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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th 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. SYMMONDS, M. E. COX, R. G. MAPP, A. E. S. LEWIS, C. E. TALMA, H. D. BLACKMAN, D. D. GARNER, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., V. C. GALE and W. A. CRAWFORD.

Prayers are read.

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

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 5th October, 1948, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. James for the period April to September, 1948.

ILLNESS OF THE DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Deputy Clerk stating that he is undergoing medical treatment and asking that he be granted six weeks' leave of absence from his duties as Deputy Clerk of the House from the 12th instant. He further asks that Mr. J. C. Armstrong, Solicitor, be permitted to perform his duties during his leave of absence.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Deputy Clerk is granted six weeks' leave of absence from to-day.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING DEPUTY CLERK

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, Mr. J. C. Armstrong is appointed to act as Deputy Clerk during the absence on leave of Mr. H. L. Thomas.

Mr. DOWDING enters the House and takes his seat.

PETITION

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Executors and Trustees of the will of Emanuel John Cook Hutchinson, deceased, and of the Hutchinson School Fund and property situate in the parish of St. Philip praying the said school and to sell the dwelling house buildings and land thereto belonging and to add the proceeds of such sale to the school fund to be invested accordingly and to utilize the interest for the purpose of awarding scholarships to secondary schools to poor children of the white population of the parish of St. Philip but if none shall be available, then to poor children of the population of the said parish without distinction of race. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

Mr. HUSBANDS enters the House and takes his seat.

NOTICES

A Government Notice is given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £1,713 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the service of the colony as set out in the schedule thereto.

Dr. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the Resolution of which I just gave notice.

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. COX: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to provide for the free postage of circulars to the electors for

all nominated candidates seeking election to the General Assembly.

Mr. COX: Of my intention to move later in the day the passing of the abovementioned Address.

Dr. WILSON enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly is deeply concerned over the difficulty which a large section of the population experience in obtaining medical aid during the hours of the night.

(a) The House of Assembly would draw to Your Excellency's attention the fact that this inability on the part of ailing citizens to procure medical attention has, in a number of cases, been attended with tragic consequences.

(3) The House of Assembly is therefore of the opinion that an immediate investigation into the position should be conducted with a view to the formulation of plans for its amelioration.

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

Mr. GARNER: A Bill to authorize the Executors and Trustees of the will of Emanuel John Cook Hutchinson, deceased, to close the Hutchinson School and sell the buildings and land thereto in the parish of St. Philip.

Mr. LEWIS: Of my intention to move for the temporary suspension of Rule 61 (b) with the object of obtaining the leave of the House to proceed with Order No. 94 under Private Members' Business as the first Order to-day.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of my intention to ask for leave later in the day to take Order No. 95 under Private Members' Business as the first Order, when I propose to state the reasons for the urgency in dealing with the Bill.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SYMMONDS: To enquire of the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House:

(1) Is Government aware that the stand-post situated on the Woodland Road, which formerly served the Drax Hall area St. George, has been out of commission during the past several months?

(2) In view of the fact that the unavailability of water in this area creates a severe hardship on residents who are compelled to fetch water from a distance of over a mile, will Government take the necessary steps to have this standpipe forthwith reopened for the benefit of the people in this district?

Mr. MOTTLEY: To enquire from the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

1. Is Government aware that that portion of the Public Market allotted for the use of persons engaged in the trade of preparing for food the entrails of animals slaughtered in the said Market, is uncovered and provides no shelter from sun or rain?

2. If the answer to Question 1 is in the affirmative, will Government take immediate steps to provide sheltered accommodation for those persons?

Mr. COX: To enquire from the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present in the House at their next meeting:—

1. Is Government aware that the Sanitary arrangements provided at headquarters for the unestablished staff of the Department of Highways and Transport are of a very primitive system?

2. If the answer is "yes", will Government take immediate steps to bring such arrangements to modern and up-to-date standards?

Mr. COX: To enquire from the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present in the House at their next meeting:—

1. Is the Government aware that the Police are exceedingly anxious to have a change in their uniform?

2. If the answer is "yes," will the Government, in the light of experience of the tropics, give favourable consideration to their request?

Mr. WARD enters the House and takes his seat

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. CRAWFORD presents the Report of the Select Committee appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 13 of 1948, relating to unemployment relief works.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD, a Bill to authorize the Executors and Trustees of the will of Emanuel John Cook Hutchinson, deceased, to close the Hutchinson School and to sell the school buildings and land thereto in the parish of St. Philip is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. GARNER, a Bill intituled the Industries Aid and Encouragement Act, 1948, is read a first time.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL POSTPONED

Dr. CUMMINS asks for and is granted leave to postpone the further consideration of the first Order—a Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts of this Island relating to Public Health—in view of the fact that the reprinting of the Bill with the several amendments has not yet been completed.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to deal with Orders Nos. 15 and 16 as Orders Nos. 2 and 3 under Government Business. There is a mistake in the arrangement of the Order Paper because honourable members will remember that in fixing the Order Paper at the last meeting I put Orders Nos. 15 and 16 as Orders Nos. 2 and 3.

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

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I have given notice of my intention to ask the leave of the House to take Order No. 94 under Private Members' Business as the first Order of the day and I should like your direction in the matter. I think the House should take notice at the earliest possible time of the subject matter to which Order No. 94 under Private Members' Business relates.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member speaking against the motion for the suspension of Rule 60?

Mr. LEWIS: I presume, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I would be in order if I move an amendment that the figures "60" be deleted and the figures and symbol "61 (b)" be substituted therefor.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member making a motion to that effect?

Mr. LEWIS: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am making that motion in order to give the House the opportunity to express an opinion on the fact that certain regulations which were brought here were definitely brought contrary to the spirit and the letter of the law. I think the House should take notice of the matter rather than wait for any direction from outside. The House has already had a direction from you, Sir, and my own opinion is that the House should deal with the matter. It is tantamount to an insult to this House that it was not treated with even the courtesy with which it should have been treated, let alone the non-carrying-out of the law and I do think that it is incumbent upon the House to express its opinion in the matter as soon as possible. If my amendment is agreed to I intend to ask the leave of the House to proceed with Order No. 94 under Private Members' Business as the first Order of the Day. I feel that the honourable senior for St. Thomas could make his motion after that matter has been dealt with, so that he as Deputy Leader of the House may then be able to deal with the matters under Government Business in the order in which he cares to deal with them. I just feel, that no business should be done until an expression of opinion on the point to which I refer has been given by the House because to leave the matter where it is would, in my opinion, be tantamount to condoning the offence. I sincerely hope that I have made myself clear. The regulations are of such a nature as to cause persons in the community to have to pay fines, to be inconvenienced and even to be apprehended and I think that the House should take some notice of the matter immediately and not allow it to remain in abeyance as it has been for some time without even an explanation, although I do not think that any explanation is necessary. It does not concern any member of this House or the Government as such.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member accepting the amendment of the junior member for the City to his motion?

