

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 12th December, 1950.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 3 o'clock p.m. today.

Present :

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*),
His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*),
Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H.
G. H. CUMMINS, M. D. C. M. MESSRS D. A. FOSTER,
F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX
H. A. DOWDING, E. L. WARD, G. H. ADAMS, B. A.,
and O. T. ALLDER.

Prayers were read.

Mr. WILKINSON entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 28th November, 1950, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report of the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. Peter for the half year ended the 30th September, 1950.

Mr. GILL entered the House and took his seat.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to present from His Excellency the Governor the following Message:—

MESSAGE NO. 33/1950

*His Excellency The Governor
To*

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Address from the Honourable Members of the House of Assembly dated the 8th of August, 1950, and to inform the Honourable House that Mr. J. W. Parris, late Marshal of the House, has received in full the benefits which accrued to him under the Provisions of the Pension Act, 1907-2, Section 10.

2. His Excellency also desires to inform the Honourable House that a Resolution to provide the sum of twelve hundred dollars as a gratuity to Mr. D. A. Banfield in respect of his six months' service as Deputy Clerk will shortly be submitted for their favourable consideration.

Government House,

Bridgetown.

7th December, 1950

L. SAVAGE,
Governor..

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$149,010 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950—51, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950—51 No. 33, which form the Schedule to this Resolution. I may tell honourable members that this is the long-promised Resolution dealing with the Coleridge-Parry and Chalky Mount Schools and the Pine houses. I hope honourable members will be able to deal with this Resolution today because I have cyclo-styled copies of it to be circulated among them. I am entirely in the hands of honourable members in this matter.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$64,806, at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950-51, No. 34, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. COX: Bill to amend the Trade Act 1910.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to make provision for the division of the Parishes and the City of Bridgetown into Registration Districts for the purposes of the preparation and revision in relation to each such parish and the City of Bridgetown of registers of all persons entitled to be registered as voters at an election of a member of the General Assembly for such parish and the City of Bridgetown, for purposes connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the money Resolutions of which I have just given notice.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the first Resolution of which I have just given notice. I wish to say in the most solemn terms that I am going to distribute copies of this Resolution and if honourable members say that they will not go on with it, then we will not go on with it. If we reach a certain stage and honourable members want to stop there, we will stop there; if they are willing to go on and get more information next Tuesday, I am quite willing to do that.

Messrs. GODDARD and REECE entered the House and took their seats.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

1. The House are of the opinion that in the interests of colonial peoples and of the Commonwealth, it is essential that our people should be represented at the forthcoming conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers and at all future conferences concerning the Commonwealth by representatives appointed by them.

2. The House would deem it a severe slap to the aims and aspirations of colonial peoples in their struggle for self-government within the Commonwealth should such direct representation be denied them.

3. The House are unalterably opposed to the representation of the interests of the colonies solely by the Prime Minister of His Majesty's Government in consultation with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and consider such a procedure as incompatible with the oft-expressed policy of the said Government towards self-government for the colonies.

4. The House would also bring it to the attention of the said Government that just as it was thought just and advisable, in the interest of the colonies and the Commonwealth, to have a colonial representative included in the United Kingdom delegation to the United Nations in Paris in 1948, so it is just and advisable to have representation of a similar kind at the Conference in question and all such future Conferences.

5. The House would draw attention to their Address of March 22, 1949, urging direct representation in a matter which affects the West Indian colonies and the expressions of this House which that Address evoked, and regret that no reply has been received and the opinions of this House have been so rudely ignored.

6. The House ask that Your Excellency be so good as to forward at the earliest possible time the text of this Address to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. MAPP: Of my intention to move for the passing of this Address later in the Day.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

QUESTIONS

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

(1) Is it true that certain vacancies have occurred at Bowmanston and other pumping stations in the colony during the past months, due to illness and death among the employees?

(2) If the answer to question one is in the affirmative, will the Government state,

(a) How many vacancies have so occurred?

(b) How many of such vacancies have been filled?

(3) Is it true that workmen are asked to do more than their fair share of work?

(4) Is the Government aware that there is a general state of dissatisfaction among the staff of these pumping stations due to the unsatisfactory conditions of employment?

(5) If the answer to question (3) is in the negative, will the Government state why these vacancies have not been filled?

(6) If the answer to question four is in the affirmative will the Government cause an investigation to be carried out at this Department, with a view to removing all causes for dissatisfaction?

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

Is it the intention of Government to countenance the practice of Dentistry in the Island generally by registered Medical Practitioners?

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill intituled an Act to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities, and two separate Minority Reports.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. WILKINSON; Mr. Speaker,—With reference to the Report which I heard the honourable senior member for St. Joseph say he has presented, I would like to draw your attention to Rule 190. That Rule says:

“The Report of a Committee is brought up by the Chairman and is ordered to lie on the Table or is otherwise dealt with as the House may direct.”

Now, Sir, I got a copy of this Report last Saturday; I did not see it before and I did not sign it, nor perhaps the honourable senior member for the City. It is true that we were consulted about the Report; the Deputy Clerk came to me and brought the draft Report to which I suggested amendments and I asked him to take it up to the honourable senior member for the City, which he did. The honourable senior member for the City communicated with me by telephone in connection with the Report and that is as far as we went. I was astounded to see, Sir, that with your permission, copies of the Report had been circulated last Saturday because I received my copy yesterday at mid-day. As I understand May's Parliamentary Rules, it is a breach of the privilege of the House to circulate any Report until it has been laid on the Table, and Sir, I would like to have your ruling on the point. As I said, neither the honourable senior member for the City nor myself signed the Report, and I think it is a most scandalous thing to send out a Report in that manner. Like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, we are anxious to get this matter through, but we want it done in the proper way. I would like your ruling, Mr. Speaker, as to whether it is in order for a Report to be circulated before it is signed and laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—The Deputy Clerk cannot answer for himself and therefore I am going to answer for him. I am sorry that the honourable member who has just spoken has seen fit to use such

strong language; because instead of doing that, he might have called the Deputy Clerk in private and communicated to him his feelings in the matter. In that case, we would never have had that regrettable display. I am going to accept the honourable member's statement that he is anxious to get this Report before the House, at its face value; but it is unfortunate especially at a time when people who ought to know better—I say nothing more at this moment—are accusing this House of all sorts of things, that the honourable member should have made that display. In respect of this Bill, the offensive term of railroad ing Measures through the House cannot be used. As far as I remember, this Bill was brought into the House on the 25th of July and it was given its second reading and referred to a Select Committee on the 22nd August. For one reason or another—and I will state some of the reasons—the Bill was not considered. I was out of the island during the whole of September and sometimes honourable members of the Select Committee expected written notices of meetings and were not satisfied with a notice by telephone; sometimes honourable members had to attend Vestry meetings and other reasons prevented the Select Committee from functioning as often as it should function. The Public Utilities Bill is of the utmost importance to this colony and as Chairman of the Select Committee and the Leader of the Government, I am anxious to see that this Bill is brought into effect. The Deputy Clerk has recounted every possible point that was made by the Select Committee; he went through line by line the suggestions which were made and incorporated them in the Report as honourable members will see; he went through with the two honourable members present—the honourable junior member for St. James and the honourable senior member for the City—the points which they had made and they agreed that those were the things which they wanted put in their Minority Report. In common fairness to the Deputy Clerk, I say that nothing that was mentioned has been omitted from the Minority Report. The honourable junior member for St. James has agreed that nothing has been omitted from the Minority Report. The Deputy Clerk, knowing the anxiety of members of the Select Committee to get the Report before the House, after going through the points mentioned by the two honourable members, incorporated them in the Minority Report; and if, unfortunately he did not get the actual signatures of the two honourable members on the manuscript before the Report was circulated, how could you say that something scandalous has been done? It might be said that there was an omission on the part of the Deputy Clerk, but by what stretch of the imagination even on the part of a Barbadian or of people who like to use extravagant language, could you say that what has been done is scandalous? The honourable junior member for St. Philip agreed to the Minority Report but he wanted to introduce something which I understood from the Deputy Clerk could not be summarized. He wanted what appears as his Report and I do not suppose he offers any objection to the Report having been circulated; but it is a wicked suggestion to make that some high-handed thing has been done in bringing this Report before the House without the actual manual signatures of those honourable member whose names appear in the Minority Report. I received my copy of the Report with a notification in red ink that it was confidential, and I assumed that the Deputy Clerk or Librarian or whoever was responsible for sending out the Report knew that before it is laid on the Table of the House, it is a confidential document. He has not sent it to the public; if he sent it only to members of the House with a

