

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th April, 1950.

Pursuant to prorogation and with the Mace under the table, the honourable members elected to constitute the House of Assembly for 1948—51 assemble in their Chamber at 2.30 o'clock p.m. to-day to await the summons to attend in the Council Chamber where His Excellency the Governor Mr. A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G., is about to open the 1950—51 period of the current Legislative Session.

Present.

His Honour the Speaker Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, junior member for the parish of St. Peter sitting in the Clerk's Chair, the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS), the honourable junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. L. E. SMITH), the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and Leader of the House (Mr. G. H. ADAMS, B.A.), the honourable senior member for St. Thomas (Dr. H. G. CUMMINS), the honourable senior member for St. Peter (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT), the honourable senior member for St. Michael (Mr. M. E. COX), the honourable junior member for St. James and Leader of the Opposition (Mr. J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E.), the honourable senior member for St. John (Mr. O. T. ALLDER), the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. R. G. MAPP), the honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. T. O. BRYAN), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. D. D. GARNER), the honourable junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER), the honourable senior member for the City (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY), the honourable senior member for St. Andrew (Mr. L. E. R. GILL), the honourable senior member for Christ Church (Mr. F. C. GODDARD), the honourable junior member for St. John (Mr. F. E. C. BETHELL), the honourable senior member for St. James (Mr. E. K. WALCOTT, K.C.), the honourable senior member for St. Lucy (Mr. E. L. WARD), the honourable junior member for St. Andrew (Mr. D. A. FOSTER), the honourable junior member for Christ Church (Mr. W. W. REECE K.C.), the honourable senior member for St. George (Mr. F. E. MILLER), and the honourable junior member for St. Philip (Mr. W. A. CRAWFORD).

A Message is received from the Sergeant-at-Arms to the effect that His Excellency the Governor awaits the House in the Council Chamber and the SPEAKER, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace cradlewise, and the other honourable members in pairs according to seniority, proceed to the Council Chamber.

His Excellency the Governor delivers a speech, hands a copy of it to Mr. SPEAKER and the House return to their Chamber.

Prayers are read.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House attended in the Council Chamber His Excellency the Governor delivered a Speech and was pleased to give me a copy of his Speech.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, His Excellency's Speech is taken as read. It is as follows:—

SELECT COMMITTEE TO PREPARE REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. ADAMS.. Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to prepare a Reply to His Excellency's speech.

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to second that.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to prepare a Reply to the Governor's speech is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following honourable members a Select Committee for the abovementioned purpose:— the honourable senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. ADAMS), the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. LEWIS), the honourable junior member for St. James (Mr. WILKINSON), the honourable junior member for St. Philip (Mr. CRAWFORD), the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. MAPP), the honourable junior member for Christ Church (Mr. REECE), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. GARNER), and the honourable senior member for Christ Church (Mr. GODDARD).

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I apologize to the House for an omission in the list of names which I suggested to Your Honour. I intended to include the names of both honourable members for St. James and I beg to suggest that the honourable senior member for St. James be a member of the Committee.

The senior member for St. James, Mr. E. K. WALCOTT, having expressed his willingness to serve is, with the approval of the House, appointed a member of the Select Committee by the SPEAKER.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, — As long as the anomalous section remains in the Representation of the People Act I suppose it is my duty at the beginning of this session to nominate a Deputy Speaker. I beg to move that the honourable junior member for the City be appointed Deputy Speaker of this House for this session.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that the junior member for the City be appointed Deputy Speaker for this session is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SETTLEMENT OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the House approves of the Rules, which were in existence at the end of the last session being the Rules of the House for this session.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the honourable junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. SMITH) is appointed Chairman of Committees for this session.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF BOARDS.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—If I am in order I beg to move that all the Committees be re-appointed, with the exception of the Members of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board. I do not think that there is at present a general understanding as to who should comprise that Board.

Mr. WARD: I beg to second that.

The question that all the Committees be re-appointed, with the exception of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board, is put and resolved in the affirmative without division. They are:—

PRINTING COMMITTEE

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. Husbands, Speaker; Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, O.B.E., Mr. G. H. Adams, B.A., Mr. W. A. Crawford and Mr. J. E. T. Brancker.

DEBATES COMMITTEE

His Honour the Speaker, assisted by Mr. J. E. T. Brancker, the Honourable Dr. C. H. St. John, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, O.B.E., Mr. G. H. Adams, B.A., and Mr. W. A. Crawford.

VICTORIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY

Mr. Crawford, Mr. Gill, and Mr. Goddard.

MEMBERS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Mr. J. E. T. Brancker, Mr. D. D. Garner, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Mottley.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Ward, Mr. Dowding, Mr. Smith and Mr. Lewis.

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

Mr. Foster.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Garner.

MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGETOWN HOUSING BOARD

Mr. Adams and Mr. Cox.

MEMBERS OF THE SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS CONTROL BOARD

Mr. F. L. Walcott, Mr. E. L. Ward, Mr. D. D. Garner, and Mr. H. O. Emtage.

DOCUMENTS

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

The Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. Joseph.

The Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. James.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. James.

Financial Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the month ended 31st March, 1950.

PAPERS LAID

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

Annual Report of the Department of Science and Agriculture for the year 1948-49.

Report on the Government Bacteriological and Pathological Laboratory for the year 1948.

Quarterly Return of Transactions in Rum to 31st March, 1950.

Report of the Department of Education for the period 1st April, 1948, to 31st August, 1949.

The Merchandise Marks Rules, 1949.

PETITION

Mr. BETHELL: Mr. Speaker,— I beg to present a petition from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,— I think it is necessary that the honourable member should say what is the prayer of the petition. I would like to know what it is these people are petitioning this House for.

Mr. BETHELL: The petitioners are praying the House to pass a Bill to vest a parcel of land in the parish of St. John, with the Chapel of St. Mark, the parsonage house, and other buildings and the burial ground in the Lord Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of St. John and their respective successors in office upon certain trusts.

The petition is taken as read.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to make it lawful for a Vestry to lease land within their parish for any period not exceeding 21 years and that any such lease shall be binding on the successive Vestries of the said parish.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to sanction and confirm the Rules entitled "The Merchandise Marks Rules 1949" made by the Registrar on the 1st April, 1950, under the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1949.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Department of Science and Agriculture Act, 1925.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Executive Committee Act, 1891.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Public Employees Pension Act, 1937.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill for promoting the cultivation of trees and for purposes in connection therewith.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to provide for the payment of a pension to Douglas Ardon Mottley Haynes, Manager of the Peasants' Loan Bank in this Island.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to authorise the Governor-in-Executive Committee to let certain Government lands to the Governing Body of Combermere School.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Widows and Orphans Pension Act, 1928.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Gas Works Act, 1911.

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. BETHELL: A Bill to vest a certain parcel of land situate in the parish of St. John in this island with the Chapel of St. Mark, the parsonage house and other buildings, and the burial ground in the Lord Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of St. John and their respective successors in office upon certain trusts.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly is of the considered opinion that, as, for obvious reasons, private capital cannot be expected to embark upon new major industrial enterprises, the Government should take the lead in a programme of industrialization for Barbados.

2. For this purpose, the House is of opinion that the sum of £100,000 should be appropriated from general revenue for the establishment of the Barbados Development Co., which shall be authorised to conduct research and experimentation, make plans and designs, acquire, operate and improve industrial and commercial enterprises; to make loans and to discover and develop to the fullest possible extent the human and economic resources of the island, form and hold interests in subsidiary corporations and enterprises; to accept grants, borrow money and issue bonds on such terms and conditions as it may decide.

3. The House respectfully requests that legislation for this, and for similar purposes, be sent down to the legislature.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House would draw to the attention of Your Excellency that there are many workers who draw

sub-standard wages in this colony, and whose plight has become worse since the increased cost of living.

The House request Your Excellency to send down legislation providing for a minimum wage for employees sufficient to ensure them a reasonable standard of living.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully requests that Your Excellency will send down legislation to prohibit the expansion of chain stores and the entry of wholesale merchants into the retail trade.

Mr. BRYAN: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly beg to draw to the attention of Your Excellency the Governor that there is in existence certain maps and surveyor's plans, showing a Public Road along the sea-shore leading from Lower Fontabelle, Land's End, Old Burial Ground, Goodland, Brighton, Spring Garden, Danesbury, Walmer Lodge, The Fort, Bats Rock and Prospect where the above road joined the Black Rock Road.

The House of Assembly respectfully ask that Your Excellency take immediate steps to send to the House legislation having for its object, (1) the repairing, and (2) the restoring to the Public the use of the said Road.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House is of opinion that, in order to assist in the reduction of living costs, strong representations should be made to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to obtaining a greater release of hard currency in order that more of our essential supplies may be purchased outside of the sterling area.

