issue involved and the remarkable unanimity amongst honourable members, I suggest that this Address be presented by the whole House (Cheers) in accordance with Rules 205 and 206. I will ascertain His Excellency's pleasure and communicate the information to honourable members as to when they will be asked to meet His Excellency and have this Address presented. (Cheers).

ADDRESS *RE* BIRTH OF A SON TO PRINCESS
ELIZABETH AND THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am asking the House to pass an Address of congratulations relative to the birth of a son to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Address reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly hereby beg to place on record the great pleasure experienced by them at hearing of the birth of a son to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and to the Duke of Edinburgh.

The House therefore asks Your Excellency to convey to Her Royal Highness, The Princess, and the Duke of Edinburgh through the Secretary of State for the Colonies their sincere congratulations on the birth of their son and to His Majesty The King their devoted loyalty to His Throne and Family.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that. It is refreshing to see that there has been an increase in the members of the Royal family.

The question that this Address do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, honourable members, at the request of Mr. Deputy Speaker, signifying their approval by standing in their places.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Thomas and the honourable junior member for St. James to present this Address.

Dr. CUMMINS: As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. WILKINSON: As your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: The prorogation of the Legislature takes place at 2.30 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday next and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 23rd day of November, 1948, at 2 o'clock p.m.

Mr. WILKINSON seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to this day week, the 23rd day of November, 1948, at 2 o'clock p.m.