note that it is confidential what harm has been done? If the honourable junior member for St. James had used the language of moderation, perhaps I might have sat and smiled, and wondered at his discomfiture; but when he gets up and uses strong language in the presence of a person who cannot defend himself, then I must protest. I cannot see that anything scandalous has been done, that there has been any breach of privilege of the House or anything of the sort. I have not spoken with the Deputy Clerk on the point; but I doubt very much whether he would have circulated this Report without Your Honour's permission. The honourable member should have at least enquired on whose authority this Report was circulated; but he must have seen underlined on the Report the words: "Circulated with the permission of His Honour the Speaker." I submit that this Report would not have been circulated without Your Honour's permission. I admit that there has been a lapse and I would say that for all the years I have known the honourable member in this House, he is not generally guilty of opposing for the sake of opposition and criticising merely because he happens not to be in the same Party as the Party supporting the Government. I make bold to say that this House is upholding by way of tradition as much as any previous House has upheld; I hope therefore that the honourable junior member for St. James will not pursue this matter any further and that we will have heard the last of it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Like the honourable member who has just sat down, not only am I anxious to see the Public Utilities Bill enacted, but I think I won my seat in this honourable Chamber because I spoke about the necessity of public utilities and their control by legislation. As the honourable member said, this Select Committee was appointed in August and for one reason or another meetings were abortive; but I am sure he will agree with me that every member of the Committee tried his best, when he got notice of a meeting, to be present. I can speak for myself and also for the honourable junior member for St. James that on all occasions when we got notice at least 24 hours beforehand, we turned up at meetings. Honourable members might smile, but I do not promise anybody to turn up at a meeting if I have not had 24 hours' notice of it. I, like all the others, have my living to work for. Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. James would appear on the face of it, to have generated a lot of heat, but there must be some resentment over this matter. It is true that the Deputy Clerk communicated with me and showed me what he proposed to write as the Minority Report; I suggested certain amendments and communicated with the honourable junior member for St. James on the telephone and he agreed with the amendments. That is absolutely correct. I do not think that the honourable junior member for St. James has, up to now, accused the Deputy Clerk of doing something which is wrong; he has admitted that the Deputy Clerk communicated with him and told him "This is what has been suggested to me by the honourable senior member for the City, and this is what I am going to put in the Minority Report." Up to there all is well and good. But the honourable junior member for St. James is bringing to the notice of the House the provisions of Rule 190. The Report of a Committee, according to that Rule, must be brought up by the Chairman—in this case the Chairman is the Leader of the House, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph—then it must be laid on the Table of the House or dealt with as the House may direct. What I am saying is this; here

is a Minority Report and a Report by the honourable junior member for St. Philip. At the minute we have from the Clerk a Report which is really and truly signed by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in front of you at present is only the Report of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. What I am objecting to is this; suppose I was indisposed to-day and was unable to come here? Could it be said that there is before the House a Minority Report signed by the honourable junior member for St. James and myself? I submit it might have been successfully argued that there is no such Report put in by the honourable junior member for St. James and myself. An honourable member says *sotto voce* that is was left to the Deputy Clerk to draft the Report: I do not boast of anything more than being able to read and write, but I boast that I can draft a Report and sign my name to it.

The honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that the honourable junior member for St. James used strong language; but the honourable member did not use any extraordinarily strong language. Any honourable member would question a Report being circulated before it is actually signed and laid on the Table of the House. According to Rule 190, unless Your Honour has any other Rule to draw to my attention, the Report of a Committee is brought up by the Chairman and is ordered to lie on the Table or is otherwise dealt with as the House may direct. If there is any Rule which says that a Report can be circulated before it is signed, all well and good; but, as far as we know, the Report must not be circulated before it is signed. I am willing to submit that Your Honour certainly did not know that the Report was not signed, because, I repeat, if I had been indisposed to-day, and if the honourable junior member for St. James had been indisposed to-day and we were unable to turn up it might have been argued that there is no Minority Report before the House; and that the only Report before the House is that which has been signed by the honourable Leader of the House as Chairman of the Select Committee. We say now that if Your Honour has ordered this Report to be circulated, that it is all well and good; but I am sure you will agree that premature action has been taken in this matter. In the absence of the signature of a member who wants to put in a Minority Report, I submit that no Minority Report has been put in.

While I am on my feet I must say that it is not a question of the Report being incorrect; the Report is absolutely correct. I got my copy in due course and I only had a chance to look at it last night; but it is a correct Report. I am submitting that although it is a correct Report, it is not properly before us. Every word in this Report is correct; the views which are set out in this Report are the views of the honourable junior member for St. James and myself. You know, Mr. Speaker, we are still in the Opposition, and I am glad to hear the honourable senior member for St. Joseph say that the honourable junior member for St. James is not the type of person who would raise opposition for the sake of opposition; however, we want to see to it that nothing is done which is an infringement of our rights. I am suggesting that in view of the fact that the Report is absolutely correct, the honourable junior member for St. James and myself sign it and let the matter drop. I sit down by saying that no argument of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will convince me or any right-thinking person that under Rule 190, this Report is properly before the House, although the wording of the Report is absolutely correct. The honourable

member might say that this is a small matter, but what we are contending is that the Report is not properly before the House. It is a matter for Your Honour to rule. I repeat that the honourable junior member for St. James and myself will sign the Report; it would not be properly before the House as the Minority Report if we did not sign it.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the intention of the honourable junior member for St. James and the honourable senior member for the City, to sign what will eventually become the Minority Report?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Your Honour having worded it in that way—what eventually will become the Minority Report—I am going to sign it.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I hope you will allow me the right of reply to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. I did not dispute the correctness of the Report but the question is the circulation of the Report before it is laid on the Table of the House. As I read Rule 190, that should not have been done, and I would like your ruling in the matter. My entire reason for rising this afternoon was because it seems to me incorrect to have a Report circulated before it is laid on the Table of the House. That is the whole point. Now, Sir, to reply to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, he said that every detail was taken down by the Deputy Clerk. I agree with that, but I am not in the habit of putting my name to anything that I have not read.

