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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th October, 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. F. D. McD. SYMONDS, R. G. MAPP, K. N. R. HUSBANDS, M. E. COX, A. E. S. LEWIS, C. E. TALMA, H. D. BLACKMAN, W. A. CRAWFORD, E. D. MOTTLEY, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, and J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E.

Prayers are read.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 21st September, 1948, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER informs the House that the proceedings at the meeting which was held on the 28th September, 1948, have been recorded and that the Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 30th September, 1948, are not yet ready for confirmation.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report and Accounts of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank to the 30th June, 1948.

PAPERS LAY.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I have the honour to lay on the table of the House the following Papers:—

Message No. 26/1948 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly, with reference to Message No. 5/19, forwarding the Report of Superintendent W. A. Silver on the Barbados Police Force, and forwarding for the information of the House statements setting out those recommendations that have been accepted by the Governor-in-Executive Committee either in full or in a modified form and those that, after full consideration, it has been decided not to accept. Legis-

lation to give effect to such accepted recommendations as require an alteration of the existing law will be introduced as early as possible.

Report by Messrs. Coode, Vaughan-Lee Frank, and Gwyther on the proposed Deep Water Harbour.

Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to study the question of Seasonal Unemployment and to make recommendations as to the best means of promoting full employment in rural areas throughout the year.

Statement of Expenditure of the Housing Board to the 30th June, 1948.

Statement showing sums advanced to the Colonial Postmaster for the payment of Money Orders up to the 31st August, 1948.

Statement showing the Gross Customs and Excise receipts for five months ended 31st August, 1948.

Message No. 27/1948 from His Excellency the Governor regarding the salary of Mr. G. McD. Carew during his absence on leave.

PETITION.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Vestry of the Parish of St. Michael praying the House to pass a Bill to authorize them to borrow a sum not exceeding twelve thousand pounds in order to purchase sites and erect thereon lavatories and communal latrines.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution that with effect from the 15th October, 1948, the postage on air mail letters transmitted from this Island to the United Kingdom via Jamaica shall be at the rate of 1/3 for the first ½ ounce or part thereof and 1/3 for every additional ½ ounce or part thereof.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution that the House of Assembly approve of the book of reference and plan of the proposed extension of Waterworks in the parish of St. Michael.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution for £14,600 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-1949 under Head XL, Waterworks, to meet the cost of augmenting the public water supply.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution for £7,000 (to be subsequently refunded from loan funds) to meet the cost of—(a) acquiring land for a road to

connect the Belle Pumping Station with My Lord's Hill and for stores, buildings and quarters for engineers and resident staff; and (b) constructing the road.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution for £26. 15. 11 as a gratuity to Martha Bishop in consideration of her 7 years' service at the Mental Hospital Farm.

Dr. CUMMINS: Bill to amend the Teachers Pension Act, 1925, and the Teachers Pension (Amendment) Act, 1943.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution for £2,750 (to be refunded as a free grant from C.D. & W. funds) to meet the cost of the development of a pottery industry.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £8,750 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet capital and recurrent expenses in respect of Dodds Plantation until the 31st March, 1949.

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

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. TALMA: A Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911-5.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The St. Michael's Parish Loan Bill, 1948.

Mr. CRAWFORD: A Bill entitled The Aid to Industries Act.

Mr. LEWIS: Of the following Resolution:—

WHEREAS the Regulations called the Bridgetown (Parking) Regulations 1948 and the Regulations called the Bridgetown (One-Way Traffic) Regulations 1948 were not laid on the table of this Honourable House in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes under which they are purported to have been made,

BE IT RESOLVED that all record of the laying of the said Regulations on the table of the House on the seventh day of September, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, be expunged from the minutes and other proceedings of this Honourable House and that Orders 34 and 35 under Government Business be removed from the Order Paper.

Mr. CRAWFORD: A Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act.

Mr. LEWIS: Of my intention to proceed later in the day with the Resolution of which I have just given notice.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. HUSBANDS (on behalf of Mr. F. L. Walcott): To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at the next meeting:

Will Government take immediate steps to provide temporary arrangements for pedestrians to pass over the damaged Bridges at Speightstown and Warleigh, St. Peter?

Mr. HUSBANDS: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:

1. Will Government state the reason for the delay in commencing building operation of the new building for the proposed amalgamated Parry and Coleridge Schools?

2. Is it a fact that the reason for the delay referred to is due to the fact that the Government has not yet come to a decision whether to have this building erected by contract award or by the Public Works Department?

Mr. MOTTLEY: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

1. Is Government aware of the dissatisfaction which exists as a result of the hardships experienced by persons with restricted incomes at having, in certain cases, to pay exorbitant fees charged by Visiting Surgeons for operations performed at the Barbados General Hospital? (Cheers).

2. Is Government aware that, quite recently, one or more persons (a) whose only means of support is an income of less than £250 per annum, were charged \$100 by Visiting Surgeons for a surgical operation at the Barbados General Hospital?

(b) with incomes far in excess of £600 per annum, were charged much less than \$100 by the Resident Surgeon Specialist for a similar operation?

3. If the answers to Questions 1 and 2 (a), (b) or any of them is/are in the affirmative, will Government cause Regulations to be enacted so as to ensure:—

(a) that all persons whose income (or whose husband's income) does not exceed £200 per annum, be given free surgical treatment at the Barbados General Hospital when required?

(b) that all persons whose income (or whose husband's income) exceeds £200 per annum, but does not exceed £600 per annum, be charged fees for surgical treatment at the Barbados General Hospital in relation to their incomes?

(c) that Government's retainer, remuneration or salary to Visiting Surgeons on the Staff of the Barbados General Hospital be increased so as to compensate for any loss of fees under 3 (a) above?

EXCUSE FOR ABSENT MEMBER.

Mr. Cox offers an excuse for the absence of the junior member for St. Andrew (Mr. Foster).

Mr. WARD enters the House and takes his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Teachers Pension Act, 1925 and the Teachers Pension (Amendment) Act, 1943, is read a first time.

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

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. GALE, a Bill entitled The St. Michael's Parish Loan Act, is read a first time.

Dr. WILSON enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act be now read a first time. In connection with this Bill I want to say that as is well known, there are a few relief organizations at work in the U.S.A. trying to collect food, clothing and other articles—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like just to inform the honourable member that the first reading of a Bill is to be decided without amendment or debate.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am merely making the observation that I propose to ask the House to deal with this Bill later in the day and I want to explain the reason why.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would allow the honourable member to make his explanation if the Rule permitted me but I am afraid I have no alternative but to refuse the honourable member's request.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second the motion for the first reading of this Bill.

J. CUMMINS: I was wondering, Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether this House can entertain that

Bill. It is a Bill which relates to the revenue of the island and, in my opinion, it should originate with the Executive Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As the honourable member is aware, when a Bill is given its first reading, the Speaker is not apprised of its contents. One only hears the title of the Bill on its first reading. The question is that this Bill be now read a first time. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I have been informed that the Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank is dead and it is, therefore, necessary that we appoint an auditor as soon as possible so that the business of the Bank can be proceeded with. That being so, I beg to move that the firm of C. Kirkpatrick Pile & Co. Ltd., be appointed Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Before the question is put, I would like to know whether a firm or an individual should be appointed.

Mr. TALMA: For the information of the senior member for the City I should like to state that there are firms of Accountants, such as Bovell and Skeete, C. Kirkpatrick Pile and Co. Ltd., and when they prepare Reports or Statements of Accounts, they sign them in the name of the particular company.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate the honourable member's point but the Act distinctly states that an individual and not a company is to be appointed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should like to point out to the House that the relative section of the Act.—Section 5, sub-section 7 (1) states that an Auditor is to be appointed annually by the House of Assembly as soon as possible after the beginning of the Bank's financial year. I understand that Mr. C. K. Pile was appointed Auditor but he is dead.

Dr. CUMMINS: I myself was somewhat doubtful about the appointment of a firm as the Auditor but I was told by someone that it would be all right. In view of Your Honour's statement I ask leave to withdraw my motion in order to make another motion.

There being no objection, the honourable member is granted the leave which he asks for and the motion is withdrawn.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move now that Mr. Patrick D. McDermott, a partner of the firm of C. Kirkpatrick Pile & Co. Ltd., be appointed Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that and in doing so I should like to say that Mr. McDermott is a Chartered Accountant.

Mr. TALMA: On a point of explanation. The Act says that an Auditor must be appointed and what I am trying to bring to the attention of this House is that when a Statement of Accounts is prepared it is going to be signed in the name of C. Kirkpatrick Pile & Co., Ltd.; so it makes no difference if the firm is appointed.

The question that Mr. Patrick D. McDermott of the firm of C. Kirkpatrick Pile & Co. Ltd., be appointed Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE RE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON STANDING CLOSER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I ask leave to move an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 9 of 1948 relating to the appointment of representatives from Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's Message No. 9/1948 on the subject of the Resolutions of the Conference on the Closer Association of the British West Indian Colonies and to inform Your Excellency in reply that at an informal joint meeting of members of the Honourable House of Assembly and the Legislative 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. Cuke O.B.E., M.L.C., and Mr. G. H. Adams, M.C.P.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

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

REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE RE APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO THE WEST INDIAN CONFERENCE AT GUADELOUPE

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I ask leave to move an Address in reply to His Excellency's Message No. 16 of 1948 relating to the appointment of a delegate to the third session of the West Indian Conference to be opened at Guadeloupe.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 16/1948 relating to the appointment of a delegate to the third session of the West Indian Conference to be opened at Guadeloupe.

In reply to Your Excellency's invitation, the House beg to nominate Mr. W. A. Crawford, M.C.P., as a delegate to attend the said Conference.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Before you put the question, Sir, I would like to make it perfectly clear that this was never adopted at Government House and that although I happen to be a member of the Government I know nothing at all about it.

Dr. CUMMINS: If the honourable member had been listening he would have heard me say that this is an Address in reply to a Message from His Excellency the Governor.

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

REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE *RE*
SELECTION OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS
OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMISSION.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I ask leave to move an Address in reply to His Excellency's Message No. 19 of 1948 relating to the selection of two unofficial members of the Caribbean Commission.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 19/1948 relating to the selection of two unofficial members of the Caribbean Commission.