Dr. CUMMINS: No, Sir, I am replying to the junior member for the City. As regards the honourable member's motion I am authorized to say that the Government regrets very much the delay which prevented these regulations from reaching this House as soon as possible after they were approved and sanctioned by the Governor; also that a new set of regulations is being drafted and will, in all probability, reach this House at its meeting on Tuesday next. If the House still desires to take further action I suppose that is its privilege to do so, but I do not think that it would do any good to pursue the matter any further, especially after we have been given the assurance that new regulations are being drafted. The regulations now before this House were found to be somewhat faulty; they are being redrafted and as I have said the new regulations will be introduced into this House at its next meeting.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to second the motion of the junior member for the City because I feel that a matter of this kind should be aired in this House. We have another important Bill before us and in that Act a Director of Medical Services is going to be given power to make regulations which are to come before this House as soon as possible after they have been made and if in relation to the health of the people and in relation to the financial embarrassment of the people by the encroachment of regulations which are to come before this House as soon as possible, the phrase *as soon as possible* is going to be four months, then it is time that we put

a stop to this kind of thing and, therefore, I want most heartily to second the motion of the junior member for the City in order to give a warning to those whom we entrust with arbitrary powers that the people of this country through their representatives will not tolerate treatment in this contemptuous manner.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put I want to make this observation. It is not strictly my business but for the last few Tuesdays we have had the spectacle of the money Resolutions which, ordinarily, are dealt with in the opening stages of these meetings, being delayed until after the luncheon interval and then, on the ground that they are urgent and must be dealt with immediately to provide money for certain purposes, members are asked to give up the time which is theirs under Private Members' Business, to deal with those Resolutions. I want to remark now that if the Government has money Resolutions which should be passed urgently, those members who are in charge of such Resolutions should proceed with them at an early stage. Honourable members who have matters to be dealt with after the luncheon interval are not going to be prepared to give up the time allotted to them so that Government Business might be done. Let the Government's spokesmen use the time allotted for Government Business and not attempt to stampede the House into getting urgent government measures through later in the afternoon.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—In reply to the remarks of the last speaker I believe he is fully aware of the fact that the two measures which were mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the House—Orders Nos. 15 and 16—are not money Resolutions but are matters corollary to the Public Health Bill. Those three Bills—the Public Health Bill, the Bill to provide for the division and sale and the division and letting of land in lots, and the Bill to amend the Poor Relief Act—are related to one another, so to speak; they are urgent Bills and if we get them through before the luncheon interval to-day I can assure the honourable member that we shall not have dealt with matters that are unimportant.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Before the question is put, Sir, I should like to say that I was the person who reminded the Deputy Leader of the House on the last occasion that Orders Nos. 15 and 16 hinge on the Public Health Bill. The honourable member did agree at that time that they should be dealt with as expeditiously as possible and I have a recollection that he put them as Nos. 2 and 3 in fixing the Order Paper for this meeting. In view of the mistake which has been made in printing the Order Paper, certain honourable members, including myself, have not come prepared to deal with those two Orders—the Bill to provide for the division and sale and the division and letting of land in lots and the Bill to amend the Poor Relief Act—to-day. It can be argued that the greater portions of the former Bill are reproduced from Sections 51 and 52 of the Public Health Act but there are certain amendments which other honourable members and I would like to put forward and for the reasons which I have given I am appealing to the senior member for St. Thomas to postpone the consideration of these two Bills until the next meeting of the House. If the Public Health Bill had been passed, we might have stretched the point and dealt with these two Bills to-day but in view of what I have said I appeal to the honourable member not to proceed with them at this meeting. I take my Order Paper seriously and I saw no hope of getting as far as Orders 15 and 16 under Government Business to-day, so I did not bring with me

certain notes which I had prepared in respect of these two Bills and, therefore, have not come prepared to deal with them at this meeting.

Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of explanation. The two Bills to which the senior member for the City refers are on the Statute Book now. Order No. 15 is taken directly from the Public Health Act and Order No. 16 seeks to abolish the Poor Law Board, vest its authority in the Director of Medical Services and appoint an Inspector of Poor to see that the provisions of the Act are carried out.

The question that the figures—60—proposed to be deleted stand part of the motion is put and resolved in the negative, the decision being as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, COX, MAPP, TALMA, BLACKMAN, GALE, WARD, and Dr. CUMMINS—9.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, LEWIS, CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, and GARNER—10

The question that the figures and symbol—61 (b)—be inserted in the blank is next put and resolved in the negative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, LEWIS, DOWDING, and S. A. WALCOTT—5.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, HUSBANDS, COX, MAPP, TALMA, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, WILKINSON, and WARD—14.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would point out that both motions having been decided in the negative, the position is as it was before the honourable senior member for St. Thomas made his motion.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order has been postponed, so the next Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Dr. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £1,000 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-49 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, item 2, cost of Exchange.

The funds for carrying on the Government's business are low and this Resolution seeks to enable the Government to get some of its own money which is in the hands of the Crown Agents until Income Tax collections are begun. There are certain exchange expenses in the transferring of money from London and this sum of money is to meet those expenses. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am surprised that the honourable introducer of this Resolution has not had any up-to-date information in this matter. It is correct that at the time when this Resolution was sent to this House in August, the Government was somewhat short of funds in the Treasury but since then the rates of income tax on Companies have been settled and money is coming in. The Companies have to pay their tax on or before the 18th October and portion of that money has already been received by the Income Tax Commissioner. The income tax bills in respect of individuals are nearly completed and will soon be sent out. Honourable members, among others, are liable to find that they have to pay half of their income tax on the 8th day of November and there-

fore, Sir, it is absolutely unnecessary that this Resolution should be passed. I can assure the senior member for St. Thomas that I have had the information which I have just given him confirmed by the Heads of the Departments concerned. I spoke with the Colonial Treasurer this morning and I have also spoken with the Income Tax Authorities in the matter and I would suggest to the honourable member to withdraw this Resolution, otherwise I am sure that it will be rejected. If the honourable member does not withdraw the Resolution I am going to move that it be read this day six months. But before I make that motion, if the honourable member would consult the Authorities, he would be able to confirm the information which I have given and, perhaps, would then withdraw the Resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: This Resolution was introduced on the 24th August. What the position is to-day I really do not know but I do not think that the Income Tax Department has begun to collect any income tax yet. (Voices: Yes, they have). If that is so, I am not in a position to withdraw the Resolution but I will postpone it until I get further information in the matter. I ask leave, Mr. Chairman, to postpone the further consideration of this Resolution.