Mr. ADAMS. On a point of order. The honourable member has no right saying that. I have never been so foolish or so intoxicated as to do what the honourable member has just accused me of doing.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am not in the habit of leaving everything to the Deputy Clerk. The last conversation which I had with the honourable senior member for the City in connection with this Report and which was confirmed by the Deputy Clerk, was on the telephone, and since that day I have not seen the Report until I received my copy by post yesterday. I want you to rule Mr. Speaker, whether a Report should be circulated before it is laid on the Table of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for St. James has asked me to rule whether the circulation of a Report of a Select Committee before it is laid on the Table is correct or not. I shall not attempt to answer that question directly. What I shall say is this: as far as Rule 190 is concerned, there is no mention about the time when a Report must be circulated; that Rule deals with the presentation of the Report by the Chairman of the Committee and the laying of it on the Table of the House. The honourable senior member for the City was in some doubt as to what would have become of the Minority Report if he were indisposed today, because there was no Minority Report until it was signed. In the circumstances, I would have withheld the presentation of the whole Report because I know what purported to be the Minority Report was not signed; I knew what my position was. To come back to the question of the correctness or incorrectness of circulating the Report, if a suggestion is made to the Speaker in the interest of having a matter which has been before us for a long time expedited, can he not grant permission to have the Report circulated? It is not a question of the correctness or incorrectness of circulating the Report; it is a question of circumstances. I hope that all doubt will be erased from the mind of the honourable senior member for the City; I certainly would have withheld the entire Report when the honourable member's signature had not been affixed to the Minority Report. I hope that that is an end of the matter.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—I am asking that the Memorandum which I submitted to the Select Committee be also included in the Report in the form of a Minority Report. I am appending another paragraph expressing my agreement with the final paragraph in the other Minority Report in connection with the right of review and repeal.

The Minority Reports were signed and directed to be put in.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, for Mr. Cox, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill to amend the Trade Act, 1910, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill to make provision for the division of the Parishes and the City of Bridgetown into Registration Districts for the purposes of the preparation and revision in relation to each such parish and the City of Bridgetown of registers of all persons entitled to be registered as voters at an election of a member of the General Assembly for such parish and the City of Bridgetown, for purposes connected therewith and incidental thereto, was read a first time.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed to call the Orders of the Day, in connection with the amendments passed by the Honourable Legislative Council in respect of the Bill intituled an Act to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Natural Gas Corporation, for the functions and duties of the Corporation, for the acquisition by or transfer to it of undertakings, rights and property and to make compensation therefore and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, I want to make particular reference to the amendment to Sub-clause (5) of Clause 18. That Sub-clause as amended by the Legislative Council reads as follows:—

"Compensation payable under this section shall, in default of determination by agreement, be determined by arbitration and the amounts fixed by agreement or arbitration shall carry interest at the rate of four per cent per annum from the appointed day."

In this connection I must point out to the House that I consider that a breach of privilege has been committed. However it has been communicated to me by the honourable Leader of the House that the House is prepared to waive such privilege on this occasion, and I shall therefore ask the Clerk to note that this House is prepared to waive the privilege to which I have referred in connection with this Bill.

NOTICE

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I regret to have to ask the House to grant me leave to give notice of a Bill to suspend the present provisions of the Representation of the People Act until a new registration list is made.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to suspend the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1901, requiring a Register of Voters to be prepared in the year 1951 and for purposes incidental thereto. To explain the

purpose of this Bill briefly, the present Representation of the People Act has removed the qualifications required hitherto, but it is not yet in operation. If, regrettably, a by-election were to take place between now and the preparation of the new Voters' List under the Act, there would not be any list and it would be necessary to have a list so that the by-election could take place. This Bill is a necessary complement to the one of which I gave notice earlier in the day; there will not be any new list for the year 1951. In the case of a by-election, the list for 1950 will be used. Having said that, I am asking leave to move that this Bill be now read a first time.

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

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the Bill intituled an Act to suspend the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1901, requiring a Register of Voters to be prepared in the year 1951 and for purposes incidental thereto be now read a first time. If I may read the "Objects and Reasons", it is therein set out;

"This is companion legislation to the Special Registration of Voters (General Assembly) Act, 1950, and suspends for the year 1951 the registration of voters in the manner provided by the Representation of the People Act, 1901 but retains the 1950 register of voters in case there is an election before the new register of voters prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Special Representation of Voters (General Assembly) Act, 1950, becomes effective."

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the consideration of the amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill intituled an Act to provide for the Establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Natural Gas Corporation for the functions and duties of the Corporation, for the acquisition by or transfer to it of undertakings, rights and property and to make compensation therefor and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I think it is not mere rhetoric if I say I regret that I have the unpleasant duty of saying some of the things which I am bound to say in a few minutes. In moving the consideration of the amendments of the Other Place to the Bill relating to the establishment of a Natural Gas Corporation, it will be necessary for me, if Your Honour grants me the necessary latitude, to refer in general terms to the principle which operated in the mind of the Government in sending down this Bill to the Assembly, what operated in the mind of the Assembly in passing it and what has apparently operated in the mind of the Other Place in mutilating it. I am aware of the fact that, circumscribed as we are by Rule 124 of the Rules of this House, we have to ask for Your Honour's indulgence which inevitably must be given. Rule 124 says:

"No member may allude to any debate of the other Legislative Chamber."

When amendments come from the Other Place and they are not completely acceptable, it is impossible not to refer, however indirectly, to the nature of the debate in the Other Place. It is perfectly true that

we would be out of order if we picked out specific speeches and replied to them on the floor of this House. I mention that because I do not want by my speech to make the Other Place think that we forget that we have Rules; we must abide by those Rules if there is to be the proper conduct of affairs between the two House of the Legislature.

Let me remind hon. members that this Government was elected on a clear and definite promise of the nationalisation of certain public utilities. Mr. Speaker, it is remarkable—it is noteworthy at any rate—that in the case of public utilities two Labour groups were elected to this House four years ago on the promise that they would nationalise public utilities; that they would put under public ownership certain public utilities in this colony. But although both Labour groups had put the matter of the nationalisation of certain public utilities in the forefront of their programmes, nevertheless it was left to an Independent, a former member of St. Andrew, Mr. Josh Haynes, to move the passing of an Address to the then Governor asking that the Electric Company be nationalised. A motion was made as far as I remember by the hon. junior member for the City to amend the Address by including all public utilities. My recollection is that practically the entire House acquiesced not merely in the principle of nationalisation of the Electric Company, but in the amendment which one would think was an Address asking the Government of that day to proceed with the nationalisation of all public utilities in this island, it being insisted that what were in mind primarily were the Electric Company, the Gas Company, the Telephone Company and Transport. I repeat; it is noteworthy that although two Labour groups had promised the nationalisation of certain public utilities, it was an Independent, who perhaps might rightly have been thought a Conservative, who had moved the passing of an Address for the nationalisation of the Electric Company, and who had succeeded in getting, as was inevitable, the majority of the House to come along with him. It is with that background that we have to consider all subsequent acts of members of this House in respect of nationalisation.