In reply to Your Excellency's invitation in paragraph 4 of the said Message, the House beg to nominate Mr. G. H. Adams, M.C.P., as the Barbados candidate for inclusion on the panel from which selections will be made.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to be so good as to present the Addresses to His Excellency the Governor.

Dr. CUMMINS: As Your Honour pleases.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR SHOULD
BE READ.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — Before you proceed to call the Orders of the Day I would like to point out that in regard to Messages from His Excellency the Governor which are not printed and circulated, honourable members are given just an outline of what they refer to and if we adopt the procedure of not having these Messages read, honourable members are not going to know anything about the details of them. I am merely drawing that to Your Honour's notice.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—On the last occasion when the interruption took place I was speaking on clause 70, renumbered 68, of this Bill. I was saying that this clause will not be workable if it is allowed to remain as it stands, particularly sub-clauses 4 and 6, the former of which I am going to move the deletion. Since I spoke on the last occasion I have obtained certain statistics which I shall present to the House. Let us deal, for instance, with the parish of St. Michael. The whole object of this clause, as the honourable introducer of the Bill has stated, is to improve conditions by the institution of the water-borne system but as I pointed out on the last occasion, in reply to his remark about checking the spread of typhoid, there is a greater possibility of the spread of typhoid in the absence of a sewerage

system by the digging of these pits which are likely to contaminate the water supply of the island. As I was saying, Sir, there are in the parish of St. Michael 21,646 households. Of these, 3,384 have water closets and 16,319 are provided with privy pits; therefore, there remain another 1,943 households which have no sanitary arrangements at all. Now, of these 18,262 which have privy pits and no sanitary arrangements at all, practically one-third of them would have a sufficient supply of water in due course, and if this clause became operative, after a period of years we would have a number of wells letting the sewage into the earth with the probability of polluting our water system. But I say that that is not enough. I agree that every effort should be made to improve the sanitation and social conditions of the people of this colony but let us be practical in so doing. Do not let us merely take something from the British Act and put it into our local statute without any thought of how it can be applied locally. There would be no point in saying, according to this clause, that three or four thousand people—I am only dealing with the parish of St. Michael but in the other parishes the position is much worse—who have water in their yard must put in water closets so as to prevent the spread of typhoid, for instance, while the remainder have privy pits and holes in the earth for the disposal of night soil; hence I have given the matter a great deal of thought and am suggesting that we begin to improve the sanitary conditions by providing some sort of sanitary arrangements for those persons who actually have no sanitary arrangements now. Let us put a provision in this Act whereby each parish shall set aside annually a certain amount which, of course, will eventually be borne by the Central Government, to provide sanitary arrangements for those persons who actually have none and after a period of years we will be sure that there cease to exist any primitive method of the disposal of night soil. I speak on this subject with some experience of the matter and I am labouring the point because I want honourable members to appreciate the amendments which I am about to make. If my amendments are accepted, we will be doing a greater service to the people of this country, whether they be in St. James or St. John or St. Joseph, than by merely providing that people who have water supply available should use the water-borne system of sewage disposal. I, therefore, beg to move that all the words from the word "notwithstanding" in line 6 of sub-clause 1 of clause 70, renumbered 68, to the end of the sub-clause be deleted and that the following be inserted as sub-clause 2 of the clause:—

"(2) Where there is no existing sanitary accommodation the Sanitary Authority may provide a closet other than a water closet, provided same shall have an earthen pit to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Authority."

I would have put in that the depth of the pit should not be less than 6ft. but my experience has taught me that in certain areas it is impossible to dig a pit to a depth of 6 ft., especially in areas where you come to water very quickly; that is why I use the phrase "to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Authority." I have put forward these amendments, lest it be argued that those of us who are outside the Government would do anything to prevent the passing of legislation which would have as its aim and object the social improvement of persons other than those at the bottom. This clause, as it stands, may not be workable to-day or to-morrow or next year but the amendments which I have made would be workable from the time of the passing of the Act, and after a period of years, let us say three or four years, there will cease to exist the present system by

which there is no pit, bucket or anything else for the disposal of night soil. Rather than let it be said that any of us would prevent this Bill from going through, let the first part of sub-clause 1 of this clause remain and put in my amendments as well.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am accepting the amendments made by the senior member for the City. In short, he is saying this: "Let sub-clause 1 remain, with the exception of the words which he proposes to be deleted, so that on those premises where there is a sufficient supply of water, a Sanitary Authority will have the power to require that closets be replaced by water-closets but that on premises where there is no water supply or where there are hardly closets or any sanitary arrangement at all, the Sanitary Authority shall have the power to furnish those premises with closets and earthen pits of the standard required by them. I think the honourable member has spoken on this matter from his own experience. He has had a number of years' experience as a Sanitary Commissioner of St. Michael and I beg to accept his amendments.

Mr. GALE: The senior member for the City has made a very good suggestion but I am wondering if this clause should be left in the Bill at all. In the absence of a sewerage system I do not think it would be judicious to have all these water-closets about the island because in the course of time the water supply would be polluted and that would be a very serious situation indeed. I repeat that in the absence of a sewerage system it is going to be very difficult to carry out the provisions of this clause and I beg to move the deletion of sub-clauses 1 and 2 in order to substitute therefor the following:—

"(1) If a building has no sanitary accommodation the Sanitary Authority may provide a closet other than a water closet provided same shall have a pit to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Authority."

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I quite agree with the honourable senior member for the City that we should make a start in the right place and the amendment of the junior member for St. Michael, if it is agreed to, will be a start in the right place because each individual would be provided with a proper closet and a proper pit. At present, the Board of Health supplies closets with flyproof and it is a first-class improvement. If the Sanitary Authorities provide the closet, all the individual would have to do is to dig the pit and I do not think that that would be hard on him. When it comes to the water-borne system being instituted all over the island I am objecting to it because it would eventually result in the pollution of the water supply. I think the amendment of the junior member for St. Michael will meet the situation and I beg to second it.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is not usual for me to fight a point if I see that I am beaten but I cannot accept the amendment of the junior member for St. Michael. If honourable members have their minds made up, well and good, but if they are willing to listen to reasoning I feel sure that I shall be able to convince them that my amendment is the correct thing. I have studied this matter carefully and have not made my amendments in an off-hand manner. I agree with all the arguments about the possibility of polluting the water supply but honourable members seem to forget that we have a few moments ago agreed to clause 186 which gives the Governor-in-Executive Committee the right to make regulations (a) requiring that the discharge from a water closet, unless passed into a sewer, shall be treated efficiently in a septic tank before being passed into the earth, or a cesspool or pit or being

otherwise disposed of and (b) giving the maximum depth of any cesspool or privy pit which is not provided with impervious steening. Do honourable members think that the day after this Act is passed, persons will be able to go next door to the Belle Pumping Station, for instance, and dig to the level of the water supply and thus pollute the water? The impervious steening, as has been pointed out, will prevent the discharge from seeping into the earth and polluting the water. The water-borne system does not necessarily mean going down to the level of the water and if the discharge from a water closet is treated efficiently before it passes into the earth or the cesspool or privy pit is provided with impervious steening or dug to a proper depth, there can be no pollution of the water by the discharge from that water closet. If the Governor-in-Executive Committee make a regulation stating that persons who want to replace their closets by water-closets in certain areas must use septic tanks, how are those persons going to be able to act contrary to that regulation? Do not let it be said that we on this side of the table want to give only certain persons a closet and a pit and that those who already have privy pits need not have any better accommodation. My amendments do not propose to give powers plenipotentiary to the Sanitary Authorities; those powers will be limited and as I have already pointed out, the replacement of closets by water-closets will be subjected to regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under clause 186. Further, the expenses incurred would be no charge on the particular parish; it would be an extraordinary expenditure and extraordinary expenditure for the purpose of sanitation is to be borne by the Central Government. There are at present three categories, in respect of sanitary arrangements (1) those who have water-closets, (2) those who have privy pits and an available supply of water and (3) those who have no sanitary arrangements at all, and if my amendments are agreed to, a Sanitary Authority will be able to assist those persons in the second category, subject to the provisions of clause 186, as well as those in the third category. If there was no such provision in the Act as is stated in clause 186, I would not even have considered the water-borne system because, in my opinion, a Sanitary Authority should not be allowed, without expert advice, to require a person to replace his closet by a water-closet and run the risk of polluting the water by digging his pit to any depth he likes. I cannot accept the amendment to delete sub-clauses 1 and 2 of this clause because, I repeat, I was at pains to get the figures to show that we are dealing with three classes of persons as far as sanitary arrangements are concerned—persons with water closets, persons with privy pits and persons with no sanitary conveniences at all—and my amendments will enable those in the second category to be assisted, subject to the provisions of clause 186, in replacing their closets by water-closets, as well as those in the third category. I propose to move at a later stage the deletion of certain words in sub-clause 6 of this clause, so as to give persons the right of appeal under this clause which they would have under any other clause of the Act and if an individual has the right of appeal, what harm can a Sanitary Authority do? I say "none." If honourable members want to help those persons who have no sanitary arrangements at all and to allow those in the middle to get the same accommodation as the ones at the top have, they will agree to my amendment and that is all I am asking. There is one other amendment to which the senior member for St. Thomas has agreed and that is the deletion of sub-clause 4 of this clause which provides that a person can replace

his closet by a water-closet and then call upon the Sanitary Authority to pay the expenses, even though the Sanitary Authority has not required him to make such replacement. That sub-clause should be deleted because no individual should be able to put in a water-closet and then call upon the Sanitary Authority to pay the expenses incurred, not even half.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Before the question is put I want to support the amendment for the deletion of sub-clauses 1 and 2 of this clause. I feel that this particular clause will be a distinct hardship upon all the people in the country districts of this island. In this country to-day you will find hundreds of people living in back areas with no water facilities at all. The Government contemplates giving those people water and the effect of this clause will be that those people after they have been given water, will be on the horns of a dilemma. They will be compelled under this clause to put in water-closets and even half of the expenses will be greater than the value of the houses in which they live. I consider that it will be an advantage taken of the thousands of poor people who live in back areas in this island; they do not live on the front roads and if their protestations for a supply of water have now been heard, the Director of Medical Services should not be able to come along and say to them: "We will put in water-closets in order to improve the sanitation of the island and you will have to pay half of the expenses." That will mean that these people will have to sell their homes to pay their half of the expenses and I agree that sub-clauses 1 and 2 should be deleted in order that if a Sanitary Authority want to provide a suitable type of closet at their expense they may do so. I would agree to a Sanitary Authority putting water-closets in persons' homes in all the back districts and footing the bill but I could not sit here and allow my vote to be cast in favour of any legislation which would mean that thousands of poor people in the parish which I represent would be called upon to pay half of the expenses incurred in putting in water closets when most of them have homes which are not worth that amount of money.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I have listened very carefully to what the senior member for the City said over and over again but he has not in any way convinced me. If we delete sub-clauses 1 and 2 we have not said that the person with a privy pit shall not replace it by a water-closet. He said that if we pass the amendment of the junior member for St. Michael, we would be preventing a person who has a closet from improving the sanitation of his place by replacing his closet by a water-closet—