Leave is granted the honourable member and the further consideration of the Resolution is postponed.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for £300 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-49 under Head VI, Customs, Item 11, Temporary Clerical Assistance.

As will be seen from the addendum £1,050 has been voted under item 7 of this Head for paying night watchmen of the several spirit bonds about the island. That amount included £300 for the provision of temporary clerical assistance but we now have to vote £300 under item 11, to provide temporary clerical assistance to be used to allow the proper conduct of the work at the spirit bonds. If this Resolution is agreed to, the Government guarantees that the additional £300 which was voted a short while ago under item 7 in respect of the night watchmen will not be used without the prior approval of the Legislature. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE TO MEET EMERGENCY EXPENSES.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution is for £7,700 to supplement Resolution No. 17 of the 13th of April, 1948, to meet expenses in connection with the present emergency.

I think honourable members are conversant with Resolutions of this sort which come before this Committee from time to time in order to carry on the different controls that are still existing. There is a balance of £914 from the amount voted up to the 31st August, 1948, and this sum of £7,700 is required to carry on the work of the Control Boards until the 31st March, 1949. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Before this Resolution is put to the vote I certainly would like to express once again the hope that the Government is overhauling

this emergency control machinery and retaining only such of it as is absolutely necessary because I do feel that it is time that a lot of this control be stopped. Let us have effective price control and remove some of these controls that one hears on every hand are a hindrance to people obtaining goods and obtaining them regularly.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put I would like the junior member for the City to explain precisely what he has in mind when he spoke about removing controls. Price control, he appears to admit, must remain but I do not know what are the other controls he wants to be removed.

Mr. LEWIS: I am objecting to some of the very controls to which the honourable member himself is objecting. If he reads his own newspaper, he will see them there.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The controls to which I object are certainly not what we pay for with this money Resolution. The import controls which are imposed by the Colonial Office are certainly not maintained by money we vote from the Public Treasury.

Mr. LEWIS: Will the honourable member explain what he means? If the directions from the Colonial Office are not carried out by the Control Board, by whom are they carried out?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I take it that the honourable member said that I object to controls.

Mr. LEWIS: I did not say that the honourable member objects to controls.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am referring to the entire control policy of the Government and I say that we do not finance from our Treasury controls that are imposed by the Colonial Office.

Mr. LEWIS: The Control Board, as I understand it, has been in existence for some time now and is kept in existence at the expressed wish of the Colonial Office or the Authorities in England; that is what the honourable member must understand. If the British Authorities removed their controls we could abolish our Control Departments here; therefore, the money we pay from the Treasury is paid because the British Authorities ask us to keep these controls on and they are preventing us from getting some of the things we need; therefore, the regulations to which I object are the same ones to which the honourable member himself objects.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Control Board here is concerned mainly with two things — controlling prices and allocating imports. That is an entirely different matter altogether from the over-all question of import restrictions,—an entirely different matter.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Chairman reports the passing of two Resolutions and the postponement of one in Committee of Supply and asks leave to sit again.

The House resumes.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. BLACKMAN: This Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £14,600 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948—49 under Head XL, Waterworks, to meet the cost of augmenting the public water supply.

According to the addendum, since the 7th May last we have been using water from a well at Carrington's Factory and that water has been pumped into the public mains at the rate of 5½ million gallons a month. We have to pay the cost of operating the pump and for the water at the rate of 6d. per 1,000 gallons. These two services will absorb £9,040 of this amount and the remaining £5,560 will be used for digging an emergency well and erecting a pump at the Belle Pumping Station and installing a 9" main to Howell's Cross Road. Two of these are emergency measures and the Government considers that a special resolution should be passed immediately for these purposes. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WARD: I am not opposing this Resolution but I should like to point out that in spite of the fact that we have been pumping water from Carrington's Factory, it is very difficult at certain times of the day to obtain water in certain districts of the parish of St. Lucy and I am going to ask the Government to make its best effort to ensure that the people of those districts get a little more water. Now that the rainy season has come in I do not think there should be any difficulty in that respect.

Mr. COX: Sir,—There is only one thing I regret to see in connection with this Resolution and that is that the Government has to pay for this water. I feel that water is such a necessitous item that all those who happen to have a supply beneath their lands should be glad to allow the Government—even for their own benefit—to bring it to the surface free of cost. It can be seen from the addendum that the Government is paying the cost of the operations and, in addition, is supposed to be paying for the water at the rate 6d per 1,000 gallons. No one has placed this water under the earth; it has been placed there by God—we do not have to plant it—and realizing that we all need water I would have thought that persons who happen to be fortunate enough to have water beneath their lands would tell the Government "Water is here; you can pay the expenses for bringing it to the surface of the earth," and that would be all. It is regrettable, to use no stronger word, that the people of this island should have to pay some wealthy planter for a necessity such as water which is being pumped from his land.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The remarks of the honourable member who has just sat down show his ignorance in matters of this sort. If he had made enquiry he would have found out what this 6d per 1,000 gallons is charged for. The Government has no pumping apparatus at Carrington's Factory—if I am wrong the honourable introducer of the Resolution can correct me—and the 6d per 1,000 gallons is charged for the use of the boiler and the pump. I am surprised that the honourable introducer of the Resolution did not get up and correct the false impression that the senior member for St. Michael would have given in this matter.

Mr. COX: The senior member for St. James is new to these matters and does not understand one word about what is happening. He gets up on his

legs and speaks very glibly about things without taking the trouble to give them a serious thought. What does the addendum to this Resolution say? It says:—"At the beginning of May arrangements were made for the supply of water from a well at Carrington's Factory, and since May 7th over 5½ million gallons a month have been pumped into the public mains. The Waterworks Department are responsible for the cost of operating the pumping plant and, in addition, pay the factory 6d per 1,000 gallons." That is what the addendum says. What are we to understand from the statement that "the Waterworks Department are responsible for the cost of operating the pumping plant and in addition pay the factory 6d per 1,000 gallons"? Does that not mean that the Government is paying for every drop of water that is pumped, in addition to the cost of operating the plant?