Before the last election the question of the nationalisation of minerals in this colony became a pressing matter because, as honourable members are aware, the Secretary of State for the Colonies deemed it necessary twelve years ago, with a War just around the corner, that all British territories should vest the mineral rights in the Crown, especially, of course, the petroleum rights with a view largely to keeping in British hands such petroleum as might be discovered in the British Empire. Fortunately there were a majority of members who were of a social way of thinking and, in any event, they were anxious to see that the minerals were vested in the Crown. Two Elections have taken place in which Labour had more adherents and returned more members to the House than other Parties returned. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to conceive that persons with any regard for reputation, for realistic approach to the problems which confront this community, could deliberately, not by accident, set out to destroy the principle of a Bill which is merely carrying into effect what they themselves have passed into legislation. Some bright sparks who serve on newspapers and who never seem to learn in spite of constant correction are constantly writing that this House, by the establishment of this Natural Gas Corporation is nationalising gas; we are doing nothing of the sort. By passing the Petroleum Bill, that put the ownership of natural gas in this colony in the Government of the colony; the wells previously owned by the British Union Oil Company

became our property and the Company was entitled to compensation. The Petroleum Bill passed the ownership of natural gas to the Government; the matter is simple and I hope that nobody will ever again repeat the mistake in the Press that we are endeavouring, by this particular Bill, to nationalise natural gas; we are endeavouring to do nothing of the sort. Natural gas was nationalised when we passed the Petroleum Act. Natural gas is another form of petroleum; the length of its existence in a well is problematical, its existence anywhere is problematical. Companies have sunk millions of dollars—tens of millions of dollars in some cases—seeking for oil and finding none. All that is known to the Government and it is known to every school boy; this Government has therefore been perfectly willing, and it has always been perfectly willing, to come to terms with the British Union Oil Company and grant them a licence to continue to exploit their wells. On the other hand, this Government is willing to give them proper compensation for the wells. Let me remind the House of the position of the British Union Oil Company before natural gas was nationalised in April this year. The British Union Oil Company had leases over 78% of land in this island, but not contiguous; they had the Turner's Hall area, they had leases here, there and everywhere. The 78% of land was scattered all over the island; it was therefore always possible for someone else to come in and if he struck gas he was lucky.

There are people who are always inclined to throw bricks at this Government; it is thrown at the Government that it is gambling with the taxpayers' money. I want to make this point; if it is true that the Government is gambling, that anybody can come along and sink a well and draw off gas, it is equally true about the British Union Oil Company. The Government has always been prepared to be reasonable with the British Union Oil Company; it has always been prepared to go to whatever extent it could go to put them back in the position in which they were before. I do not intend to say anything further than what has been said before and what has been said in the Other Place by the Acting Colonial Secretary as regards the negotiations which have taken place. I will say this; nothing which the *Advocate* newspaper says about this Government surprises me, but occasionally one is surprised to think that the intelligence of the public is so low that they cannot see anything which is untrue. It is a fact that negotiations took place in which the British Union Oil Company laid down almost impossible things which I have already mentioned in this House; they laid down conditions under which they demanded absolute protection and they added what could be described as a monopoly to sell gas in this island. Every single member of this House realised that there was an impossible situation: the negotiations broke down and the Government has not done anything wrong. Let me remind the House that the Government has never said; "We will not go on with the British Union Oil Company;" the Company turned their backs on a licence to exploit petroleum when they unceremoniously walked out of the room and left the representatives of the Gulf Oil Corporation.

The Other Place has passed an Address to the Governor asking that before this Bill is proclaimed law, negotiations be continued with the British Union Oil Company. I do not think that I am disclosing any secret when I say that the attitude of the Government has never been other than that it has always been willing to continue negotiations; but if the Company says: "We are not going to accept any licence unless you grant us a monopoly," they are asking for

an impossible thing. I repeat that as far as the willingness of the Government even today to continue negotiations with the British Union Oil Company is concerned, the position is the same as it always was. Let there be no misunderstanding that the obstinacy or ignorance or stupidity of the Government has caused the negotiations to break down; at any time that the British Union Oil Company is willing to say: "Let us see if we can get together in this matter before this Bill becomes the actual law," the Government is willing to do so. Whatever the views of the junior members of the Government might be as to the desirability or even the inevitability of nationalisation, this Government is prepared to continue negotiations with the British Union Oil Company. If negotiations have broken down, the Government is prepared to take over these wells and run them; but there being no Oil Department as there is a Waterworks Department, the Government feels that the best way to deal with this matter is not to set up an entirely new Oil Department but to establish a Corporation, which has been done in other parts of the world, and let it run these wells. That is the position; this Bill has been brought down for the establishment of a Corporation in place of an ordinary Department which does not exist, and which this Government feels should not be set up at present. If natural gas can be used as fuel by the people and it can be sold cheaply, then obviously it is the duty of the Government to give every householder natural gas; if we can produce light in labourers' houses and it is cheaper than kerosene oil lamps, it is our duty to do so. That is our attitude. If natural gas is going to cost you comparatively nothing to produce, once you own your well and you see that the pressure in your pipe is what is required, obviously that is much better than importing wood or kerosene oil from Trinidad. It is of the utmost importance that the policy of the Government should be not merely to see that cheap fuel is provided for the people, but for as many people as possible.

As honourable members will see from the amendments to this Bill, Clause 15 has been deleted; that Clause is of the utmost importance to the principle of the Bill. I am asking this House to accept the amendment on the clear understanding that we are accepting it because there is a pistol being held at our heads, and for no other reason; but there is a way of dealing with people who use pistols, a way which I propose to advise in the necessary quarters should be used. Clause 15 as passed by this House provided that:

"The Governor-in-Executive Committee may give to the Corporation such directions of a general character as appear to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to be requisite in the interests of the Island, and in particular directions as to—

- (a) the expansion of existing natural gas under takings;
- (b) the establishment and working of new natural gas undertakings;
- (c) the rendering of services and the supply of natural gas to any government department school or public body;
- (d) the creation and application of a general reserve notwithstanding that the directions may be of a specific character; and the Corporation shall give effect to such directions."

That Clause has been completely deleted by the Other Place. I am mindful of the fact that the calmer you can put your argument, the more effective it is likely to be, and I am mindful of the Rule which we have,—and, thank God, we have it,—about not

referring to the Other Place in offensive terms; but there is no such Rule in the Other Place and extremely offensive language has been used by members of the Other Place in reference to this House. I say quite openly and plainly, that however this House takes its affairs is a matter for this House; whether we go to a Select Committee in connection with any Bill or not, it is a matter for the people who have sent us here. My friends agree that it is only reasonable that we should get cheap fuel placed in Crab Hill and the remotest parts of St. George rather than confine it to the City of Bridgetown. It is the duty of a Government to supply water cheaply to every village if it can do so; and if it can supply fuel cheaply, it is the Government's duty to do so. In short, Mr. Speaker, every one of us will agree that if we can produce fuel cheaply and make it as freely obtainable in this Island as we can, it is our duty to do so; but the Other Place has seen fit to cut out that provision. There is the feeling on the part of some people that the Government should not interfere in this matter; but the Government has taken over these gas wells in the interest of the people of Barbados. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that a pistol is being held at the head of the Government, and that is what makes me accept these amendments; but I say in the clearest possible voice and without the slightest sign of rhetoric or exaggeration, that at the earliest possible time the powers of the Other Place should be restricted so that what the Government sends down to this House originally can become law. That is no empty threat; I think I represent the views of the members of this Party, at any rate the views of the elected members of the Executive Committee, that this sort of thing is not to be repeated by the Other Place, and that the powers of the Other Place must be restricted as soon as possible. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has already gone on record as saying that he sees no reason why the powers of the Other Place should not be restricted, so that this House has the predominance in legislation; that promise, I have no doubt, will be redeemed at the earliest possible moment. The relationship between this House and the Other Place should be exactly the same as that which exists between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and I feel sure that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will accede to the wishes of this House. I am asking honourable members to accept these amendments with the feeling that it is far better to get this Bill on the Statute Book and then amend it when we are sure that the Other Place cannot interfere with it, than to throw them out and have no means of running these wells.