Mr. MOTTLEY: I never said any such thing. I said that what you are doing is preventing a Sanitary Authority from attempting to improve the situation. If you accept my amendments, you give them authority to improve the position of the man at the bottom and in the middle, subject, of course, to the provisions of clause 186 as far as the man in the middle is concerned. The man at the top already has the water-borne system and what I am saying is this: if you delete sub-clauses 1 and 2 you will be enacting legislation to help only the man at the bottom and not the man in the middle.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: If I am to accept what the honourable member says, he must change the word "may" because "may" means to say that they can and when they can, they will distress many other people. There are many persons in this island with an acre or two of land and a Sanitary Authority would say that they are able to pay half of these expenses but I am saying that a man with an acre or two of land cannot pay half of the expenses incurred in putting a water-closet in his home. The Sanitary Authority

may take an advantage of that man and I am going to vote for the deletion of sub-clauses 1 and 2 of this clause if I stand alone. I entirely disagree with giving a Sanitary Authority permission to go on a man's property and say to him "You must replace your closet by a water-closet." I thoroughly object to authority being given to a Sanitary Authority to penalize a small man and if you give a man authority to go into your house, he will go. If you pass this clause, as amended by the senior member for the City, what is to prevent the personnel of a Sanitary Authority from changing what their predecessors in office did? After a man who has been provided with a closet has put in water, what is to prevent the Sanitary Authority from coming along and saying to him: "Your house has water now, you must put in a water-closet and pay half of the expenses?" I say that that would be taking an advantage of the small man in this community. This House has no right to give the Sanitary Authority of any parish authority to tell a man how he must spend his money.

Dr. CUMMINS: I hardly thought I would have had to rise again after the remarks of the senior member for the City. The first thing that members are losing sight of is that this clause is a permissive clause. I am not a lawyer but if this provision was meant to be compulsory, the word "shall" would be used. But it does not say "shall"; it says "may". The senior member for St. James reminds me of a story I heard when I was a little boy. A man sent his son to England to study law and when the son came back as a qualified lawyer, his father asked him "Can you make right wrong and wrong right?" The son replied "No, Dad; nobody can do that. If a thing is wrong, it is wrong and if it is right it is right." The father then said to the son "Go back and study more law; until you can make right wrong and wrong right you are not a good lawyer." The clause says "may" and I do not see how you can make "may" mean "shall"—

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I would like the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to answer this question. If the Sanitary Authority of St. Michael comes and tells him that he must put in a water-closet, because by law they would be entitled to tell him that he must put in one, is "may" not turned into "must"?

Dr. CUMMINS: If the honourable member read further down he would see that sub-clause 6 of this clause provides for an appeal. I repeat that this whole provision is permissive. The Sanitary Authority may require the man to replace his closet by a water-closet if they think fit and the man, if he does not think it fit, has the right of appeal. As regards the expenses, on the last occasion when I discussed this matter I thought I made it abundantly clear. First of all, the whole object of this Public Health Bill is to improve the sanitation of the island and I counsel honourable members, when they go to their constituents, not to go only from the point of view of obtaining the vote. Go also to teach them. Honourable members are supposed to be leaders of thought and their constituents are going to accept what they tell them. If they tell their constituents that the object of this Bill is to improve the sanitation of the island, they will accept it as such and if they tell them that the Government is putting an additional expense on them by this Bill, they will accept it as such. The Government is trying to improve the health of the island and on the last occasion when this clause was debated I stated that a Sanitary Authority may call upon the owner of premises to contribute a portion not exceeding one-half of the expenses incurred in replacing his closet by a water-closet. The amount

is not fixed at one-half. If the Sanitary Authority is satisfied that a person can pay only one-sixth or one-hundredth part of the expenses, they will require him to pay only that amount and I further made it clear that a poor person would be given three years in which to pay his share of the expenses. Honourable members should consider it is their responsibility to so educate public opinion that the public will see the necessity of having an Act such as this on the Statute Book. As the senior member for the City has pointed out, the Governor-in-Executive Committee is to make regulations under clause 186 to govern the disposal of sewage. The Governor-in-Executive Committee may, on the advice of its experts, deem it necessary to require that septic tanks be put down in certain areas and that cesspools or privy pits in other areas be provided with impervious steening so as not to pollute the water supply of the island. I really commend the senior member for the City for having seen the necessity of making some provision for those poor people who have no system of sewage disposal. We know that there is the old bucket system; we know that there is the system of no closet at all and provision is being made by the senior member for the City — and accepted by me — for these people.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This Public Health Bill has been before this House for a long time now and what worries me is that members of this House seem to believe that there are no people in this island in whom authority can be vested and who can be expected to use that authority in a discretionary manner. I do not care what law you pass, you have to leave the carrying out of it to the discretion of the people who will be executing it. Laws cannot be executed by the pressing of buttons; we have to have people to carry them out and I feel that if we persist in our arguments, the end of the session will come and nothing will be done to prevent the spreading of diseases in this country owing to our not having an up-to-date Public Health Act on the Statute Book.

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).

REPLIES LAID.

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 73 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Peter; the reply to question No. 69 standing in the name of Your Honour, and the replies to question No. 64 also standing in the name of Your Honour.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to lay the reply to question No. 62 standing in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael; the reply to question No. 66 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Michael; and the reply to question No. 72 standing in the name of Your Honour.

COMMENTS ON PRESENTATION OF REPORTS IN CYCLO-STYLED FORM.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Before the business of the House is entered upon this afternoon, I want to draw this matter to Your Honour's attention; I have received some Reports today such as the Report in connection with the Deep Water Harbour Scheme, the Report of the Fiscal Survey of Barbados and the Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to study the question of seasonal unemployment in this island. I think it was my former colleague who mentioned on the floor of this House that it is very unsatisfactory for honourable

members to be continually receiving important documents in cyclo-styled form from the Secretariat without any sort of hard cover so that these documents can be passed on to the next generation and be referred to quite easily. The Deep Water Harbour is something on which the estimated expenditure is over £3,000,000 and it is indeed shameful not to supply honourable members with the Report in this connection in a hard cover. I hope that this will be the last occasion on which I will have to speak on a matter such as this. We are not so bankrupt—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member not to make any speech because there is no motion before the House.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There are altogether four Reports which have been presented to honourable members and at least they should have been supplied with a proper hard cover. I hope that this will be the last occasion on which documents such as these will come to the House in this form. Apart from our having to suffer the indignity of reading these Reports in newspapers already—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member stating that these Reports have been published in the Press before they were laid on the Table of the House?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Yes Sir. Apart from suffering the indignity of reading these Reports in the newspapers before they are laid on the Table of the House, we have also to suffer from not having these Reports supplied in proper form so that we can use them comfortably. These Reports have come before us just as an ordinary Resolution and I repeat I hope that this will be the last time that they will come before us in this form.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member's observations will be noted. I may mention that the matter is already receiving my attention.

LEAVE ASKED TO PRESENT A REPLY

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to present the Reply of the Committee appointed to consider and reply to Message No. 13 of 1948 from His Excellency the Governor—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that the Report of a Select Committee?

Mr. CRAWFORD: It is the Reply which has been agreed to by a majority of the members of the Select Committee. I want to have it printed and circulated with the papers of the House which have been laid to-day so that it can be dealt with at the next meeting of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I instruct the Clerk to have that document printed and circulated among honourable members.

Mr. LEWIS: Is the honourable member giving notice of an Address? If so he must get the leave of the House in order to do that now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to present the Reply of a Select Committee to a Message from the Governor.

Mr. LEWIS: It is the Report of the Committee. If that is not so then it is a private notice of a Reply given by the honourable member, and I do not think that the business of the House should be conducted in this manner. Some advantage is being taken of honourable members; if this Report is that of a majority of the members of the Select Committee then it is the Report of the Select Committee, otherwise it is a private notice of a Reply which is being given to the House in reply to a Message from the Governor.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The position is this: a meeting of the Select Committee was summoned for this morning at 11 o'clock. There was no quorum

but the members of the Committee decided to meet at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and a majority of the members of the Committee met. Strictly speaking, although the Committee decided to meet at 2 o'clock, the meeting was not summoned for 2 o'clock so that it could not be said that it was a meeting of the Committee. That is why I took the course which I have taken.

Mr. LEWIS: That is entirely out of order; a Committee must be summoned before it can sit and a Report be presented in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already instructed the Clerk to have the document printed and circulated among honourable members.

Mr. LEWIS: If a Select Committee of the House has been appointed to reply to this Message from the Governor how can the House accept this document in the form in which it has been presented this afternoon? The Report of the Committee must be that which has been formulated at a duly constituted meeting of the Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not accepting the document as anything more than a document which has been presented to the House to be circulated among honourable members.