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The honourable member does not understand the position. The Government is paying for labour and fuel and this charge of 6d. per 1,000 gallons by the factory is to cover the wear and tear of the boiler and the pump which are supplied by the factory.

Mr. COX: Where does the question of wear and tear come in? The addendum states that the Waterworks Department are responsible for the cost of operating the pumping plant and, in addition, pay the factory 6d. per 1,000 gallons. What is the honourable member telling me about wear and tear?

Mr. WARD: I am sorry to see that the honourable member who has just sat down has not the slightest idea about what he is talking. There must be something to operate and the pump as well as the boiler which are being operated are the property of Carrington's Factory. Before certain honourable members get up in this House to criticize other honourable members, they should first make themselves acquainted with the subject matter in connection with which they offer their criticisms. The addendum states very clearly—I presume the honourable senior member for St. Michael can read, though I cannot presume that he can understand—that the expenses have been charged to the Waterworks under item 13. Pumping Expenses. Those expenses are for labour and fuel and the 6d. per 1,000 gallons is charged for the running of the machinery—the boiler and the pump. The Factory has not charged for the rent of the boiler and the pump; the 6d. per 1,000 gallons covers the wear and tear of the machinery and the honourable member offers his criticism without even thinking of what he is saying.

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

ACQUIRING LAND AND CONSTRUCTING ROAD TO LEAD TO THE BELLE PUMPING STATION.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for £7,000 (to be subsequently refunded from loan funds) and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost (a) of 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) of constructing the road.

According to the addendum, the Government intends, on the recommendation of Mr. Roddam, to remove the Waterworks Department from its present quarters and erect quarters for it at the Belle Pumping Station. This Resolution is to provide the funds for the purchase of land for the buildings and also for

the construction of a direct road from My Lord's Hill. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—This is the second time that the Government has come to this House for money to buy land at the Belle Pumping Station for the erection of a building and now this includes land for the construction of a road. Well, Sir, I do feel that in a matter of this sort, the addendum should, of necessity, inform honourable members what price is being paid for this land and the area of the land that is being bought. The next thing, Sir, is this: There has quite recently been laid on the table of this House an interim report on the Fiscal Survey of Barbados by Professor Beasley and we have been told in that report that capital expenditure should be stated in such a way that we can see what we are going to spend on works of a capital nature during the course of a financial year and I find it strange that towards the end of this session—and with the Report which I refer to having been recently laid on the table of the House—we should have a Resolution of this nature coming from the Government. Undoubtedly this is something to do with water and the Government can always come and ask for any sum of money to supply the people with water and get it. But if this money is for the purchase of land on which to build buildings and for the construction of a road, in my opinion it should be left over and dealt with at the proper time and find its proper place in the Estimates of the coming financial year; that is the way I feel about this matter. Honourable members should at least be given information as to the price which is being paid for the land. On the previous occasion, the Government refused to state the price which it was paying for the land and the House had to delete the item from the Estimates. It is not good enough for the price to be arranged for this land and not made public when it is borne in mind that this House has taken steps to control the price at which people should sell land. The Government should not be buying land without disclosing the price it is paying for that land; it is an extremely wrong procedure.

Mr. GALE: I think that the information in this addendum is faulty. Here we are asked to vote money to meet the cost of land and stores buildings and quarters for engineers and resident staff and for constructing a road and while nobody wants in any way to hold up any scheme which has for its object the improvement of the Waterworks in this island, yet I think that there should be stated in this addendum the estimated cost of the land and the buildings which the Government intends to construct. I do not know if the honourable introducer of the Resolution has that information but if he has it I would be pleased if he would give it because I would be loath to hold up this Resolution and keep back the improvement of the water supply in this island.

Mr. HAYNES: I agree with the junior member for St. Michael that this addendum is faulty. I too would like some information as to the estimated cost of this land and the buildings which are to be erected but that is one side of this matter. I am hoping that honourable members realize what this Resolution means. It means the removal of the Waterworks offices from the City of Bridgetown to a distance of four miles at the Belle and that, Sir, will be a great inconvenience to the consumers of water who will have to travel that distance

from the City to pay the water rates and other monies due to the Department. In passing this Resolution we should draw that phase of the matter to the attention of the Government, so that it can make some arrangement for the payment of water rates in the City of Bridgetown otherwise a hardship will be created and consumers of water will be placed at great inconvenience if they have to travel to the Belle to pay their water rates.

Mr. MAPP: I understand that certain information which has been asked for by honourable members will be given but apropos to what the honourable member who has just sat down referred, I really cannot conceive that the Government could be so totally indifferent to the inconvenience which will result from members of the public having to travel a distance of four miles from the City to the Belle to pay bills and I expect that some statement will be forthcoming from the honourable member in charge of this Resolution on that point because most of the consumers who pay water rates will have to walk to the Belle and that is the unfortunate part of this phase of the matter. As far as the Resolution is concerned I notice that it is another piecemeal attempt at solving matters in connection with the Waterworks and that is the only thing about it I do not like. For instance, part of this money is to be used in building quarters to house engineers and resident staff. Well, I am assuming that this staff and these engineers will be appointed at an early date because this Department is notorious for having vacancies on its staff and the Government is notorious for not finding suitable persons to fill vacancies on the staff of this Department. For the longest time, the Government has not been able to fill the office of Superintendent when I happen to know that one of the Inspectors has been performing the duties of that office. I hope that this is not a case of providing the quarters for the resident staff and not providing the staff because this Department, as I have said, is notorious for doing a thing of that sort. The staff is really needed. As I have said, one of the Inspectors has been acting as Superintendent for a long time; he has even acted as manager of this Department and his advice has been ignored. If his advice had been accepted, we would not be in this position to-day, as far as this Department is concerned, and, in spite of that, this Inspector is not considered a suitable person to fill the office of Superintendent. In my opinion, attempts should not be made to carry out the suggestions of Mr. Roddam in this piecemeal manner; they should be dealt with in a comprehensive way and all matters concerning the Department should be put on a proper basis.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Surely the junior member for St. John cannot expect us to pass this Resolution without further information. It may be argued that the Government sent invitations to honourable members to meet on the spot and see what is to be done but the Government seems not to appreciate that all the members of this House are not men of leisure, and in view of that invitation, it may also be argued that that is the reason why no further information has been supplied in the addendum to this Resolution. The addendum states that the Roddam report recommends that the headquarters of the Waterworks Department shall be at the Belle and to that the Government has agreed. But, according to the junior member for St. Thomas, is the Government dealing with the Roddam report in a piecemeal manner? If it is dealing with the report in a piecemeal manner, can the Government now tell us the estimated cost of these buildings and the land?