The House is further of opinion that, in the allocation of quotas for supplies from hard currency areas, not less than one-third should be earmarked for new traders, that is, traders who established business since the commencement of the war.

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly begs to point out to His Excellency the Governor that the necessity exists in this island for the immediate establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal.

2. The House asks that the Governor-in-Executive Committee forthwith take steps for the purpose of establishing such a tribunal.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to provide for

the immediate erection of a Broadcasting Station which will be available for the use of all the inhabitants of the Island.

Mr. GARNER: A Bill to incorporate the Barbados Youth Movement.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly are convinced of the necessity for the teaching of African or Negro History in the Secondary and the Public Elementary Schools throughout this Island, particularly in view of the large preponderance of persons of African or Mixed African descent in this community.

2. The House are also of the opinion that the systems of age-grouping and superannuation that have been tried for the past few years in the schools of this Island have not proven beneficial to the vast majority of children attending such schools. The House accordingly recommend that the abolition of both age-grouping and superannuation be made effective in this Island at the earliest possible date.

3. The House request that His Excellency shall take appropriate action for the purpose of adding African or Negro History as aforesaid to the curricula of the schools as abovementioned; as well as to take the necessary steps for the abolition of age-grouping and superannuation without any unnecessary delay.

Mr. ALLDER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation to provide for the setting up of an Emergency Hospital in the parish of St. John and other parishes.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House is of opinion that Scholarships should again be provided for girls from the primary schools of the Island to Queen's College.

2. The House requests that His Excellency would send down legislation to give effect to this proposal.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully begs to draw to the attention of Your Excellency the inadequate seating accommodation for Visitors to the House of Assembly Chamber and pray that Your Excellency will take the necessary steps to improve the seating capacity.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation in the near

future (1) providing for security of tenure for employees in all branches of industry, commerce, and other businesses in this island similar to that which obtains for public employees (2) making it illegal for any person to be refused employment because of race, creed or political opinion.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House respectfully request Your Excellency in view of the unemployment situation in this colony and that which faces employees in the sugar industry during the out-of-crop season, to investigate (1) the effects of mechanization in the industry on employment in it; (2) what steps should be taken to minimize the ill effects which mechanization has caused.

Mr. BRANCKER: A Bill to amend the Supervision of the Weighing of Sugar Canes Act, 1939.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that in consequence of the increase in the Old Age Pension, the lowering of the qualifying age to 68, and the raising of the means test, there should be an increase in the remuneration of Payment to Enquiry Officers.

Mr. BRYAN: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully ask Your Excellency to send down legislation (1) That the Insurance Scheme under the Workmen's Compensation Act be taken over and operated by the Government; (2) That a Scheme of third party insurance be put into operation.

Mr. ALLDER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly view with much concern the difficult land situation taking place in this Colony, and with the desire to encourage a larger Peasant Proprietorship, respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation immediately prohibiting the purchasing of more than one (1) acre of land in this Island by persons other than Barbadians.

Mr. SMITH: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly are of the opinion that the installation of a public slot-system telephone in the vicinity of Tent Bay in the parish of St. Joseph would serve a useful purpose and satisfy a crying need, and respectfully request Your Excellency to

send down to the House at an early date legislation to implement this suggestion.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House are of the opinion that the amount allocated to the Labour Welfare Fund under the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Welfare) Act 1947 is too small for the purposes to which it is to be devoted and in proportion to the other funds.

The House request Your Excellency to make representation to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for a re-allocation of the amounts provided for these funds so as to provide for an increase to Labour Welfare.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House is of opinion that in order to promote the general welfare of the community and to ensure the organisation and development of a healthy and unified public opinion, steps should be taken at an early date with a view to the removal of colour barriers or any sort of racial discrimination which exists in the colony.

2. The House is in complete agreement with the suggestion made in a recent issue of the "London Times" that Colonial Officials should in future be forbidden to belong to clubs which impose a colour bar.

3. The House respectfully request that legislation be introduced **designed to prohibit** Colonial Office officials from obtaining membership in, or from participation to any extent whatsoever in the activities of hotels, clubs, associations, or social or recreational centres of any sort which maintain racial discrimination in any form.