Mr. LEWIS: If a Select Committee has been appointed to consider and reply to a Message and the honourable member is a member of that Committee, he must deal with the matter before the Select Committee in the first place. We cannot go behind the Select Committee which has been appointed to deal with the Message. I ask Your Honour to view the matter in that light and for future guidance of this House I submit that that document must be presented as the Report of the Select Committee appointed by the House to consider the particular matter, otherwise we cannot deal with it here. I say that money from the Public Treasury should not be used in printing any document such as this one. There are 24 members of this House and any of them can present any document in connection with the same Message.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The majority of the members of the Select Committee are in agreement with the Reply to the Message.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The argument of the honourable junior member for the City has impressed me that we cannot grant any leave to have this Report printed and circulated. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has even said that there was no quorum at the hour for which the meeting of the Select Committee was summoned, and therefore the meeting at 2 o'clock was not summoned. When a meeting of the House is summoned and there is no quorum, we do not summon any private meeting outside and then come back in; that is not the procedure to be followed. If we agree to the procedure in this instance we may create a dangerous precedent.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We will do what has been done about a dozen times before, that is to summon another meeting of the Select Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a very happy way of dealing with the matter.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: We are hoping to finish the Public Health Bill and there are some urgent money Resolutions with which we are also hoping to deal. One of these Resolutions is in respect of the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The reason for my opposing the application for leave being granted in respect of the suspension of Rule 61 (b) is that there are also important matters under Private Members' Business to be dealt with. It is the usual practice to deal with money Resolutions as the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I suggest that the applications be made separately.

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the adjournment for lunch the House was in Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts of this island relating to Public Health.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee on this Bill before the adjournment for lunch, we were considering Clause 70, renumbered 68, and the honourable senior member for St. Peter was speaking.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: When the House adjourned for lunch I was making the point that I feel that in the middle of the 20th century we in Barbados should urge that a Bill like this be put on the Statute Book. As regards this particular Clause which we are considering, I cannot see that any hardship can be created on any person, whether he owns a small house or a big one, from what has been set out in the Clause. I think that the time has come when we should hasten legislation in the proper quarter. I did not intend to speak on this Bill at all, because it was sent to a Select Committee and some members who were members of that Committee and who seem to speak *ex cathedra* on the Bill now, never said anything about it before the Select Committee. Now we are having a lot of discussion on the Bill. I say that the time has come when we should get this Bill on the Statute Book so that we can relieve some of the suffering from tuberculosis, venereal disease, and so on; so that we can give people better treatment than we have been able to give them hitherto.

Mr. GALE: I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

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

Mr. GALE: I beg to move that after the word "may" in line 2 of Sub-clause (1) the words "with the consent of the owner" be inserted.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that amendment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: With regard to the amendment which I made to this Clause earlier to-day I want to move a further amendment. I beg to move that after the word "accommodation" the following words be inserted: "or where the existing sanitary accommodation is inadequate." I make that further amendment because you may find some Sanitary Authorities sticking to the letter of the law and by this amendment they will also be able to provide this sanitary accommodation where the existing sanitary

accommodation is inadequate. I also beg to move that Sub-clause (4) renumbered (5) be deleted.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept those amendments.

Mr. TALMA: I hate to rise on a point of this nature on account of my position as a member of the Government, but I can see that a certain amount of hardship will be experienced by people who are trying to be sanitary in the strict sense of the word. Sub-clause (4) says this: "Where the owner of a building proposes to provide it with a water-closet in substitution for a closet of any other type, the Sanitary Authority may, if they think fit, agree to pay him a part, not exceeding one-half, of the expenses reasonably incurred in effecting the replacement, notwithstanding that a notice has not been served by them under this section." If we are trying to improve conditions and anyone thinks fit to provide himself with a water-closet, why should he be deprived of doing that? I do not see that there is anything wrong with this Sub-clause; it is a means whereby anyone who wants the assistance set out here can be assisted.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I think that if the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will reflect, he will see that this Sub-clause should remain in this Bill. If, for instance, the honourable senior member for St. Lucy proposes to provide his building with a water-closet, the Sanitary Authority will not think fit to pay him any part of the expenses incurred in so doing because they will say that the honourable member can afford to bear those expenses; but when it comes to a person in the lower income brackets he will be assisted in providing his building with a water-closet. This is a progressive Clause. I feel that the longer this Bill is delayed in its passing, the more difficult the position will become in many respects.

Mr. DOWDING: I think that the amendment relative to the deletion of this Sub-clause has already been accepted. Is the honourable member in order to speak on that now?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Sub-clause (4) be re-inserted. I cannot stand in this House and agree to the deletion of a Sub-clause such as this, a Sub-clause which encourages people to help themselves. Here is a discretionary Sub-clause; people like the honourable senior member for Christ Church or the honourable senior member for St. George will not apply to the Sanitary Authority for assistance, but there are some unscrupulous people who know that they can supply themselves with water-closets but they will still apply to the Sanitary Authority for assistance. I cannot see the Sanitary Authority sitting around a table and allowing such things. Where a man is earning, say \$40 a month and he wants to bring up his children in a decent way, he will be given assistance in installing a water closet. An analogy is that if a man can pay to send his boy to Harrison College therefore he can buy all the books.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that motion. It amuses me to hear the arguments adduced by some honourable members. In one instance they say "this will hamper the poor man" and now that some of them will be members of the Sanitary Authority, they have been elected as Vestrymen by the taxpayers, they are showing that they are the most inhuman people who have ever been born. They are prepared to squeeze people whenever the opportunity to do so occurs. If this Sub-clause is deleted that will harm the people who are to be assisted in installing water-closets. The Sanitary Authority are not going to assist the man who can install his own water-closet but when a man of slender means applies for assistance in installing his water-closet he should be assisted. However, some honourable members are saying

"do not give this man any assistance in installing a water-closet at all; he must install it with his own money or use an earth pit." By deleting this Sub-clause we will not be helping the poor man; we will be putting him in a worse position.

Mr. WARD: I feel that this Sub-clause should not be deleted. Under this Sub-clause, if an individual had accumulated a certain amount of money and he wanted to substitute a water-closet for an earth-pit, he could apply to the Sanitary Authority for assistance. He could tell them: "I have an earth-pit and I want to instal the water-borne system. I have \$100, the installation of this system will cost \$150 and I am asking you to assist me in paying the remainder of the money." This Sub-clause will help an individual who can only afford to pay a part of the expenses incurred in the installation of the water-borne system. I feel that it should be left to the Sanitary Authority to say that Mr. Ward can pay for installing this system but Mr. Smith cannot pay for installing it. I think the Committee would be wise to re-insert this Sub-clause.

Mr. SYMONDS: I want to support the motion for the re-insertion of this Sub-clause; I think we would be making a distinct mistake if we delete this Sub-clause whereby people will be assisted in installing water-closets. I think that the Sub-clause should go further and give people assistance to the extent of more than one-half of the expenses incurred in installing these water-closets. While I have opposed the enforcement of the provision of water-closets upon people who are unable to pay one-half of the expenses incurred in providing them, people whose homes could not even be valued at one half of the amount which it would cost to install a water-closet, there are definitely thousands of people in this island who are hoping to get some assistance along this line. I do not want to have this issue confused at all; I believe that in their zeal to protect some of the very poorest people from experiencing a great hardship, some honourable members are unwittingly creating a hardship on other people and it is for that reason that I heartily support the motion for the re-insertion of this enabling Sub-clause.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The awakening of some honourable members from their lethargy where this Bill is concerned causes me some astonishment. If honourable members read this Clause and study the amendment which was made to it, they will appreciate that there could not be the slightest idea of creating any hardship on anybody by the deletion of this Sub-clause. The idea of the amendment is that the parishioners should know exactly what is happening. Let honourable members read Subclause (4); I would be the last person to take my own views and thrust them upon the majority of honourable members if they cannot see the reason for anything that has been proposed. If honourable members say that this Sub-clause should be left in the Bill but with an amendment, I would say that they have made some contribution to the discussion. If honourable members read the whole of this Clause they will see that a person has not got to submit any plans for doing anything; he can do it notwithstanding that he has not been told to do it. A person might produce the most elaborate scheme, put it up to the Sanitary Authority and they may have to pay one-half of the money. The Estimates which will be put before the Governor-in-Executive Committee will include all expenditure including extraordinary expenditure at any time during the year and I repeat that a person who wants to improve his sanitary accommodation might put up the most elaborate scheme to the Sanitary Authority who may have to pay one-half of the expenses incurred in carrying it out. I do not see that we can leave in

this Sub-clause having regard to the amendment which have already been made to this Clause.

Mr. TALMA: If the honourable member would read Sub-clause (1) carefully he would probably save a lot of energy and time. Probably the honourable member has not read that Sub-clause very carefully.

In this Sub-clause provision is made for the installation of water-closets and in Sub-clause (4) assistance is to be given people to install these water-closets. By the deletion of this Sub-clause the honourable member is really saying that no assistance should be given to people to install water-closets. I feel that we are wasting time and this Bill will be lost if we go on like this.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If honourable members would really study Sub-clause (1) as amended they would see the force of my argument for the deletion of Sub-clause (4).

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B)

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) in order to proceed with Government Business.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the time for the consideration of Private Members' Business arrived, the House was in Committee on the Public Health Bill.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When we were last in Committee on this Bill, the honourable senior member for the City was speaking on Clause 70 re-numbered 68.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Honourable members are of the opinion that if Sub-clause (4) of this Clause is deleted, some harm will be done to people who want to improve their sanitary arrangements. My opinion is to the contrary. If the honourable senior member for Christ Church reads this whole Clause he will appreciate that the only thing which binds the Sanitary Authority is the fact that there must be a sufficient water supply on premises. There is nothing in this Clause which prevents anybody either rich or poor from installing water-closets. People who are in a position like that of the honourable senior member for St. George or the honourable senior member for St. Andrew can install an elaborate scheme and call upon the Sanitary Authority to pay a part of the expenses incurred in installing it. What would be the position of the Sanitary Authority? The only proviso which is here is that premises must have a sufficient water supply. If you leave this Sub-clause in the Bill any person might install a water closet and call upon the Sanitary Authority to pay a part of the expenses, notwithstanding that he has not been called upon to install the water-closet; but, as is provided for in Sub-clause (1), the Sanitary Authority may install the water-closet subject to the consent of the owner of the premises. I can see the feeling of the House in this matter; I am one of the easiest members of this House to be convinced by

arguments which are reasonable and sound, but surely the arguments used for leaving in this Sub-clause are far from being convincing. The point which I have made has already been made when we were first dealing with this Clause and its acceptance today is not a thing which has just been sprung upon the honourable senior member for St. Thomas: the point was argued when the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was present in the House and this amendment was partly accepted. There is nothing in this Clause which prevents anybody from installing a water-closet; the only proviso is that there must be a sufficient water supply on the premises and nothing is said about any income limit. Imagine our passing this Sub-clause as it is! If honourable members feel that this Sub-clause should remain in this Bill, I have no other alternative than to vote against it.