We do not pass Resolutions which make changes of this nature in this manner. Nobody wants to delay the expediting of matters in connection with the Waterworks but I am sure that if the information which has been asked for is not forthcoming honourable members will appreciate that the postponement of the further consideration of this Resolution is necessary. It has been rumoured all around that the proposal is to remove the Waterworks offices to the Belle. Let honourable members know if that is true. If there is no truth in the rumour then that is a different matter. If the Government is not thinking of the convenience or inconvenience of the people, let us know. The Government cannot expect us to pass this Resolution without further information, even though honourable members received a communication a day or two before to meet at the Belle, purely at the convenience of certain officials of the Government. Honourable members of this House must be treated with that respect which is due to them. It was stated in the Press two weeks before that honourable members would be invited to the Belle to see what is about to be done but a day or two before the date on which the meeting is to take place, honourable members received a notice asking them to come to the Belle. In other words, the idea seems to be that the information has been given whether honourable members attended or not at the Belle and that being so, they must pass this Resolution. I am counselling honourable members not to pass this Resolution without further information. I read in the newspapers that two honourable members of this House were among those present at the Belle on the specified occasion but the views of those two honourable members do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of this House. I am not suggesting that the House should reject this Resolution but I am sure that the honourable introducer of it will appreciate the necessity for giving information as fully as possible before we pass a Resolution such as this which has for its object the making of such important changes. We must consider the convenience of the people in dealing with a matter of this sort. Even if an arrangement is made for the continuance of the payment of bills due to the Department in the City what about the convenience of other people such as plumbers who do business with the Waterworks Department? I am definitely in favour of the improvements which are apparent and necessary but I could not possibly agree to the removal of the waterworks offices to the Belle on this scant information. I would like to say this: There are a few officials in this island who believe that they are running this country and as I have not got to pander to them I will speak out. I am not asking them any favours. I even notice now that some of these officials are actually awarding contracts and I go further and say that I know that the Government knows nothing about what some of them are doing. But I am watching carefully some of the things that go on. Some of them come out here as experts and know-alls but I am watching their actions. I know my Barbados. They cannot just tell us "We want £7,000 to erect these buildings and construct a road" without giving us all the information. They seem to think that the mere fact that we were invited to the Belle is sufficient and that they need not give us any further information in the addendum. Well that might be enough for some honourable members but it is not enough for me. I counsel honourable members to insist on getting all the information when money is to be spent in this way and I suggest that we post-

pone the further consideration of this Resolution until we get the information which has been asked for.

Mr. WARD: I totally agree with the honourable member who has just sat down. I feel that we should be given information in this addendum stating the area of land that is going to be bought, the price of the land and the estimated cost of the buildings. The addendum states that the Roddam report recommends that the headquarters of the Waterworks Department shall be at the Belle and that the Government has accepted the recommendation. I could not be fooled that this £7,000 includes the cost of any buildings at all. This £7,000 is only to buy the land and construct the road and I feel that if we do not get further information, although we may be holding up the Waterworks programme, we should postpone the further consideration of this Resolution. Personally I am going to vote against it unless the honourable member in charge of it gives the figures.

It has been the custom in the past to state in the addendum of a Resolution of this sort the estimated cost of the buildings to be erected. It saves a great deal of time if honourable members are informed that ten acres, let us say, of land are to be bought at so much per acre and a road one mile long is to be constructed at an estimated cost of so much. If that information is given in the addendum honourable members would not have to get erroneous ideas in their heads. I myself have heard that it is proposed to remove the Waterworks Department to the Belle but I do not feel that that proposal is embodied in this Resolution and, therefore, I would not go as far as other honourable members have gone. In my opinion, this £7,000 is for the purpose of buying only the land and constructing the road but we should be told how much land is being bought and what it is going to cost. If that information is not forthcoming I would advise the honourable introducer of this Resolution to postpone it, otherwise I shall vote against it.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to state for the benefit of the honourable member who has just spoken that he has not read the Resolution properly. We know that he can read it but he has misunderstood it. The Resolution says very distinctly that this money is to meet the cost (a) of 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) of constructing the road. How does the honourable member interpret (a)? And the addendum to the Resolution states that the Roddam report recommends that the headquarters of the Waterworks Department should be transferred to the Belle. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the invitation to honourable members to attend at the Belle should be made a document of the House. Reference has been made to it; it is dated 24th September, 1948, and this is how it reads:—

"Sir,—Resolutions for expenditure on augmenting the public water supply, on the acquisition of land and construction of a road to connect the Belle Pumping Station with My Lord's Hill, and on the erection of stores buildings and quarters for engineers and resident staff of the new Waterworks Department."—that is what I was invited to see and I was told that this Resolution was coming for that—"will be introduced into the Legislature on Tuesday next, 28th September. In order that members of the Legislature, the Executive Committee and the Press may be fully acquainted with the proposals, a visit to the Belle Pumping Station has

been arranged for Wednesday next, the 29th September, at 5 p.m., when the projects will be explained on the spot. Your presence will be much appreciated."

So the senior member for St. Lucy had better be careful that he is not being misled into moving the Waterworks Department up there and that he is not doing what the invitation says. It seems to me that the Roddam report should be dealt with as comprehensively as possible. You have already implemented considerable portions of it by ordering machinery to the value of £112,000 and to-day you passed a Resolution for £14,600 to meet the cost of augmenting the public water supply and in my opinion that should enable the Government to go ahead and get a proper supply of water for the people. This Resolution is an attempt to move the Waterworks Department to the Belle and the friends of the people who are to come out here and take these posts have to be provided with quarters. Apropos of what my colleague has said about the invitation I went to the person who sent me this invitation to let him know that I have no means of conveyance and he laughed at that; so I could see that he did not want me because I expected that if I had no means to get me to the spot, at least he could have offered to take me there. However, he didn't want me to be up there, so there is something in what my colleague has said. I repeat that we should be told the area of land which is to be bought, the price that is to be paid for it and the sizes and the estimated cost of the buildings that are to be erected. Let us know the comprehensive arrangements that are being made, in the same way as we are now being told how to re-organize the Budget. I have heard that it takes two years to get this machinery for the Waterworks and I feel that in connection with a Resolution of this nature for capital expenditure, a Resolution which will result in inconvenience to the public and the staff which is at present doing the work, the persons who represent the people of the colony are entitled to more information than that which has been given. I sincerely hope that it is forthcoming, otherwise I am going to move the postponement of the further consideration of this Resolution to give the introducer of it the opportunity to get the information and give it to the House.