Mr. ALLDER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation, making provision for a Pension Scheme for agricultural workers who have become incapacitated as a result of ill health, other than that covered under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly beg to inform Your Excellency that in order to assist in promoting adult education, to give the people of this island an opportunity to learn the policy of the Government, and to promote cultural entertainment, especially for the people in the country districts, the Government should take immediate steps to nationalise the business concern known as the Radio Distribution (Barbados) Ltd.

Mr. BRYAN: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly also ask Your Excellency to send down legislation to the House to provide for the establishment of a purchasing depot for Home Industries and Handicrafts and for sale of same.

The House of Assembly also ask that Your Excellency make provision for sending a Government Officer to Canada or the U.S.A. for the purpose of exploring markets for home and cottage industries.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully ask to draw Your Excellency's attention to the hardships inflicted on occupiers of agricultural lands, rented on a weekly or monthly basis, when called upon to give up possession of such land with valuable crops thereon within a period of a week or month.

The House of Assembly would ask Your Excellency to send down legislation to provide that such notice should not be operative until after the harvesting of the crop, **in order that the occupier may obtain the maximum benefit from his investments in fertilisers, seeds, and labour.**

The House would ask that such legislation should include the alternative compensation of valuation of the crops on the land, as if they had been fully matured and calculated on the basis of the previous year's market price, this valuation to be done by a Valuation Committee comprising of one person nominated by the owner of the land, the second by the occupier and the third who will be chairman to be the Director of Agriculture or his nominee, with the right of appeal by either party to the Executive Committee.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House is of the considered opinion that all business, commercial, and industrial concerns which operate in this island, including commission houses, insurance companies and insurance agencies, hotels, banks, electric supply corporations, gas and telephone companies, warehouses, factories, cinemas, pharmacies, and agencies for steamships and airways companies, etc., should be compelled to employ a reasonable percentage of Negro assistants on their clerical and other staffs and respectfully request that legislation be sent down to the legislature with this object in view.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly request Your Excellency to take necessary steps to provide for the erection of stand pipes in Bays Village, Workman's, Fair View Ellerton, Greens, Roach Village, Roach Tenantry, Byde Mill and other districts in which people

suffer the inconvenience of having to walk long distances for water supplies.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House view with concern the extent to which this colony depends on imported commodities, many of which can be produced locally in greater quantities.

2. The House request Your Excellency to investigate in the near future the possibilities of correcting this defect in the island's economy by the promotion of a wider diversification of locally grown crops and the establishment of small industries to process such products.

3. The House further request Your Excellency as a means towards that end, and towards the better distribution of land, to further investigate means of dividing on a co-operative basis among persons of local descent all land owned by absentee proprietors and of ensuring that cash crops other than cane are produced on such co-operative holdings.

Mr. BETHELL: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully ask Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to provide that water may be supplied free to the communal baths erected by the Vestries of this Island.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly desire to draw Your Excellency's attention to the irritating situation which has developed through the operation of the law which confers on landlords the right to eject within seven days or a month, occupiers of lots on which are chattel houses.

The House would draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that such removal entails heavy expenditure caused through the necessity for extensive repairs to such houses on removal and the difficulty in finding suitable alternative sites.

The House would also draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the present provision creates a brake on private initiative in the matter of extensions and additions to these buildings, occasioned by the fear of occupiers being requested to remove at short notice.

The House would ask Your Excellency to send down legislation to provide for an extension of the present ejectment period under all types of tenancy with the exception of leases to a first notice period of three months.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly beg to point out to His Excellency the Governor the crying need in this

Island for a public institution to receive, educate, and take care of girls and boys who are either orphans or have no one to take care of them but who have committed no criminal offence.

2. The House of Assembly requests that His Excellency shall transmit to the Legislature, as soon as possible, a Bill to amend the Reformatory and Industrial School Act 1890 (1890—16), so that provision will thereby be made for reception into the said Reformatory School for children such as have been mentioned in paragraph one above, and who have been recommended thereto having committed no criminal offence.

Mr. BETHELL: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully ask Your Excellency to send down to their Chamber a Resolution for the sum of money necessary to complete the extension of the four-inch water mains to the villages of Cliff Cottage and Staurt Hill New Road in the parish of St. John, left unfinished from the 1937 Water Scheme.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House request Your Excellency to send down legislation to provide for the duty free importation of insecticides and implements to control or eradicate agricultural or household pests, such insecticides or implements to be recommended by the Director of Science and Agriculture.