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not think that I can add much more to what the honourable senior member for the City has said. I was convinced especially after Sub-clause (1) of this Clause had been amended, that Sub-clause (4) was no longer necessary and I am still convinced of that. If the owner of a premises is in poor or moderate circumstances and wants to have a water-borne system, he will naturally give the Sanitary Authority consent to change his system of sanitary accommodation for his own benefit. As has been pointed out, Sub-clause (4) is in connection with a different matter; here the Sanitary Authority is not calling upon a person to provide a water-closet, he may be a wealthy person who can afford to install an elaborate sewerage system. If he is a poor person he has an opportunity under Sub-clause (1) to go to the Sanitary Authority and arrange with them to install a water-closet; but if he is a wealthy person under Sub-clause (4) he can install an elaborate water-borne system and then go to the Sanitary Authority and say: "I claim one-half of the expenses incurred in installing this system." That was my impression and it still is my impression in this matter.

Mr. TALMA: No provision has been made for assisting the owner of a premises to install a water-closet under Sub-clause (1). How the honourable member is interpreting this Clause baffles me.

The question that Sub-Clause (4) be re-inserted was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. SYMMONDS, F. L. WALCOTT, Cox, MAPP, LEWIS, TALMA, BLACKMAN, S. A. WALCOTT and WARD—9.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. MOTTLEY, DOWDING and GALE—4.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sub-clause (6) deals with the question of appeal which we have stressed so much. Following the amendments which have been made dealing with the expenses to be paid by the owner of a premises, I beg to move that after the word "executed" in line 6 the remainder of the Sub-clause be deleted. The deletion of that portion of this Sub-clause will give a person the same right of appeal as is given under any other Clause of the Bill. That part of the Sub-clause will take away that right and I do not think that that would be correct. I think that people should have the right to appeal on similar grounds as they have under any other Clause of the Bill.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: We have amended Sub-clause (3) re-numbered (4) which states definitely that the owner of a premises shall pay one-half of the expenses incurred in the execution of the works; consequently the question of appeal in Sub-clause (6) re-numbered (7) would no longer arise. I think that is a consequential amendment and I accept it.

Mr. MAPP: I think that some further argument should be adduced as to why that portion of this Sub-clause should be deleted. The impression which I got from the wording of this Clause is that you are putting it in the hands of expert people who have some knowledge of public health, to have some works carried out so as to safeguard the health of the people. It seems farcical therefore—

Mr. DOWDING: This amendment has already been accepted and are we going to reconsider it now?

Mr. MAPP: The honourable member is only wasting time; if he does not know the Rules of the House he should learn them. I am speaking on the Clause.

Mr. DOWDING: The Clause has to be re-committed before the honourable member can speak on it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has a perfect right to speak on the Clause.

Mr. TALMA: This Clause is under discussion and the honourable member is quite in order to speak on it even although I am not in agreement with him.

Mr. MAPP: All I am saying is that the whole purpose of this Bill is to protect the community and here there is a challenge to the entire idea of the Bill. People will appeal on any ground at all. It has been set out in Sub-clause (6) of this Clause that no appeal shall lie on the ground that the works are unnecessary and I think that we are going against the opinion of the people who should know better. This Clause has already been gone through. If this Bill is being delayed, the delay is from that side of the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have to draw to the attention of the Committee that there is not a quorum present.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT joined the Committee and a quorum was again obtained.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am surprised at the honourable member saying that this Bill is being delayed by this side of the Committee. If the honourable member reads the Bill he will see that laymen are being appointed as Sanitary Authorities and they may say that you should have a septic tank or some other provision. Every other Clause in this Bill gives the right of appeal and I say that people should also have the right of appeal under this Clause. If they want to appeal for nothing and pay the costs of the appeal that is all right.

Mr. TALMA: The sentiments which have been expressed by the honourable senior member for the City are strictly in order; what we are trying to do is to grant the average person the right of appeal and that is democracy.

The question that Clause 70 re-numbered 68 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Dr. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again. The reason for doing so is that this Bill is a voluminous one and the Deputy Clerk is being given an opportunity to make a check on the various Clauses in order to see whether all of them have been dealt with or not.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that. I should also like to say that in view of the fact that this Bill does not come into operation by proclamation, it would hardly be held over for the other two kindred Bills so as to have its operation in order. If honourable members look at the third Schedule of the Bill they will see the enactments which are to be repealed as soon as this Bill comes into operation. I see now that this Bill does come into operation by proclamation and I think that the two Bills which relate to this Bill should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Mr. LEWIS: Since the opportunity is being taken to go through this Bill in order to make absolutely certain that all the Clauses have been passed, I want to point out that there are many parts of the Bill which say that matters are to be dealt with by Regulations and people are given the authority to make the Regulations. I am merely throwing out the suggestion that we should insist on having those Regulations laid on the Table of this House, having regard to our recent experience where the laying of Regulations on the Table of this House is concerned. I am asking that the Clerk report the various Clauses in which matters are to be dealt with by Regulations with a view to having those Regulations laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible after they have been approved. I do not remember any Clause of this Bill which says that the Regulations must be brought before the House in the usual way. Another point is this; before we pass this Bill it should be reprinted in the form in which it is going to be sent the Other Place and let us have the opportunity of seeing it in that form. This Bill is a voluminous one but the amendments are even more voluminous.

The question that the CHAIRMAN do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Government Business is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sum of money for the service of the Government.

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

REFUND OF IMPORT DUTY AND PACKAGE TAX TO MESSRS. D. M. SIMPSON & CO.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for £873.13s.5d. as a refund of the Customs' import duty and package tax paid by Messrs. D. M. Simpson & Co. on machinery and accessories imported for the manufacture of fuel from megasse. Spring Hall Co., Ltd. is undertaking the manufacture of fuel from megasse and the Government has decided to refund the Customs' import duty and package tax which has been paid on the machinery imported for the purpose on the understanding that the Government will fix the price of the product and control the distribution of it. It is on that understanding that the Government has agreed to refund this Customs' duty and package tax which has been paid on this machinery. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that. I can only confirm what the honourable introducer has said. This product will be useful to the community and we should give all the assistance that is sought in its manufacture.

Mr. TALMA: I rise to explain the policy of the Government as far as industrialisation is concerned. Some people have said that this Government is against industrialisation; but if we are so magnanimous as to bring forward a Resolution like this, it shows that our policy is that we are in favour of industrialisation. We are suffering from the lack of fuel in this island and every honourable member should support a measure such as this, a measure which was defeated some time ago but which this

Labour Government says should be implemented so as to produce a commodity which we need. Industrialisation has never been opposed by this Labour Government.

MEMBERS: Question!

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put, I want to remind the last speaker that just a few weeks ago the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, with reference to this same Resolution, declared that whenever the Resolution came before the House during the past session he used to walk out because he did not intend to support it. Therefore when people accuse the Government of being opposed to industrialisation in its broadest sense they know what they are talking about.

Mr. LEWIS: This is a Resolution which has been brought before this House some time in the past, and it is well known that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was not going to support it. The honourable senior member for St. Philip was not going to support it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I should like to ask the honourable member the source of his information that I was not going to support the Resolution. I agreed with it in the Executive Committee.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable junior member for St. Philip spoke against the Resolution and the honourable senior member for St. Philip told me privately that he was against it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I may tell the honourable junior member for the City that he has no respect at all for the truth if he says that I told him that I was not going to support this Resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: I am giving it as gospel truth that the honourable member agreed to support the Resolution, but after hearing some arguments by Labourites he was against it and I highly commended him for being against it. When honourable members know the facts I cannot see how they can be in favour of this Resolution. The facts are that these people imported this machinery into this island and said that they are going to manufacture fuel from megasse. There is no competition at all where this product is concerned. These people have imported this machinery and after it has arrived in the island they want to get back the duty which they have paid on it! They could quite easily have got an undertaking from the Government that this duty would be refunded since they want to make fuel for the people of this island. I highly commended the honourable senior member for St. Philip for having altered his opinion about this matter because his colleague made some very good points in connection with it. The honourable senior member for St. Philip well knows that a man came here from Trinidad to start making rum from molasses; he was denied the molasses and he had to shut down his factory. That is the sort of assistance which people who are doing business here are giving to industrialists; after starting the Rum Still that Trinidadian was denied the molasses! that might have been an extension of the rum trade. If this Government has merely got a promise from these people that they will allow them to regulate the price and so on, what can the Government do? When they go to regulate the price these people can say that there is no law governing this matter. This is not a question of industrialisation; these people have started off without having acquainted the Government about the matter and they well knew what they were doing. There is some history behind this matter; I understand that this is not related but the Spring Hall Company Limited know that the Government was experimenting in making fuel for the people

from molasses and megasse and the Government spent £1,500 in this connection. Some of the very people who imported this machinery were mixed up with the experiment and what do we know about it? The Government paid for the experiment. Who can tell that these two things are not related? They got £1,500 from the Government, they saw that what the Government was doing was leading nowhere, they got sufficient experience to set up their own factory and they imported this machinery without knowing whether they would get a refund of this duty or not. And how many people are going to be employed in this business? This Government cannot check up on what it is going to cost these people to make this fuel. They will call in people to fix the price and then it will go up; they related the price of the natural gas to crude oil and in the next week the price of it went up. Do you know the tricks which can be played on this Government? I am saying that it would be scandalous for this House to agree to refund this money to these people having regard to the way in which they went about the matter. I am voting against this Resolution if I am the only member doing so. I say that the Government will have the greatest difficulty in controlling the price of this product, and when it comes to the question of the distribution, well, Mr. Chairman, from this afternoon when this Resolution is passed the Government will not remember that Spring Hall is making this fuel. Why did these people not agree to the control of the price of the product on the last occasion? These people are going to think that this product is theirs because there is nobody to compete with them. I say; leave these people alone with this monopoly; this £800 is not going to make any difference with regard to the price of the product. The Government will not know what the megasse is going to cost. Are we going to take up £800 of the taxpayers' money and give these people as a refund because they tell us that this is a scheme of industrialisation? I say that they are only tricking this Government; they went ahead with this business without first telling the Government anything because they knew that they would get this refund. The reason why they imported this machinery in secrecy is that they knew what they were doing; if they had done it in a different way we would be in honour bound to agree to give them this refund. I should like to say in this connection that it is very significant that a long lecture on industrialisation was given in the Other Place not very long ago.