I cannot tell this House if further negotiations with the British Union Oil Company will be successful; I have already told the House that the Government is willing to continue negotiations with the Company. The present arrangement is over a short period; my recollection is that the last arrangement ran out about a week ago. Month by month has passed, negotiations have been going on and the Government can take over the running of these wells if the Company will not be renewing negotiations. Mr. Speaker, in asking this House to accept these amendments, I would be failing in my duty if I did not say what I have just said and if I do not draw to the attention of the House the amendment to Clause 17 which is even more destructive to the principle of the Bill than the Clause with which I have dealt. I am sure that honourable members on all sides of the House will agree with me that you cannot run a public utility as a private business: it is not like running a sugar factory or selling nails and bolts or selling salt fish, because there must be occasions in the run-

ning of a public utility when you must subsidize because people in a particular district may not be able to pay an economic rate. If electricity were installed in every village in this island and people were burning one light in their houses, if the rate for lighting were reduced they would put in another light. If the honourable junior member for St James were in my place and did not say what I am saying, I would wonder what he is doing. It is the merest commonsense that we should have cheap natural gas, cheap electricity and cheap water. We do not want to make it utterly impossible for natural gas to be sold in this island except in the way in which some people sell salt fish — buy cheap and sell dear; we are asked to swallow this amendment and, unfortunately, we have to swallow it.

Clause 17 now becomes 16. Originally the Corporation in fixing the rates and scales of charges for natural gas would take into account only their overhead charges and salaries and what profits they feel it is fair for them to make. This is what the Other Place has asked us to say; if we have to pay the British Union Oil Company half million or a million dollars, in fixing the rates and scales of charges for natural gas, we have to add that half million or million dollars which we pay to the Company, to the overhead expenses. In that case the gas will cost more; it will cost about three times as much as it would cost otherwise. The Other Place has, in effect, told this Government: "You can nationalise, you can talk about running things better than somebody else; we are going to show you that you are going to make the public pay more for gas." I have no intention, as long as I have health and strength, and a good pair of lungs, to keep quiet about this matter whether I am Leader of the Government or not. I want to point out that the question of cheapening the cost of living to the public has been completely taken out of our hands by these amendments made by the Other Place. I ask the House to accept these amendments since we have no real choice; I see the choice, but it is drastic. I am not yet making public what the alternative is, but it is a very drastic alternative. With these amendments, the Other Place have completely destroyed the principle of the Bill. To sell gas cheaply would necessitate permission being granted to extend the present pipeline; we cannot now, as this House passed the Clause, tell the Corporation to extend the pipe line to St. Joseph or St. Andrew which is in need of gas. We cannot now do that because that provision has been cut out of the Bill by the deletion of Clause 15. As I have already said, a pistol is at our heads, but if we yield, it is not our will that yields; we yield out of sheer necessity. I give the solemn warning that nothing will stop this Government or the supporters of this Government, from taking this matter to its bitter end. Whatever the consequences to the constitution of this colony may be, it is necessary to curtail the powers of the Other Place to the same extent as that to which the powers of the House of Lords are curtailed. We shall ask that that be done and it should be possible for certain honourable members in the Other Place to feel that with their dignity they can not remain there; we will not hesitate to make that recommendation. If the only way in which the Government will be running smoothly is by the abolition of the Other Place, then we shall not hesitate to make that recommendation; however, we do hope that it will not be necessary to go beyond the first stage. This is no smiling matter; the Legislative Council of New Zealand has just been abolished. It has been abolished, it is true, for different reasons from what I have given; it has been abolished by

the Electors' Association because it was too Socialist; but, at any rate, it has been abolished. It is therefore likely that our two Chambers might one day change and become one.

There is also the matter to which Your Honour has drawn attention. I am going to be charitable and say that it never occurred to the Other Place that they were committing a breach of privilege by the amendment to Sub-clause (5) of Clause 18 now Clause 17. In short, it is ignorance on their part; it simply did not occur to them that by making provision for the payment of interest where we did not make that provision, they would be creating a charge on the Treasury, and therefore they had no right to do that. There seems to be the feeling that the Upper House have acquired powers in dealing with matters of finance, and the puerile suggestion has been made that if those powers have been granted to the Other Place, they will never see a breach of privilege because they would have the right to amend money Bills. I can only say that a breach of privilege has been committed on a previous occasion and through the Speaker the House intimated that it would waive the privilege; by that very fact it goes on record that a charge has been created on the Treasury by the Other Place. On this particular occasion it is expedient that we do not insist on the amendment being struck out, because, obviously the whole Bill will be lost. Mr. Speaker, whether intentionally or otherwise, the Other Place have made this amendment; and we will either fail to run these natural gas wells or accept the amendments to this Bill. As far as the Government and the Labour Party are concerned, there is no compromise in respect of this question; it is a waste of time even to think of approaching any member of this Government with a view to reaching any sort of conciliation in this matter of our relationship with the Other Place.

The only other amendment to which I would like to draw the attention of the House, is the amendment to Clause 10. It is felt that just as the Waterworks Department sells equipment cheaper than you can get it in the stores, the Natural Gas Corporation should have appliances on sale. The Clause as passed by this House provided that the charges made by the Corporation in respect of the sale or letting on hire of natural gas fittings shall be fixed at such rates that the revenue derived by the Corporation shall not be less than the expenditure incurred in such sale and letting on hire including the cost of providing the fittings. The Other Place have even amended that and said that the revenue derived by the Corporation from the sale and letting on hire of natural gas fittings shall be such as to ensure a reasonable profit on the expenditure incurred including the cost of providing the fittings. Mr. Speaker, I say for the last time that a Government cannot run the administration of a country in the same way as big commercial interests run their concerns. If the Government is looking at a concern from a profit motive it will never run anything. As long as there is a Barbados, there will be found some people who feel that nothing should be done except there is money in it; but more and more there will be found those who feel that there are certain things which cannot be considered in terms of money, and that on some occasions you may have to let the pennies or even the pounds go in order that people may have the benefits of civilised existence. There are other amendments which are, perhaps, in themselves not very important, and I shall pass them by because, by the side of those amendments to which I have referred, even taken in the aggregate, they do