Mr. BRYAN: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully ask that Your Excellency send to the House legislation to provide (1) a scheme of compulsory education (2) a free daily hot meal and two suits per year for each pupil attending an elementary school and who is in need of same.

Mr. ALLDER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly desire to set up a system for the redistribution of the landed areas in this colony among the local population. And as a step towards this end, respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation immediately making provision for the purchasing and taking over of all Estates in this Island owned by absentee proprietors.

Mr. Cox objects to the giving of notice of this Address by the senior member for St. John on the ground that the junior member for St. Thomas gave notice of a similar Address earlier in to-day's proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER says that he will consider both Addresses and decide whether or not this Address should be placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. MILLER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

1. The House of Assembly beg to inform Your Excellency that thirty years ago Natural Gas in large quantities was found at Turner's Hall, but recent figures prove that only a very small percentage of this Gas is at present being utilized, leaving a vast amount unused, when as heating agent Natural Gas could be made available at a price which would bring this Gas within the reach of all classes of the community.

2. The House feel that no Company conducted on a profit-motive basis could be expected to pipe Gas into districts that might appear unprofitable, thereby denying some sections of the community this facility.

3. The House observe that after 72 years of operation the Barbados Gas Company has only expanded its distribution net work over a distance of approximately **nineteen miles of the Island's** total road-length of eight hundred and forty miles, which does not make for the Island's domestic and industrial advancement.

4. The House are of the opinion that Natural Gas, a gift of Nature, would have beneficial effect on the social and economic conditions of the community as a whole if fully developed.

5. The House of Assembly in order to answer what is now a general public appeal, deem it necessary that Government should take steps to nationalise the business concern known as the Barbados Gas Company Limited.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

1. The House of Assembly has the honour to draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor the fact that there are in this Island, a considerable number of people of African descent.

2. Amongst the abovementioned persons are a considerable number who are at present unemployed and for whom there is no hope of employment in the near future in Barbados.

3. The forefathers of many of these people were brought against their will to the West Indies and to this Island from their homeland, the Continent of Africa. Their ancestors possessed a great tradition and a culture of their own. Away from their homeland, the impact of European civilisation has tended to affect and influence the minds and culture of descendants of these original slaves.

4. The House would also draw to the attention of Your Excellency that the British Imperialist Government, in consequence of:—

(a) Its geographical position, its area, its deficiency in natural resources;

(b) Its avowed policy of keeping Great Britain free from any appreciable number of persons of African descent enjoying the same political, industrial, military, social, and economic advantages as those extended to other European people;

(c) Its irrevocable policy of keeping Mother Africa as a reserve for obtaining raw materials for her factories in Great Britain, and the cruel exploitation of the African natives, in order to maintain adequate living standards for her citizens at home;

(d) Its demoralising laws and unfair treatment of the African natives in contrast to that enacted for and meted out to British and other European workers on African soil;

(e) Its high-handed game of double-dealing diplomacy in handling all Negroes at home and abroad, and the rigid maintenance of an Iron Curtain between Africans on the Continent and their brothers scattered all over the West Indies, the North American Continent, and Asia;

(f) The calamitous neglect which it has exhibited as a Metropolitan country and Colonial power, its only aim being forever to subjugate the Africans at home and their descendants abroad to the role of hewers of wood and drawers of water, or in a different role to be her lacqueys and stooges, thereby perpetuating her racial ideology of "white supremacy";

..(g) Its illegal and highly questionable acquisition and control of vast areas of African territory, the utilisation of which is detrimental to the rightful owners (the Natives) who are deprived of a proper stake in their country, true and adequate representation in their parliaments, and are treated as inferiors in their own country, and are not afforded the professedly democratic right of majority rule;

(h) Its rigid, unethical and sinister suppression of the Negro Press which is endeavouring to create Negro unity, Negro solidarity, Negro nationalism, Negro self-help and ultimately the reality of a highly social, commercial, agricultural, industrial, educational, cultural, and prosperous homogeneous nation, progressively governed by Negro statesmen of the United States of Socialist Africa;

(i) Its failure to recompense Negro workers, soldiers, and sailors for their services, loyalty and patriotism to the British Crown and people in times of war;

(j) Its mal-administration of its Negro subjects, of which there are over three hundred millions in the West Indies, Africa, and Asia for over three hundred years, proclaiming aloud their backwardness, meanwhile, surely and most purposefully promising them the moon at some remote date, so as wilfully to lull them into a state of lethargy and wishful thinking, and to betray the people into a false sense of feeling of security, thereby undermining their manhood, and obstructing them from contributing their adequate share to world civilisation; has demonstrated itself to be unworthy to be entrusted with the continued sovereignty and control of hundreds of millions of liberty-loving people of African descent.