Mr. WARD: I am asking the honourable member who has just sat down not to be led into the belief that this £7,000 includes the cost of the buildings. If he would read the latter part of the addendum he would see that it says that this Resolution is to provide funds for the purchase of land for the buildings necessary and also for the construction of a direct road from My Lord's Hill. I would not like the honourable member to be fooled that this money is to help build buildings. What we are insisting on is the information as regards how much land the Government is buying and what price it is paying for that land.

Mr. GARNER: The senior member for St. Lucy has said the same thing I was going to say. This is a block vote and we have been given no details at all about it. The addendum does not state how much land is going to be acquired, how much per square foot is going to be paid for it, nor does it state the sizes nor the estimated cost of the buildings that are going to be erected on the site. I do not think we can vote for this Resolution to-day and I do think that the Minister in charge of it would be well advised to postpone it, otherwise I am going to vote against it. It is not a question of not getting water as urgently as we can but we want to know how this money is going to be spent. We do not know what is

to be done with this money. They have only given us a vague idea of what they intend to do and as soon as we vote this first instalment and we are committed to this proposal, nobody knows how many other Resolutions will be sent to us to complete the carrying out of this scheme. We cannot vote money like this. They are in duty bound to give us the details before they can expect us to vote for this Resolution.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I would like to reply first of all to the criticism of the junior member for St. Thomas. He feels that it is a very wrong thing to keep a man acting for three years in the position of Superintendent and not appointing him to the post. I agree with him. If a man who is not the Superintendent could be appointed to act as Manager of the Waterworks Department I find it difficult to understand why another man who is not the Superintendent but has acted in the post of Superintendent cannot be appointed to the post. As far as this £7,000 is concerned the purpose is perfectly explained in the Resolution. It says that this money is for the purpose of acquiring land for a road to connect the Belle Pumping Station with My Lord's Hill, for stores buildings and quarters for engineers and resident staff. It is also stated in the addendum that the Government proposes to remove the Waterworks Department to the Belle. Everybody knows what the headquarters of the Waterworks Department look like now and, therefore, it is very easy to form in our minds what the headquarters would look like when they are up at the Belle. (Voices: Oh, no; Shame). I do not care whether anybody cries "Shame" or anything else. I am saying that everybody can imagine what the Waterworks headquarters in Coleridge Street would look like when they are removed to the Belle. We have already passed a Resolution for £5,560 for installing an emergency well and pump at the Belle and a 9in. main to Howell's Cross Road to take the water to the regular mains and I take it that this £7,000 is for the construction of the headquarters and the buildings that I have mentioned (Voices: No). As regards the payment of bills to the Waterworks Department, those will be paid at the Treasury. Anybody who pays now has to come to town and pay in Coleridge Street and instead of paying in Coleridge Street in future they will pay at the Treasury and the distance to the Treasury is not much farther. When we visited the Belle Pumping Station we were shown exactly what is to be done. An acre of arable land will be bought at the current market value of land near the wells so as to prevent the water from being polluted and the pasture land will be used for the purpose of erecting the buildings and constructing the road.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am not going to make a long speech. I just want to ask the honourable member in charge of this Resolution if he is serious when he says that this £7,000 is for the construction of the headquarters of the Waterworks Department at the Belle. Surely the honourable member must have some knowledge of the cost of these buildings and the land. Is he really serious when he says that this £7,000 is going to cover the cost of constructing the headquarters at the Belle?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I will say quite frankly that I believe the honourable introducer of this Resolution has made a mistake. I am even going to make the excuse for him that he has made a mistake because I appreciate the position in which he is placed. But what I rose to object to is his remark that the information which was given on the spot is all the information he can give and no more. Let the people who can supply this information understand that this House holds the purse strings in this country and if

that is all the information the honourable member can give us, then out this Resolution must go. They do not tell us how much the buildings are going to cost; they do not tell us how much the land is going to cost. Anybody might be able to fool the Government but do not let the Government think that we in this House are a bunch of ignoramuses. When the honourable member said that this £7,000 is to build the headquarters at the Belle, he made a lapse; he does not mean that. This £7,000 could not buy land and pay for the erection of houses and headquarters and the construction of a road at the Belle. And to say, above all things, that honourable members should know what the headquarters would look like when they are removed to the Belle is beside the question! That certainly is not the attitude to adopt towards honourable members of this House. That may be the attitude of a few officials who try to bully other people and who think that people like the junior member for St. John have no right to be in the Government. That is what the majority of them thinks. No honourable member of this House who is worth his salt in any Government could expect to come down here and bring such information like that, namely, that we should know what the headquarters would look like when they are removed to the Belle. Do they think we are children? Absolute nonsense!

Dr. CUMMINS: I am going to ask leave to postpone the further consideration of this Resolution. If I were not a member of the Government I would feel the same way about this matter as certain honourable members feel and I ask leave to postpone this Resolution. I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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. 67 standing in the name of Your Honour; and the replies to questions No. 81 also standing in the name of Your Honour.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to lay the replies to questions No. 33 also standing in the name of Your Honour.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61(A)

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61(a) 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(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 of Supply.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

RESOLUTION *re* ACQUISITION OF LAND AND QUARTERS AT THE BELLE POSTPONED.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House adjourned for lunch we were in Committee of Supply consider-

ing a 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 building and quarters for engineers and resident staff; and (b) constructing the road. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas was speaking.

Dr. CUMMINS: I had asked leave to postpone this Resolution in order to get further information for honourable members.