not add anything to the strength of what I have said, and they certainly do not diminish the case against their advocates. Mr. Speaker, I now beg to move that the amendments of the Other Place be now read a first time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,—I have listened to the honourable Leader of the House, but this is such a serious action taken by the Other Place, that I am wondering if the members of this House are well advised to accept these amendments without some remarks being made at least by the backbenchers. This action by the Other Place is like that of a desperate man who knows that his days are numbered, they are holding a pistol at the head of the Government which is carrying a big burden. In the amendment to Sub-clause (5) of Clause 18, now Clause 17 dealing with the payment of compensation, the members of the Other Place are telling us—and I am not so sure that they were ignorant of the fact that they were committing a breach of privilege—that we must close our eyes to the fact that they have committed a breach of privilege, and accept their actions in this matter. To say, Sir, that this is a serious and far-reaching decision at which we must arrive at this time, is to put it very mildly indeed: it is a decision which affects not only the present generation, but future generations in this colony because constitutional battles between people of different political views do not last for one generation; they spread into many generations. I regret very much that we have to say: "We will shut our eyes to the fact that you have committed this breach of privilege; we will pass these amendments which you have sent to us." We have to make it clear that this House considers it incumbent on responsible persons not to stop at any half-way measures in so far as the powers of the Other Place are concerned; not to compromise in this matter of the relationship between this House and the Other Place and allow the Other Place to meddle with financial matters and completely destroy the very principle of important Bills and vital measures which we have passed. What we have asked for in plain terms, namely, that the will of this House in such matters and especially in matters of finance should prevail, is to be carried out in the very near future, but I think it is very important that we stress that; it is for that reason that I have raised the question at this point. It is no mere coincidence that after the Other Place passed these amendments to this Bill, the long-awaited Report of the Select Committee of the Other Place, which considered an Address passed by this House was presented. They had it well timed and they saw to it that they first destroyed the action taken by this House to carry out its promise to the people in respect of nationalisation. It is necessary that we pronounce strongly in connection with this matter. It is no more than a challenge to our keeping our pledge to the people of this colony and a challenge to our self-respect as representatives of the people.

By the amendments to Clauses 15, 16 and 18 of this Bill the Other Place have ripped the very guts out of the Bill. There is no doubt about that, and, Mr. Speaker, I repeat it is a matter for regret that we have to accept the amendments at a time like this. However, I do not think that the occasion calls for any long speech because the hon. Leader of the House has made the position clear. I should like to stress that this House should have the final say in financial matters; because as I see it, the fundamental issue is the amendment to Clause 18, now Clause 17, in respect of which the Other Place have interfered with the financial provision in this Bill. Mr. Speaker, at this stage,

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

Mr. LEWIS seconded the motion which was agreed to, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay the Replies to Question No. 9, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Michael, relative to the delay in the setting up of a Rent Restriction Board.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the honourable junior member for St. Thomas was speaking on the motion that the amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill relating to the establishment of a Natural Gas Corporation be now read a first time.

Mr. MAPP: When the House was adjourned, I was commenting on the manner in which the Other Place held a weapon which is even bigger than a pistol, at the head of this House in trying to defeat the efforts of the Government in carrying out its promise to the people in respect of nationalisation. It will be remembered that prior to the passing of these amendments the Other Place passed an Address to the Governor asking the Government to re-open negotiations with the British Union Oil Company rather than have to pay what it considered to be a vast sum of money from the Public Treasury for taking over the machinery and the other works from the Company. Apparently the Other Place was not content with asking the Government to negotiate further with this Company but it had in mind either to force the Government to negotiate with the Company or to pay out an even greater sum than the Company itself had foretold that the Government would be obliged to pay. I do not think that the Other Place was ignorant of the fact that it was committing a breach of privilege when it amended Sub-clause (5) of Clause 18 of the Bill. That Sub-clause says, "Compensation payable under this section shall, in default of determination by agreement, be determined by arbitration." And the Other place added the following words: "and the amounts fixed by agreement or arbitration shall carry interest at the rate of four per cent per annum from the appointed day." That is a deliberate act of sabotage or trying to blow the Government to bits either now or at the General Elections. Before the Other Place passed this Clause, it said: "You are spending a vast sum of money to buy the natural gas plant of the British Union Oil Company, why didn't you negotiate with them"? After saying that it is better to negotiate with the Company than have to pay this vast sum of money, the Other Place passed this amendment so that the Government will have to find an even greater sum, having regard to the interest, to pay to this Company. This is a serious matter; it is a matter of which I hope the Secretary of State for the Colonies will take very serious note when this Bill goes before him. This is something which could not happen in Great Britain today and it is happening in a place where the financial resources are very limited. This is really telling the people of this colony that they elect a Government which has made certain promises to them and when the Government attempts to carry out those

promises those who do not represent the people can still make it very difficult for the Government and they will destroy any legislation which the Government might attempt to carry out. That is in effect what the Other Place is saying. I repeat that the Other Place is not ignorant of the fact that the amendment to this Sub-clause is a breach of privilege; it was a deliberate act on the part of the Other Place. No one could tell me that the members of the Other Place who are acquainted with the ancient history of the relationship between the two Houses of the Legislature and with the constitutional usage down through the centuries, did not know that in making this amendment they were putting a further burden on the Treasury and a further charge on the resources of the Government. They did it deliberately at a time when they were considering the passing of an Address to the Governor dealing with their powers; it was either their "Swan Song" or an attempt to commit one last desperate act. They were either putting challenge to this House or creating a precedent which they may quote when the powers of this House are being considered. If we do not pass these amendments or if we also make amendments to this Bill, it is very obvious that the Other Place will refuse to accept those amendments; and there will be a deadlock—that the colony might well be faced with a more serious situation with regard to the supply of natural gas than that with which it is faced at present. The position is that the Government might be forced to accept the terms laid down by the British Union Oil Company, terms with which we in this House have indicated whether openly or *sotto voce* that we are not in agreement. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that those who are carrying on the administration of this island will see that we require a near revolution in our ideas of constitutional government if this colony is to make any progress politically or otherwise. The people who have the real economic power will always use the constitutional means that exist at present to carry out that power, but we will have to change such constitutional methods in order to bring about further changes. If the British Government and the Representative of His Majesty the King in this colony really desire to have improvements they must give heed to these warnings and see that constitutional changes are brought about with as little friction as possible. It is the opinion of this House that we cannot stand any longer for such insults by the Other Place to the will and the opinion of those who represent the people of this colony.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—When this Bill was first before this House, I occupied the position which you now occupy and I did not have the opportunity of commenting on it, but I remember it was made distinctly clear on the occasion of the second reading of the Bill that the passing of such a Bill became an absolute necessity. The Government was in such a position that it either had to pass this Bill or bow to the dictates of some private company and do things which a Government should not do. This Bill had the unanimous approval of this House and I took it that the object of the Bill was to carry on the distribution of natural gas where the British Union Oil Company had left off, and Clause 15 of the Bill made provision for the expansion, so to speak, of the activities of the Corporation in respect of the distribution of natural gas to private consumers. It would seem that the Other Place has seen fit to curtail the activities of the Corporation, and in my opinion, that is very serious amendment to make to a Bill of this nature—a Bill which has been sponsored by a Labour Government. As is well known, apart from the Government Institutions which use natural gas, the use of this gas is only the privilege of the upper and