Mr. MAPP: This is the same Resolution which we have had before us but in different official language; we hear now about official undertakings. I do not know how it could be expected that honourable members, like the honourable junior member for the City, who are Labourites could do other than discharge their conscience in this matter. We are being asked to help these people by this Resolution and I say that before we agree to refund this Custom's duty let us know how many people this business will employ and how it will help the people of this colony. Let us know if we are encouraging capital to be put into the hands of a few people when the majority of the people will suffer; let us know if we are going to get a *quid pro quo*. We are quite willing to give this concession if you tell us that a *quid pro quo* will be arranged and how it will be arranged; we want to know if the benefit of this concession will fall to the majority of the people of this colony. We see a lot of letters in the Press ac-

cusing the Government of doing nothing to help the people. Lately people objected to increased taxation being put on their profits and other people joined in helping them to protect their profits from this taxation. On this question of industries there are cases in which concessions have been granted and extra profits have been made, the price of the products being greater than that at which they can be obtained from abroad. People complain that we are not willing to help them and yet they are never willing to help the community. We must view what is now before us with suspicion; we are not content with being told that there is some understanding between the Government and these people, and as the honourable junior member for the City has pointed out, we know how difficult it is to fix prices. A good argument can be produced for increasing prices. Very few people are going to be employed in this concern—I do not think it will employ more than 25 people—and we are being fooled by this talk about industrialisation.

Mr. TALMA: I spoke about industrialisation and I ask that the honourable member withdraw those words.

Mr. MAPP: I withdraw the words. As regards the statement that the Leader of the House walked out when this Resolution came before the House during the last session because he was opposed to industrialisation, that is misleading the public. It is known that the Government could not get any assurance at that time that the consumer would be protected and that is the position. That is all I meant when I made that statement just now and it is unfortunate that I was misunderstood. I am in favour of getting capital in this island; commonsense dictates that, but we must concentrate on seeing that that capital is not kept in the hands of people who already have the most of it. I view this matter with suspicion and I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. I want to know what assurance the Government will give us beyond saying that they have some understanding in this matter; they may understand one thing and these people might say: "We did not mean that." I can understand a legal undertaking being given to the Government, not their merely saying that they have an understanding. That surpasses my understanding.

Dr. GUMMINS: If the honourable senior member for St. Joseph were in his place this afternoon I would resign my position as a member of the Government. Let us look into the history of this matter; this Resolution was on the Order Paper before and when a member of the Party which forms the Government can say that he views the Government with suspicion, I repeat that I would resign my position as a member of the Government if the honourable senior member for St. Joseph were in his place. Fortunately, the honourable member is not in the island.

Mr. MAPP: I am very sorry that my colleague has taken that attitude because I was not referring to any member of the Government. I said that I view this matter with suspicion; this Resolution has been sent down by the Government and Governments are not infallible. All I am saying is that I want some further explanation in this matter.

Dr. CUMMINS: When this Resolution was before this House during the last session I was opposed to it too. I would not have voted for it then; but the four of us from this House who are members of the Executive Committee reviewed the position in this island where fuel is concerned. Sometimes there is a shortage of fuel. The other day the control was lifted, the price of fuel went up and

we thought that it would be a very good idea to encourage, if possible, the production of fuel in this island so that as time goes on we would have a better supply of locally-produced fuel than heretofore. We decided to put up the following proposals to these people: we asked them: are you willing to let us control the price of this product?—"Yes." Are you willing to let us control the distribution?—"Yes." After getting these assurances that the Government would be allowed to control the price and the distribution of this product we acceded to the request to refund this duty thinking that it would be in the interest of the people of this island. We felt that if this product were distributed everybody would get a portion of it. Honourable members have spoken about controlling the price and the distribution of commodities; I notice that from the time when the last War started, the price and the distribution of every commodity have been controlled by the Government. Whether it was done efficiently or not, the Government tried its best to control the price and the distribution of commodities, and with that before us we agreed to put this Resolution before the House. Now we are told some nice little things, which I enjoy, by members of our own Party! We know very well that this industry will not employ very many people but we are hoping that if the industry is encouraged it will develop and place us in a good position at least where locally-produced fuel is concerned. If honourable members want to vote against the Resolution, let them vote against it; those who want to vote for the Resolution will vote for it.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: My attitude towards this matter is different from that of the honourable junior member for the City or that of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas. I am not one of those individuals who talk a lot about industrialisation and experiment when we are faced with certain problems. In connection with the Soap Factory things were said on the floor of this House and printed in a newspaper and honourable members who talk so much about industrialisation now did everything to kill it; but "industrialisation" has become a popular word now. I am voting for this Resolution for this reason: the general exemptions under the Customs Tariff Act preclude people from bringing in machinery free of duty for certain manufacturing purposes but fuel, firewood and charcoal, are exempted from duty; certain manufactured products are exempted from duty. What I am against in this matter is the manner in which this firm went about this business; how are we to know that they did not intend to pay duty on this machinery when it arrived? They imported it knowing that they would have to pay the duty on it. Any businessman has to count his cost and if people were importing machinery from anywhere and they were doubtful as to whether duty would have to be paid on it or not they would make enquiries from the Government. That is what should have been done in this case. When people are importing machinery they send up their specifications and get a confirmation note; and when they get this note what is there to prevent them from asking the Government if it is prepared to allow them to bring in this machinery duty-free? But you want to put somebody on the spot and accuse that person of preventing you from bringing in your machinery. As I see the position, fuel is going to be manufactured and as long as fuel is exempted from duty I will vote for this Resolution. I repeat that this firm knew that they could not have brought in this machinery without paying the duty

on it and I challenge any honourable member to prove that when these people ordered this machinery there was no possibility of enquiring from the Government as to whether they would be allowed to bring it in free of duty or not. Whenever people are doubtful about these matters they always enquire about them from the Government; they do not just rush into business. I feel that if this machinery had been ordered about 18 or 20 months ago enquiries could have been made as to the payment of the duty on it. This is not in connection with the Government's policy of industrialisation; these people knew that they had to pay this duty and now they are asking for a refund! Do not let us bring in any question of industrialisation here because we will have to begin to examine a lot of things. I do not believe in Customs' duty as such but before you make a step in any direction you have to make sure that you are making the greatest provision for the greatest number of people. If you are beginning to cut off Customs' duty you have to watch the duty which is put on food; you have to consider whether you are going on taxing people at a high rate for their food and letting off people with Customs' duty. I should just like to say that I am not keeping back anybody here; if honourable members cannot remain here they can leave. I am not going to allow anybody to prevent me from doing the work which I have to do. I am not tired of fighting the Elections. On this question of import duty I feel that the Government would be well advised to review the general policy and see how much they are going to take off the people's food.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member seems to be dealing with the question of subsidisation now.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I appreciate that subsidisation has nothing to do with import duty but all items of food are not subsidised. I am speaking in connection with the importation of this machinery. The Spring Hall Company well knew that they would have had to pay the duty on this machinery and in this matter they should have adopted the principle of enquiring from the Government as to whether they would have been allowed to bring in this machinery duty free or not. I am voting for this Resolution purely on the ground that fuel is exempted from duty. Finally, I would like the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to realise that some people fight their family. We have to remember that some people are urged to say things which they should not say.

Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of explanation. Nobody has urged me to say anything.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am voting for this Resolution with the sentiments which I have expressed.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable senior member for St. Thomas remarked that the control was taken off imported fuel and I would like him to tell me why that was done. The honourable member said that the control was taken off and the price went up. I should like to know why the control was taken off. I would also like to know whether this machinery has been working. The Government should have got a report as to the working of this machinery but on the face of that, is the granting of this concession necessary? Many months ago these people came for this money and they did not get it. This machinery must have been working and I would like to know if the Government has gone into the matter so as to be able to compare the price of this product with that of the imported article. Has the Government taken into consideration that this is a going concern or that the owners have attempted to

make out a case merely because they expect to get back this £800?

Mr. BLACKMAN: There is just this little bit of information which might be of some use to honourable members. We are now importing £50,597 worth of charcoal and £19,095 worth of firewood—a total amount of £70,000 roughly. If we want to pay better salaries in this island we have to keep as much money in the island as we possibly can. Instead of sending this £70,000 out of the island—if we can manufacture fuel from megasse—we will be able to keep this money in the island to assist in paying increased wages.

Mr. CRAWFORD: From the speech of the honourable junior member for the City it would appear that Spring Hall was doing the work for which we voted £1,500 to be done at Searles Factory. I have merely risen because I do not want the impression to be conveyed abroad that nobody in this Chamber knew the difference between the work which was done at Searles Factory and that which is being done at Spring Hall. There were two entirely different experiments. The honourable senior member for Christ Church is in charge of matters relating to Agriculture and the obligation falls on him to explain for the benefit of the honourable junior member for the City, the difference between the work done at Searles Factory, which was done out of the Treasury funds, and the work which is being done now at Spring Hall. With regard to the question of those who profess to be true Labourites not being able to support this Measure, I should like to remind honourable members that the former senior member for St. George, one of the leaders of the Party to which members on my right belong, very strongly supported this Measure from the earliest stages and was not afraid to rise from his seat in this House and explain that his position as a Labourite was completely compatible with the position which he adopted in supporting the Resolution. I am not here to refer to remarks made by people who view everything under the sun with suspicion; some of them view even their alleged parentage with suspicion. Those of us who have really paid some attention to this question, know the work which was done at Searles Factory and what is being done at Spring Hall. With regard to the Soap Factory when it was disclosed that they were making an abnormally high profit on the capital invested in a given year—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not now dealing with the Soap Factory.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That was not before the Committee when an honourable member referred to it either.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow I am not allowing any discussion about it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sorry that you did not make that ruling a few minutes ago. The exposure of the Soap Factory resulted in an enquiry being made and beneficial results were obtained for this colony. It is absolutely unnecessary to reply to any of the other points which have been raised. I am sure that the honourable senior member for Christ Church will feel himself obligated to explain for the benefit of the honourable junior member for the City what happened at Searles Factory and what is going on at Spring Hall.