5. The House of Assembly desires, in the interest of restoring to their homeland such residents in this Colony as would seek to return to their African motherland, and to relieve the problem of the surplus population of this Island, that every effort be made by the local Government to return to the African Continent, as many persons of Negro origin in this country as desire to go back to that Continent and requests that Your Excellency will transmit the desire of the House to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

QUESTIONS

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

1. Is the Government aware that there is general dissatisfaction on the part of the peasant proprietors with regard to the funds allocated them from the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund?

2. In view of the fact that it is extremely difficult for small holders to satisfy the conditions demanded for applications for assistance from this fund, will the Government consider the the advisability of making these terms less onerous and more within the capacity of the average smallholder?

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

1. The amount of money raised by levy and allocated to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the Labour Welfare Fund under the provisions of the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Act, 1947, in each of the years 1947, 1948, and 1949.

2. The expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of the said Act in each of the years 1947, 1948 and 1949.

3. The amount administered for the purposes of the said Act for each of the years 1947, 1948 and 1949, showing the amount expended for each specific purpose and the parish in which each amount was expended.

4. The amount (if any) of the said Fund invested in each of the years 1947, 1948, and 1949 and the nature of the investment selected by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

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

1. Is the statement appearing in Sunday's Advocate of 23.4.50 under the name of Mr. E. J. Petrie, Financial Secretary, a statement of Government Policy under the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Act, 1947?

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

1. Is the Government aware that it is the trend of opinion among Elementary Schoolteachers that the machinery set up for the successful working of the system of Age-Grouping is inadequate for that purpose?

2. Is the Government aware that these teachers, already too small in number to deal effectively with the several groups of children in their charge, are further hampered by an experimental syllabus that is considered overcrowded and in some cases unnecessary?

3. Is the Government aware that many elementary school products are leaving school without adequate knowledge of the basic 3 R's, and totally unfitted for the demands of good citizenship?

4. Is the Government prepared to investigate the working of the elementary schools with a view to ascertaining the wisdom of perpetuating the system of age-grouping and continuing such experimentation in the syllabus before the pre-requisites of better staffing, accommodation, and equipment are provided?

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

What steps, if any, have been taken by Government to implement the following Addresses:

(1) A scheme for Life Insurance and free life saving devices for fishermen.

This Address was passed by this House on 21st June, 1949.

(2) A system of graduated Liquor Licenses.

This Address was passed by this House on the 20th September, 1949?

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

1. Is it a fact that two girls, students of Queen's College, applied for permission to study Science at Harrison College with a view to taking this subject in the Higher Certificate Examination?

Is it a fact that one girl was given and the other refused such permission?

3. Is it a fact that the latter showed more scholastic promise than the former?

4. What method of selection obtained in this case and what considerations led to the preference?

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

What progress has been made in connection with the Address passed by this House on 16th August, 1949, *re* loans for Government employees for (a) the purchase/building of homes: and (b) vacation travel abroad?

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

1. How many workers are being employed in the construction of the new runway at Seawell?

2. Have they all been recruited through the Labour Department?

3. If the answer to 2 is "No", will the Government say how many of these have been so recruited?

4. Is it a fact that there is discrimination in the wages paid to these workers and in favour of workers from outside the colony?

5. Is it a fact that workers at this runway have been forced to work for longer hours than 8 hours a day without overtime pay?

6. If the answer to 4 and 5 are in the affirmative, will the Government take steps to put a stop to such conditions?

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

1. Is Government aware that there is a great wave of disappointment and dissatisfaction among the General Public occasioned by Government's delay in taking steps to set up a Rent Restriction Board as requested in an Address passed by this House in July 1947?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government take immediate steps to remedy same by sending down the necessary legislation?

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

1. Is the Government aware that there are workers in private employment in this island who work for as long as 60 hours and over per week?

2. Is the Government aware that the nature of work of many of these, such as drivers of vehicles is such that their lives are endangered by such conditions of employment?

3. Will the Government take steps to institute a 45-hour week for all workers in this colony?

THE ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the House is adjourned to meet on Tuesday, 2nd May, 1950, at 3 o'clock, p.m.