middle class people who come within the range of the pipe of the Barbados Gas Company; so that to curtail the activities of a Labour Government to distribute natural gas to people is a serious amendment to make to this Bill. After all, this Bill seeks to set up a Corporation and it might be in the interest of the Corporation to extend the supply of gas and show at least that it can be a going concern which can meet its expenses. I am sorry that with these amendments coming back here, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph did not carry out his promise to this House and let us have extracts of the correspondence from the British Union Oil Company to the Government so that we could see definitely for ourselves the method which the Company thought it necessary to adopt in this matter. It would seem that this Company was not so willing to negotiate with the Labour Government, but it has given the Other Place the impression that it is willing even now to negotiate with the Government. That is an aspect of the matter about which I, as a representative of the people, feel very strongly. One of the main reasons for the action of the Other Place towards this Bill is that its passing would cost the taxpayers of this colony a great deal of money; the compensation suggested by the Other Place to be paid to The British Union Oil Co. for the gas wells is a considerable sum of money, and in spite of that it has seen fit to add what looks to me like further expenditure by way of interest on any compensation which might be given by agreement or arbitration. If the Other Place is interested in the taxpayers in respect of this vast sum of money which will be involved by way of compensation, it strikes me as being peculiar that the Other Place should add a further item of expenditure by way of interest. It seems to me that there may be people who would like to see this Government pay out an extremely large sum of money to the British Union Oil Company in compensation and in respect of the interest to be paid on it, they would like the Government to borrow money from them and pay this interest at 4%. It strikes me that there are people with so much money that they would be willing to lend it to the Government at 4% interest because they do not get so much interest at the Banks. If the Other Place says that it has the interest of the taxpayers at heart, I find it strange that the Other Place has put in an amendment which will cause further expense to the Corporation.

If these amendments are distasteful to this House, this House has itself to blame for that. On many occasions I have warned honourable members that if they do not agree with amendments by the Other Place—and the Other Place is seeking very good opportunities of causing us to accept distasteful amendments—it is time that the challenge should be met. It is very difficult for me to recommend that that course be adopted in this instance because I know the usefulness of this fuel to Government Institutions and to private consumers. That being so, it would be dangerous for me to suggest that such a course be taken, but perhaps it would have been better on some previous occasion for us to have taken a stand against distasteful amendments and we would not have had these amendments. I do not know what are the full implications of the deletion of Clauses 26 to 28, but it seems to me that a great deal has been cut out of this Bill, and if the honourable senior member for St. Joseph is willing to accept these amendments I hope that what is left of the Bill will serve a useful purpose until the time comes for making the Bill what the Government feels it should be.

Mr. MILLER: I am very concerned about this Bill and I am very worried indeed about the amend-

ments made by the Other Place. It is alarming to sit here and find that honourable members are going to agree with these amendments. With regard to the deletion of Clause 15, that ties the hand of the Government in the expansion of natural gas undertakings which is really taking everything out of the life of the Bill; it is rendering the Corporation unable to function properly and making nationalisation difficult. I am satisfied that it is ruthless and wicked for the Government to be forced at the point of a gun to accept amendments like these. Of course, one must understand that there is some motive in the elimination of Clause 15, but it is very unfortunate that today the Bowmanston Pumping Station should be utilising oil which has to be imported when the machinery could be run by natural gas, and in respect of this oil a premium is carried on B.W.I. dollars. This gas should find its way into the hands of the Government by nationalisation and I say that the Government is placed in a precarious position by the deletion of Clause 15 of this Bill. We could save on the importation of Venezuelan oil; members of the Other Place who happen to be commercially minded would not expect any Corporation to operate with the restriction imposed by the deletion of this Clause. I am alarmed at the Other Place asking the Government to have a Corporation operating without any means of expansion. That is like sitting on a volcano which is likely to go off at any time. The British Union Oil Company takes no special regard of any gas well and gas is never exploited as an investment to any Oil Company; but in this island we have a gas well which has been exploited. Assuming that this gas well will fetch a million dollars, are you going to ask the Corporation to pay that amount for the well and another \$50,000 for the pipe line and to pay interest at 4% when less than that amount can be borrowed in the loan market at 3% or 3½%? Today the sum of \$40,000 can be borrowed at 3% or 3½% but the Government is being asked to pay interest at 4% on something like one million dollars. That is cruel and it is pressing the Government against a wall, which will bring about some repercussions when the time comes. The position is a rather awkward one; I do not know for the life of me how the Government expects to handle this concern as a Corporation sponsored by the Government. I am hoping that some way out will be found by the Government.

At this stage Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—On the question of compensation, I should like to say that if the Government is expected to pay this fabulous sum for this gas well and then pay the operating costs of the Corporation plus another amount for the pipeline—if we have to pay for imported oil when we could use natural gas, there is something vicious and sinister about the matter and it is alarming to think that the Government can find itself held at the point of a gun. This Government is going to have the reflection that it is forced to ask people to pay more for natural gas. We are asked to pay this compensation for this well and the British Union Oil Company could not operate it over a period of 40 years and get profits and here we are at the point of a gun. I do not know if this is too late but I would suggest this well be paid for over a period of 20 years in accordance with the amount of gas taken from the well. I will be worried over this matter for a long time because I cannot imagine that we should have to buy oil when we have natural gas which can be used. I should like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to explain if it is possible to arrange that

this compensation be paid over a period of years rather than the Government having to pay it at once.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not see any amendment by which the honourable member can ask that question.

Mr. DOWDING: I would like to mention the fact that I received my copy of this Bill with these amendments which are of great importance only yesterday afternoon. In the course of his speech the honourable senior member for St. Joseph used the word "railroading": I do not intend to continue in silence lest it be taken that my silence means tacit agreement with honourable members on that side of the House or with those of my Party on this side of the House. As we all know, the Bill before us deals with natural gas; we have heard from many speakers about the promises which were made at election time about nationalisation. I want to state here and now—I hope to blow to bits any idea which anybody might have that in the past I have agreed or will ever agree with this Bill or with any of these amendments. I want, once and for all, my views to be made clear on this matter. At a time when a world war hangs in an atomic cloud, this Government is sitting down and talking about gas: well, Sir, I think the time has come for us to believe that there are far more important things to be considered than electioneering promises which have been made, it is time that something be done. Let us get up and speak loudly. My reasons for disagreeing entirely with any Bill of this nature or with any amendments to it—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hate to interrupt the honourable member, but I would like to draw to his attention that the principle of this Bill is not now in dispute. This is a Bill which has already been passed by the House and the honourable member is really criticising the House for having accepted the principle of the Bill. If the honourable member can show me any amendment in respect of which he is arguing, he is at liberty to do so. I agree that quite a lot of latitude has been allowed honourable members, but I would again remind the honourable member that this Bill has already been passed by this House.

Mr. DOWDING: I shall try to respect your views on that point, but I do hope that in view of the fact that many honourable members have spoken on the lines on which I have begun to speak, you will allow me a certain amount of latitude in this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The speeches which have been made have been criticism of nationalisation, but the honourable member's attitude is that of criticising a Bill which has already been passed by the House.