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

GRATUITY TO MARTHA BISHOP.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution with which I will deal, Mr. Chairman, is one for £26. 15. 11 as a gratuity to Martha Bishop in consideration of her 7 years' service at the Mental Hospital Farm. She has now reached the age of 68 years and the Government has decided with the permission and approval of the House, to pay her a gratuity of this amount. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: Although this does not concern this Resolution, I would like to say that there are at the moment some 16 people who are waiting for gratuities and who are in need of them. I am asking that these gratuities be dealt with at an early opportunity so that the people may get them.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Lest the honourable member sing a solo, I can say that that is correct. I am supporting this Resolution and I would be grateful to the Government if they would deal with the people who were employed at the Central Road Board and then at the Highways Department and who were compelled to retire when the new Pension Scheme came into operation. Some of these people are at present receiving parochial aid. In the interval these people are suffering very much and I am sure that if the Government were made aware of that, they would get to business in respect of these gratuities high up on the agenda of the Executive so that these people can benefit from whatever reward the Government intend to give them. Quite recently I had to appeal to the Colonial Secretary on behalf of these people; I hope that the Government will send down the enabling Resolution as soon as possible.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to support the remarks of the last two honourable members who have spoken. I have met with these very hard cases and I hope that in the near future the Government will send down the necessary Resolution so as to bring much-needed relief to these people.

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

RESOLUTION re CAPITAL AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF DODDS PLANTATION POSTPONED.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one 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 of March, 1949.

The position is this: As honourable members will remember, Dodds Plantation was separated from the Reformatory; that is to say, the plantation is run separate and distinct from the Institution. It is run by a Manager and Attorney and Overseer. That was decided upon by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and the funds which were voted in the Estimates for Dodds Plantation until the 31st of March, 1949, continued to be spent on the farm. The time has come when the money has more or less been exhausted and more money is needed to run the Plantation. It is said that the Plantation has deteriorated very much,

and consequently, more money had to be spent in the preparation for the coming crops. In addition to that, it is proposed to build a house for the Manager who will continue to manage Dodds and Seawell Plantations, and to provide him with an Overseer and to provide farm buildings and riding horses. The estimated additional recurrent expenditure to the 31st of March, 1949, is £3,600, and it is estimated that this expenditure will be more than offset by increased income from the Plantation. As I have said, the Manager will continue to manage Dodds and Seawell Plantations; he is at present living in the house at Seawell but as it is proposed to build a Borstal Institution for boys, it is proposed to use the house occupied by the Manager for the Staff of the Borstal and build a new house at Dodds for the Manager. Dodds being the bigger place, it is thought that it would be in the best interests of the Plantation for the Manager to live there and pay visits to Seawell. He will also have an Overseer at Seawell. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: This Resolution asks for a total sum of £8,750 and £3,600 of it is needed for estimated additional recurrent expenditure. I can understand that part of it, but I would like some more information as regards the other part. As far as I know, we have not approved of the new scheme whereby it is proposed to build a type of Borstal Institution at Seawell and do away with the present Manager's house. Therefore I am wondering if this money should be voted before that scheme is definitely approved; otherwise we will grant this money and in the meantime construction will be started on the new building at Dodds and nothing might ever be done with the building at Seawell. Why should we be asked to grant this £5,150 towards a scheme which, so far, has not been approved by this House? I would like to hear something about that. No one knows what will be the outcome of these proposals; we hear that a definite part of the proposals is to build a Manager's house at Dodds and perhaps leave Seawell as it is. Seawell might remain as it is for ever. I can assure you that everybody is not completely satisfied with the proposed scheme.

Mr. HAYNES: I, too, am very much concerned along the same line as the hon. member who has just sat down. I will go even further. I understand that under this new scheme Summervale is to be scrapped. (Dr. CUMMINS: That is not correct). I am told that they are building new quarters for the girls and therefore that building will be vacant. In that case I am not at all satisfied with putting this Borstal Institution at Seawell and having to spend a lot of money in building a place for the boys when we have Summervale, a very good building with land surrounding it, which could also be used for a Borstal Institution. I am more in favour of supporting that line of argument than I am as regards Seawell being used for this Institution in which case it would seem that we are throwing away the money which we vote to-day for building the Manager's house at Dodds. The hon. member who has just sat down says that we should have these matters very carefully before us and in support of that I beg to move that this Resolution be reduced by £5,150.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am inclined to agree with the hon. member who has just sat down. There is a very good house at Seawell; if we allow the Manager to carry on until the next crop and then decide to build put the Institution for the boys at Seawell, nothing will be lost by using the Manager's house at Dodds. The Manager's house at Seawell seems to be in very good order as far as I can see. We are anticipating things a bit; this is part of a scheme which has not yet been approved by this House as has been pointed out by the hon. senior member for St. George

and I beg to second the motion for the reduction of this Resolution by £5,150.

Dr. CUMMINS : It is quite true that the Legislature has not approved of the building of the Borstal Institution at Seawell. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew says that Summervale is to be scrapped but that is not correct. Summervale will be improved and enlarged so as to make provision for two classes of girls. It is felt, and quite rightly so, that the small girls should not mix with the big ones; they will be kept apart as much as possible and consequently they will need more room at Summervale. As far as the Borstal Institution is concerned, it was thought at one time that that Institution should be put at Summervale and that another place should be found for Summervale. That matter was gone into by Mr. Halcrowe who feels, and there is evidence to prove it, that the site proposed to be used at Seawell for the Borstal Institution lies in an area where they can get sufficient water to carry on the stock farm. The wells at Summervale have been tried and they cannot get sufficient water. Mr. Halcrowe has given his expert opinion that you cannot very well run a stock farm at Summervale because there is a lack of water. There is an abundant water supply at Seawell as was envisaged by Dr. Senn's Report. If hon. members do not feel like committing themselves to the scheme, that is a matter for them to decide; but before this reduction is made I want to point out, and hon. members will appreciate, that a part of this money is needed for erecting farm buildings at Dodds. In my opening remarks I said that this Resolution is to build a house at Dodds Plantation for the Manager of Dodds and Seawell Plantations, to provide quarters for the Overseer of Dodds Plantation and to provide additional farm buildings and riding horses. I have given all the information which I have in this file and I leave the matter to hon. members.

Mr. WARD : I would advise the hon. member in charge of this Resolution to postpone it. As I said not long ago, I feel that these Resolutions should come down to us with detailed information setting out what amount of money is to be spent on each item. The hon. member in charge of the Resolution has told us about stock farms. If it is proposed to create stock farms under this Resolution we are bound to vote against that under the present circumstances. I feel that the correct thing for us to do is to postpone this Resolution and get more detailed information about it. I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Andrew who moved the reduction of the Resolution; I feel that we are putting the cart before the horse. We should first have agreed with the scheme in respect of putting the Borstal Institution at Seawell and then they could come to this House and say: "We will have to build the Manager's house at Dodds." But no scheme has been brought before the House and this is only a way of tricking us into a scheme. As long as I have the privilege of being a member of this House I will not agree to anything like that. This House should have been given full particulars about the scheme before we can agree to anything like this. We have to look for the money to be spent and we must know how to spend it. I do not want to be rash against the Government, but I feel that the correct thing to be done is to postpone this Resolution and let us have proper detailed information.