Mr. TALMA: What happened at Searles Factory is not before the House. We are dealing with a Resolution to refund this duty. The commodity which will be produced is one which we will always need, and anyone who cannot see the wisdom of this Resolution should not be a member of this Chamber.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I hope that the honourable junior member for the City has taken full note of the explanation. (Laughter).

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable senior member for St. Philip has got into the habit of explaining the unexplainable; his recent successes have led him to think that he can explain anything. Earlier to-day he gave notice of an Aid to Industries Bill the absence of which he had given as an excuse for not agreeing to increase the income tax on companies. However, that is nothing to do with this Resolution. It is the privilege of any honourable member to bring forward measures and the honourable member brought forward the Hotels Aid Bill which he dropped like a hot brick.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Government sent down the Hotels Aid Bill; I did not bring it forward.

Mr. LEWIS: As far as the point made by the honourable junior member for St. John is concerned, we all know that we want to keep money in this Island but we have to be careful in this matter. We would not have heard anything about the Government controlling the price and the distribution of this product if the stand taken by honourable members previously had not been taken. The Government has to thank honourable members who exposed the position on the last occasion. As regards controlling the price and the distribution of this product I feel that the Government should have entered into a legal agreement with these people if they want to carry out this control. They will perhaps put this work on Dr. Saint who has never been known to be opposed to any sugar factory. I repeat I want an explanation from the honourable senior member for St. Thomas as to his statement that the control of the price of fuel was lifted; I want to know who had the authority to take off this control. Was it taken off so that this Resolution could be brought up to-day? (A MEMBER: The subsidy was taken off). Well, I want to know why the subsidy was taken off: the subsidy cannot affect the price in one way or the other. Another point is that this industry can put people out of work; lots of people are engaged in the sale of wood and coal. (Dr. CUMMINS: They will sell this product). They will sell it if they see it. This might be something like the Brazil rice. Has the Government gone into the working of this machinery? I repeat; this is not a matter of industrialisation.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative, the following division being taken:—

Ayes:—Dr. WILSON, Messrs. HUSBANDS, F. L. WALCOTT TALMA, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY, GALE, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WARD and Dr. CUMMINS—12.

Noes: Messrs. MAPP and LEWIS.—2.

REHABILITATION OF DISCHARGED SERVICE PERSONNEL

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution with which I propose to deal, Mr. Chairman, is Resolution No. 3—a Resolution for £5,000 to supplement Resolution No. 8 of the 25th February, 1948, for the following purposes:—

- (a) to make provision for the establishment in civil life of discharged service personnel;
- (b) to operate or participate in schemes for the training and for the care and maintenance of discharged service personnel and
- (c) to provide a rehabilitation fund from which payments may be made.

This sum of money is needed for the further rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. In February last the sum of £2,000 was voted in this connection and almost

all of that money has been spent. A total number of 127 men were relieved and the amount spent is £1,982. 17. 6. This money is for the relief of the remainder of the 300 men who have applied for assistance and for some others who have applied since. The last sum of money was spent in assisting men in various trades and in defraying certain expenses. There are quite a number of men who have since applied for assistance and the Rehabilitation Committee have asked for this sum of money so as to relieve these men in their various distresses. In order to facilitate matters, the Government has asked the Board of Guardians of St. Michael to assist in making investigations relative to the applicants, since the Government would not have the machinery for making the investigations as the Board of Guardians would have, the majority of the applicants being from the parish of St. Michael.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that. This is to be regarded as a non-controversial matter; this money is for the relief of these men and we really want to show our appreciation of the risk which has been taken by them.

Mr. DOWDING: It seems to me that this whole matter of rehabilitating these ex-servicemen has been handled completely wrong from the beginning. Up to now it is practically a failure. I fail to see why any discrimination should be made between one ex-serviceman and another, and it is quite time for those in authority to realise that these men were all soldiers who voluntarily went to serve their country and each one of them is entitled to the same aid from the Government. What is happening today is that a favoured few are getting assistance while others who are not in a position or who are not so educated as to fight for themselves are in dire need of assistance. In other parts of the world each and every soldier has been treated in the same way, and there is no reason why we should select one, two, or one hundred and twenty-seven out of three hundred to treat them in one way and treat others in a different way. I would not like to hold up the passing of this Resolution because up to this morning I had a telephone message from an ex-soldier who is in dire need. I know that these men are in dire need. In the near future I would like to see some comprehensive scheme worked out co-ordinating what has been done before with what is to be done in the future so that each and every one of these voluntary soldiers—let us not forget that they were voluntary soldiers—should be treated in the same manner. We have to remember that these men had to go to Italy and to Egypt and in places which are scarcely fit for reptiles, far more human beings, and some of them like myself have contracted some disease. They should be looked after by the Government. When fortunately, I went to America I was interviewed by several doctors and they said: "You have Malta fever; what was your Unit? We will send in the Bill." I am not asking this for myself but these men, there are several of them in this island, are entitled to equal treatment. Some proper scheme should be set up whereby educational rights and rights in respect of the wives and children of these men who have contracted disease during the War can be attended to. I sincerely hope that the Government will take into account everyone of these ex-soldiers who went to serve his country. Mr. Chairman, up to now I do not know exactly how this rehabilitation is being done. Some ex-servicemen tell you that money is given to them and others say that they get loans. Why should some of these men get money given to them and others get loans? This matter needs to be settled; each and everyone of these ex-soldiers should be treated in the same manner.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I know from experience and from representations which have been made to me that many of the criticisms made by the last speaker have been very well founded. I suggest that the Government would be well advised to broaden the basis of the existing Committee in an attempt to make the relief given to these men more widespread and to treat all the cases which come up for consideration with the same degree of equality. I imagine that what the honourable member has in mind would be the formation of a Committee in respect of ex-servicemen or the passing of legislation perhaps along the lines envisaged in the G.I. Bill of Rights and similar legislation which has been passed in the United Kingdom. I think that all of us will agree that if our men met the same hardships as others in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, they are entitled to the same amount of consideration as others are receiving. I hope that the Government will not fail to turn its attention in this direction and that they will make some efforts, however belated, to settle this issue on a more satisfactory basis.

Mr. GALE: I happened to serve on the Rehabilitation Committee along with the former senior member for St. George, the honourable junior member for St. James and other gentlemen who were members of the Committee from its inception. With the resources which we had at our disposal, we did our best to distribute the money as evenly as possible. I cannot quite understand the honourable senior member for St. George when he says that each ex-serviceman should be treated in the same manner because circumstances alter cases. Some ex-servicemen might have returned to their jobs right away while others might find it difficult to get employment. These are the people who have to be assisted and it would be impossible to treat everybody in the same manner. In every community you will find that at the end of a War it will be difficult to put people back in employment. Some of these people who went out had hardly done any work previously and the Rehabilitation Committee did its best for them, sending them to Erdiston to learn carpentry and masonry. The Volunteer Department taught some of them to drive motor cars and they were also sent to the garages so as to learn the mechanical side of it. It is all very well for honourable members to come in here and criticize the work of the Rehabilitation Committee but the Committee has worked very hard. I believe that Mr. Chase, who was also a member of the Committee, devoted a very great deal of his time in interviewing people from day to day. Loans have been made to these men to buy properties; if a person had a certain amount of money we would give him something more so as to assist him in buying a house. If he wanted to go in for a commercial project we would give him some money in addition to what he had. The Committee had its shortcomings and honourable members around here are very good at criticising people; but I must say in defence of the Committee and of the Secretary that we have tried to do a good job to the best of our ability.

Mr. DOWDING: I am not trying to belittle the work of the Rehabilitation Committee; what I am saying is that each soldier should be given equal opportunity whether he takes advantage of it or not. This should not be a question for any Rehabilitation Committee; a proper scheme should be drawn up by the Government.

Mr. LEWIS: We must congratulate the Government on assisting the people who are in need of assistance. If these people had the opportunity of getting military training it must stand them in good stead. If they have been given the opportunity of getting some vocational training no matter how in-

adequate it is and they have been thrown on the labour market and cannot get anything to do, what about the people who perhaps number one hundred times more than these ex-servicemen and who are in the same position? If these ex-servicemen have been given the opportunity of learning something—the sum of £150 has been paid into the office of the Government Electrical Inspector for teaching some of them something—and if after they have got all this equipment to fit them back into civil life they still find it difficult to get employment, what about those who have not been given these facilities? We have no right to glorify the War; why should we pick out these people and give them assistance when others are also suffering? Because a man went to the War must we wet-nurse him and become blind to other people? I say that the Government should have a scheme whereby people can be assisted with employment irrespective of whether they are ex-soldiers or not. I do not think that we should discriminate between one set of starving people who are ex-soldiers and another set of starving people who are not ex-soldiers. I say that something should be done whereby everybody should share and share alike. If these people who have been given this equipment are unable to find work, that is showing to the Government that it is time for something to be done to relieve people even if it is a question of going to the length of instituting a dole. I am not prepared to go on voting money for the relief of these people when others are suffering just as much as they are suffering or more so.