Mr. DOWDING : It is regrettable for anyone—expert or no expert—to think that this House consists of 24 sleeping members. In the Resolution which we had before us earlier to-day there was an insult to the intelligence of this House and we should be careful as to what is happening. Here we have a Resolution involving a scheme which this House has not approved and we are told that because Mr. Halcrowe has said so and so we must do so and so! Mr. Halcrowe or nobody else can say what we in this House

should do. It is time that insults of this nature cease coming to this House.

Dr. CUMMINS : I quite realise how hon. members feel about this Resolution. I am not opposing the reduction of the vote; I just want to say that the money for the recurrent expenditure in respect of Dodds Plantation is urgently needed. This money is needed to carry on the working of the Plantation and to postpone this Resolution now would reflect in the running of the Plantation.

Mr. TALMA : I rise to make this observation. The method of sending down Resolutions to this House has not originated with this Labour Government; this is something which has been handed down to us. I may say that this Resolution gives more information than what has been given in Resolutions in the past. This is a bad practice which has been adopted in framing Resolutions in the past. We do not frame Resolutions; we merely bring them here and get them passed. We have no hand in the framing of these Resolutions and we have no hand in the expenditure of the money. This is how these Resolutions have always been framed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : I am not going to address my remarks with that heat which is usual with the hon. senior member for St. George. It is not correct to say all that has been said by the hon. member. He must remember and reflect. I am sure that the hon. member has not forgotten that the Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to make recommendations for the re-organisation of the Government Industrial Schools was placed before hon. members of this House; and when I hear hon. members talk about this House not approving of the scheme, I will refresh their memories of what has been done in the past. We have had schemes from the Director of Education; we have never approved of those schemes in this House but we have still voted £2,000 for adult education and that was a part of the scheme. If hon. members were against the Borstal system—we have not passed any Resolution saying that we are not in favour of the scheme—then the Government would have been breaking faith with the House. In view of the fact that this Report in connection with the re-organisation of the Government Industrial Schools was placed on the Table of the House many months ago and the House said nothing about it, we took it for granted that the House agreed with the scheme. A memorandum was sent to hon. members in which matters were set out and if hon. members felt that the Government was embarking on a scheme which they did not approve they should have allowed the Government to know that they did not approve of it. I think it has gone on record that hon. members have agreed with the Borstal system in respect of Dodds and Summervale, therefore if the Government start a scheme which will be an improvement of the system which we have at present, you cannot accuse the Government of breaking faith with the House. If hon. members are arguing that they have not got sufficient information in the Resolution, that is something apart from not approving of the scheme; if they talk about approving of a scheme they are giving the impression that they are hearing about the scheme for the first time. We have approved of the Borstal system as being the best system for this island but from the arguments which I have heard in this House this afternoon I do not think that some members of the House are in favour of it. To come back to the Resolution, it has the same form as any other Resolution which we have passed. Honourable members have passed a Resolution for £2,000 for adult education without questioning the system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to interrupt the hon. member but he must keep to the point. I have to say that because there are those who will start doing the same thing.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was just making an analogy relative to hon. members talking about a scheme not being approved. If you have a measure before you in a Report—for instance, we had before us Superintendent Calver's Report which this House has never adopted as a Report, but we have approved Resolutions which were embodied in the Report. We did not say that because we did not approve the scheme we should not pass the Resolutions. I cannot allow the hon. senior member for St. George to go unchallenged on that score.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee, the postponement of two and that the Committee has asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: Special resolution under the provisions of section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903 (1903-5) as amended by section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's Office (Amendment) Act, 1947 (1947-24).

Dr. CUMMINS: This Resolution has for its object the appointment of additional personnel for the Staff of the Colonial Secretary's Office. It is proposed to appoint an Officer who will deal with matters relating to Medical, Health and Social Services, Prisons and local Organisations. It is the intention of the Government to have this Officer to run the Social Services and Organisations in this island; he will look after the social work which the Vestries will do under the amendment to the Vestries Act. I do not think that a Resolution of this sort will meet with any objection because I know that honourable members are anxious to see our Social Services properly organized and properly run so that the people of this island might have the benefit of a modern Organisation of Social Services as exists in other countries. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60.

Mr. DOWDING: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to deal with Order No. 84 as the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

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

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

Mr. GALE seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE ST. GEORGE (HIGHWAYS) LOAN BILL.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member

for St. George:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Commisisoners of Highways for the parish of St. George to raise a loan to purchase a Road Roller.

Mr. DOWDING: This Bill is for the purpose of authorising the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. George to obtain a loan for the purpose of purchasing a Diesel Motor Road Roller for use on the roads of the parish in addition to the road roller which is now in use. This roller is greatly needed at the moment. In view of the increased work which is being done on the tenantry roads, it is impossible for us in St. George to get through with only one roller. There is nothing controversial about this matter and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I beg to support this motion. This is not specifically a Vestry matter at all. I myself have had to be instrumental in assisting various parishioners to prepare petitions to be sent to the Commisisoners of Highways of the parish requesting that the tenantry roads be repaired; and there are still very many roads which are in dire need of repairs. In some districts you will find mosquitoes in pond after pond in the roads as you try to get from one district into another. I think that if the members of the Vestry of St. George will pay a visit to some of these districts they will find that instead of asking for one roller, it is necessary to ask for more.

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

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

On a similar motion the Preamble was postponed.

The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. DOWDING, seconded by Mr. GALE, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60.

Mr. TALMA: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 so as to proceed with Order No. 87 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Order No. 24 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to proceed with Order No. 87 as the next Order of the Day. An objection having been taken—

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not objecting Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for Christ Church may proceed to make his motion.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE GERALDINE BURNETT GRATUITY BILL.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior

member for Christ Church:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of the parish of Christ Church to pay a gratuity to Geraldine Burnett.

Mr. TALMA: This is the usual type of Bill which comes before the House. Geraldine Burnett has been until recently in the employ of the Vestry of the parish of Christ Church for a period of 18 years during which period she has performed her duties faithfully. She has now gone into retirement and the Vestry have thought fit to grant her the regular gratuity. I hope that the time will come when the various Vestries will not have to come to the Legislature so as to be authorised to pay gratuities to their employees. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

On a similar motion the Preamble was postponed. The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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 19th day 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 next, the 19th day of October, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.