Mr. CRAWFORD: All the honourable junior member for the City has to do is this; the next time that he meets his colleagues in conference, try to get them to start work on the East Coast Road and the Constitution Swamp which we have asked them to do this year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must stick to the Resolution which is before us.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If the honourable junior member for the City feels that there is general privation in the Colony, I am saying that he should try and get his colleagues to start island-wide schemes for the relief of unemployment and provide food kitchens so that the hungry people can be fed. These things have been asked for in this House before. It is not to say that people who support this Resolution today are blind to the large number of other people who are suffering in the colony. That is a matter which has received our attention. It is known that people in America who have served in the Spanish-American War some 40 or 50 years ago are still getting funds today. It is traditional to award special consideration to people who go to War; and because you give them special consideration are you glorifying War? For the last two years in America civilians have found it impossible to enter Universities because in every centre of training the Government has had priority in respect of ex-servicemen and after their needs have been attended to, then civilians are entitled to enter the Universities. Here in Barbados the Government has been giving priority to ex-servicemen too. I am not saying that there are not other people who need attention; I am fully aware of that. While we are giving other people the assistance to which they are entitled we can also take practical steps to find work for all or nearly all of the ex-servicemen in the island.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not intend to speak on this Resolution but I think that my colleague has made some remarks that are very unkind. I wonder if my colleague would have said what he has just said in 1943 or 1944! When the War was going on

those of us who stood at home got big salaries and there is nothing decent about this gesture which has been adopted this afternoon. We sat at our radios and heard of the Battle of Britain; nobody is talking about wet-nursing these ex-servicemen for life. I have had experience with these men; they come to my office every day. What the honourable senior member for St. George has said is that some proper scheme for assisting these men should be established by the Government. Some of these ex-servicemen have not been able to get back their jobs. If honourable members feel that this is the appropriate time to say that these men are unemployed and others are also unemployed, anybody will agree that the unemployed should be looked after; but however well meaning these remarks may be, any expression that will tend to wound or grieve these men after they have come back to us is very unkind. I know of some people who would not go to the War unless it got next door to their houses. If what has been displayed this afternoon is going to be the attitude adopted by people with regard to the ex-servicemen then these men have to open their eyes and see if they are wanted or not. Every day you get hungry ex-servicemen coming to you and they tell you that they have consulted the honourable senior member for St. George who is well-qualified to speak on this matter. I quite agree that some proper scheme should be formulated in respect of these ex-servicemen and they should all be treated alike. One of them should not be able to say: "I have been given \$300," and another: "I have been given \$100," and another "I have not been given anything at all." I think that the Government should be commended on having sent down this Resolution and I hope that on the next occasion a proper scheme will be formulated with regard to these ex-servicemen as has been suggested by the honourable senior member for St. George.

Mr. TALMA: I should like to remind honourable members that the Report of the Committee appointed by the Governor to study the question of seasonal unemployment and to make recommendations as to the best means of securing employment for people throughout the year has been handed in and action will be taken in the immediate future. That is the first point which I wanted to make. The next point is in respect of the point made by the honourable senior member for St. George. The object of this Resolution is to provide for the residue of these men so that none of them will be left out. The first amount of money voted was not enough to meet the demands and this £5,000 may not be enough either. You cannot blame the Government for this, because the Government is informed by the Rehabilitation Committee. If another £5,000 is needed it will have to be supplied until everybody has been attended to.

Mr. DOWDING: It is not a matter of whether the amount of the Resolution is sufficient or not. What I feel is that each ex-soldier should be given equal opportunity and that should be laid down by the Government. There should not be any discrimination whatsoever between one ex-soldier and another. You allowed the honourable junior member for the City to go off the point, Mr. Chairman, but I can assure honourable members that my voice will be just as loud in support of any Resolution which comes to this House to provide relief for the starving people.

Mr. LEWIS: I am glad to hear that the honourable member will support any Resolution which comes before this House to help the starving people, because it is necessary to tax the people who have become rich out of the War. I wonder how loud the honourable member's voice will be in taxing people so as to help the starving people. (Cheers).

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Item (b) of this Resolution sets out that one of its purposes is to operate or participate in schemes for the training and for the care and maintenance of discharged service personnel. I feel that the Government should embark on things of an active nature; I do not believe in gifts, I do not think that gifts of this kind can do any good. We do not want to give a man \$100 for the rest of his life; we want to give him employment. It is easy for honourable members to use superlative language without really paying attention to matters. The honourable senior member for St. George and the honourable senior member for the City have said that there should not be any discrimination in dealing with these ex-servicemen; but human nature being what it is, you must discriminate between them. The honourable senior member for St. George has said that he does not need anything and that is positive evidence that there must be discrimination. I know that some of these ex-servicemen have got jobs earning them about £300 per annum and in such cases you will have to discriminate. This rehabilitation fund is what the Government provides for assisting those ex-servicemen who find themselves in a precarious position and we cannot put everybody on the same basis. The honourable senior member for St. George has come from a rich family and could you regard him in the same way as you would regard an agricultural labourer in this matter of rehabilitation? I say that there must be discrimination and I make no apology for saying that. You have to treat an ex-serviceman who finds himself in a job different from another ex-serviceman who finds himself without any job. I am sure that if the honourable senior member for St. George or the honourable senior member for the City had to administer these funds he would give attention to cases according to the needs. I would like to see the Government embark on some positive scheme of training in relation to the rehabilitation of these ex-servicemen.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for Christ Church has referred to the Report of Dr. Saint's Seasonal Unemployment Committee and presumably he has read it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not entertaining anything about the Report of that Committee; it has nothing to do with the Resolution which is before us.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Apparently the honourable senior member for Christ Church thought so. On the question of providing relief for ex-servicemen the honourable member apparently had to refer to that Report, but if he read the Report—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is out of order in speaking about this Report.

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. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee, the postponement of one and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Government.

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 NEW POLICE STATION AT OISTINS.

Dr. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of £4,350 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of providing, furnishing and equipping a new Police Station at Oistins.

The sum of £2,660 was passed under the Fishery Development Scheme for the purpose of building a fish market at Oistins. A building has already been purchased but it is found that it would be more economical to convert that building into a Police Station and to use the present site of the Police Station for a fish market. The building of a Police Station at Oistins is included in this year's capital works. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution. The whole scheme in so far as these items are concerned will be dealt with once and for all. Only one omission has been made and it is that the Government has in mind not only the building of a fish market and a Police Station, but also a Fire Brigade Station. This building in question is adjacent to the one which has already been purchased and with the necessary accommodation everything will be done at the same time.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am glad to know that some attempt is being made to improve the facilities of the policemen at Oistins. I hope that similar attention will be paid very shortly to the improvement of the quarters of the Central Fire Brigade. The present spot is almost uninhabitable and the men suffer severely in consequence of that.

Mr. LEWIS: The last sentence of the addendum to this Resolution has caused me to rise to my feet. It says: "The necessary adjustments will be made as between this Resolution and Resolution No. 118/1947." I would like to know who is going to make these adjustments. They may have got a bargain and I must compliment the Government on having adjusted their scheme. However, when the House votes money for a particular purpose and it is laid down in the wording of the Resolution that the money is voted for that purpose, if you wish to change it you have to send back the Resolution to the House and ask them to change it. I would not like the hon. introducer to get this matter through and then find that the Auditor General will hold him up on that point. After we voted money for building Pay Ward "A" they sent back and asked about the equipment for the Pay Ward. The Resolution in respect of the Cotton Spinning Plant was also sent back; they wanted to know whether it included the purchase of lint. I am not preventing the House from having any say in the adjustment of money Resolutions; if I discover that anything is wrong about this Resolution I will bring up the matter.

Mr. TALMA: The sum of £2,660 was allocated under the Fishery Development Scheme for building a fish market at Oistins. This money was allocated to be spent in this direction and that is separate and distinct. The point raised by the honourable member does not arise at all.

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

EXPENSES FOR CARRYING ON AN ORGANISATION *re* WORKERS EMPLOYED IN U.S.A.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution with which I propose to deal, Mr. Chairman, is Resolution

No. 4—a Resolution for £800 to supplement resolution No. 18 of the 13th April, 1948, to provide the necessary staff and to meet incidental expenses in connection with the carrying on of an organisation for banking the compulsory savings of Barbadian workers employed in the U.S.A. This is the usual Resolution which comes before us from time to time. Most of the staff have not been paid because this Resolution has not yet been passed. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

ENTERTAINMENT OF VISITING OFFICERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for £500 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-49 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous services, Item 22, Entertainment of Petty Officers and other ratings of ships visiting Barbados. The addendum to this Resolution speaks for itself. It says:

"Nine units of His Majesty's Home Fleet with a complement of 245 Officers and over 3,000 ratings will visit Barbados in October. Arrangements will be made by the Harbour and Shipping Master for the entertainment of the Petty Officers and ratings and the Legislature is asked to provide the sum of £500 to provide for their entertainment during their stay in the Colony."

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not opposing the passing of this Resolution, but if the Public Treasury is going to be touched to the tune of £500 for the purpose of entertaining these visiting sailors, I sincerely hope that when these units of the Fleet arrive here the public will be allowed without any discrimination to go aboard these ships if they desire to do so and that facilities will be provided for this purpose. The opportunity for going aboard these ships should not be restricted to any select few of the community.

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. TALMA, the Chairman reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee, the postponement of two 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. TALMA, in each case, the five Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADDRESS *RE* PAYMENT TO ASSISTANT MESSENGER OF THE HOUSE FOR EXTRA DUTIES PERFORMED.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I do not desire to proceed with any further Government Business.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I ask leave to move that Order No. 92 on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business be taken as the next Order of the Day. This Order is an Address dealing with additional pay for the Assistant Messenger for which he has been waiting for a long time.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Order No. 92 under Private Members' Business be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor requesting the payment to Mr. Beresford Yearwood, Assistant Messenger of the House of Assembly for extra duties which he performed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I ask leave to delete the figures "£5.0.0." in paragraph 2 of the Address in order to insert the figures "£10.0.0."

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that this Address do now pass. It reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly beg to inform Your Excellency that since the retirement of Mr. A. J. Caddle from the post of Head Messenger and Librarian no person has been put to act in either of the positions. The Assistant Messenger, Mr. Beresford Yearwood, has consequently had extra duties to perform.

The House therefore request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Assistant Messenger be paid a sum not exceeding £10. 0. 0. which amount was recommended by His Honour the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that. This is a case of assisting one of our employees in this Chamber

and we should all feel happy to do so. I am sure that this Address will not meet with any opposition.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not like the use of the word "retirement". I prefer to use the word "resignation." However, if the wording of this Address will affect this person's getting anything for the services which he has rendered I am quite willing to abide by the legal opinion given by the Clerk. I would like to say that the original amount mentioned in the Address was £5 and His Honour the Speaker's name was associated with that. The amount is now £10 and it is on Your Honour's authority that we will pass it. We do not want to implicate people who are not here to protect themselves. I ask honourable members to accept that it is on Your Honour's recommendation that we are passing this Address.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Address as amended 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. In view of the fact that this Address stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael but he was not present to pilot it through the House, I ask him to present it personally to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. COX: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 12th of October 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday, the 12th day of October, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.