Mr. DOWDING: I intend to criticise the amendments as they will eventually cause a charge to be made on the Treasury of this island for the purpose of installing gas in people's houses. I shall continue to argue that it is against the interest of the people of this island to spend money in that direction when other things are more greatly needed to be done. I must say that throughout the world today there is a great fear of atomic warfare; in my opinion, that fact should be taken into consideration and all the resources which this colony has at its disposal should be preserved. An honourable member asks *sotto voce* if the gas should be left to blow itself off; well it would be a good idea if the gas were left to blow itself off rather than food be taken out of the mouths of the people of this colony. In his speech the honourable senior member for St. Joseph argued that it would be wonderful to be able to replace the coalpots and the kerosene oil lamps in people's

houses by this natural gas; but I submit that it is more important for people to be emigrated and allow the coalpots and kerosene oil lamps to continue to burn, it is more important for people to be educated, and to continue to be healthy, it is more important to the people of this island to have a Deep Water Harbour and allow the coalpots and kerosene lamps to continue to burn; these things are more important than to have the coalpots and kerosene oil lamps replaced by natural gas. I would like to say that in the finest restaurants in England they use coalpots for cooking because food tastes better when it is cooked by coal than by natural gas. Water is needed in the villages, but now we must have gas in people's houses before we have water in the villages. All these electioneering promises may be wonderful, but I appeal to honourable members on that side of the House not to continue to think of electioneering promises but to get down to the facts which are facing us in this island today. Today the schools are overcrowded; when one wants an employee it is difficult to find one that can write a letter properly because the schools in this island are insufficient. If we pass the amendments to this Bill we will agree to put a further drain on the Treasury while many matters are left in abeyance. I hope I have been deliberate and have blown to bits any idea that my silence is agreement with the Party in power; this gas may be a myth, the oil is still a myth and we have spent and are spending thousands of dollars in legal expenses and otherwise in going into this matter when the money could have been spent in tackling the problems which we should tackle in this island. This Government cannot afford to continue to spend money in this way when it already has its stomach full of commitments which have not been carried out; it will die of indigestion as surely as I sit down.

Mr. REECE: I think the honourable member who has just taken his seat has raised a point which is worthy of consideration. Perhaps he expressed himself rather loudly, but as I gathered, he has suggested that perhaps the Government was not wise in launching out on this matter when there are so many things which demand its attention.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Both branches of the Legislature have already agreed to the setting up of this Corporation which the honourable member is apparently criticising.

Mr. REECE: I say that the honourable member has raised that point and I was going on to say that I did not intend to follow it up to its logical conclusion. As regards the amendments made by the Other Place, there can be no doubt that the amendment to Clause 18 Sub-clause (5) by the addition of the words: "and the amount fixed by agreement or arbitration shall carry interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum from the appointed day," indicates a definite charge on the Public Treasury of this island. I must say that I entirely agree with the remarks of some honourable members who have already spoken, that this amendment is a breach of the privilege of this House, and it destroys the Executive Committee Act. In that Act it is clearly stated that all aids and supplies to the Government are the sole gifts of the House; not even the members of the House can initiate a money Bill or Resolution, but only the Executive can do that. Whenever a Bill or Resolution is brought here, it is for the House to say whether it creates a charge on the Treasury or not. That is a very fundamental question and His Honour the Speaker has directed that it be recorded that this amendment amounts to a breach of privilege

of this House. As a member of this House I go further and say that this amendment destroys the Executive Committee Act. I am of the opinion that when it comes to questions of this sort, the House should always stand firm and act as one body; there should not be any division at all because it is essential that we act as one body in the protection of our rights and privileges under the Executive Committee Act.

Much criticism has been made of the proposed amendment to Clause 15 of the Bill; it has already been pointed out that under that Clause the Governor-in-Executive Committee was empowered to give to the Corporation such directions of a general character as may appear to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to be requisite in the interest of this island. The amendment here is the deletion of the Clause, so that the Governor-in-Executive Committee will not have the right to direct the Corporation to make new extensions to the existing natural gas system. That is a complete re-writing of the Clause but in considering the matter in that light we must look at Clause 9 Sub-clause (1) which has not been amended. This Sub-clause says:

"It shall be the duty of the Corporation, subject as hereinafter provided:—

- (a) to manage and work any natural gas undertaking acquired by the Corporation under this Act;
- (b) to establish, manage and work such natural gas undertakings as may be required in the public interest;
- (c) to advise the Governor-in-Executive Committee, if so required, on all matters relating to the searching for, winning, getting, storing, treating, use and distribution of natural gas."

I take it that the Corporation will still have the right to extend the existing natural gas system. Clause 15 gave the Executive Committee the right to direct the Corporation as to how the system should be extended, but that right has been taken away and there has been a curtailment of the right of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee cannot go to the Corporation and say "We have decided to extend gas in a particular direction"; the Corporation will go to the Executive Committee and say "We have decided to extend gas in a particular direction" and the Corporation will simply notify the Executive Committee as to their decision. This is a matter which concerns the Government; it is one to which I daresay the Leader of the House has given much thought before he decided to accept these amendments. In a matter of this sort there is much to be said for giving the Governor-in-Executive Committee the power to direct the work and the scope of the work; but do not let us get away with the idea that the right to direct the work has been taken away from the Governor-in-Executive Committee and that the Corporation itself cannot extend the existing natural gas system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is another Clause the amendment to which must give this House much thought and that is Clause 16. The amendment says:

"When fixing the rates and scales of charges for natural gas the Corporation shall take into account the cost to the Government or the Corporation of money paid by way of compensation, purchase or otherwise, for an existing or other well or wells, the machinery, pipeline, other necessary appliances and the general expenses for carrying on the

undertaking and shall submit such rates for the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

That amendment definitely tends to increase the cost of gas to the consumer and one must bear in mind that there is no time-limit to that Clause; there is nothing to show that within a certain number of years the expenses incurred by the Corporation must be recovered from the consumers. In other words, the proper carrying out of that Clause must result in an increased cost of gas to the consumer and no discretion is given to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to spread to the consumers the expenses to the Corporation over as long a period as the Governor-in-Executive Committee may think fit.

Other speakers have made little or no reference to the deletion of Clauses 26 to 28 inclusive, and those Clauses confer upon the Corporation the power of entry on lands for certain purposes. I do not see how it will be possible effectively to carry out this Act unless the servants of the Corporation have the right under certain conditions to enter upon lands for the purpose of seeing whether or not an operation should be carried out. If this Bill had been thrown out by the Other Place I could more appreciate that than the deletion of these Clauses because these are the working Clauses of the Bill. Under all the Public Health Acts inspectors must be given power to enter upon lands to make inspections, so that I do not see the real point in deleting these Clauses; they seem to be absolutely necessary for the proper working of the Bill. I am criticising the amendments but not launching out into the question of nationalisation as some honourable members have done; my views on that subject are too well known. I will not follow either the honourable senior member for St. Joseph or the honourable senior member for St. George into those errors and omissions, because, to my mind, the Bill has already been approved by the House; and as Your Honour has remarked, there was not even a division as regards the principle of the Bill.

The amendment which sets out that the amounts fixed by agreement or arbitration shall carry interest at the rate of four per cent per annum from the appointed day, is, to my mind, a matter which is really fundamental. As long as we have our constitutional set-up as it is, neither Place should infringe on the rights of the other. This amendment is, in my opinion, an infringement on the rights and privileges of the House because a charge has been created on the Treasury. This House is well within its rights to voice its feelings in this matter and let the Other Place understand that it intends to stick to its rights. As to whether the powers of the Other Place should supersede the powers of this House where money Bills are concerned, that is a matter for future development. I remember well that some years ago the honourable senior member for St. Joseph introduced a Bill which had for its object the bringing into force and operation the Parliament Act of 1911. On that occasion I expressed myself as being fully in favour of the proposed Bill, because as long as the Executive Committee Act remains on the Statute Book, as long as money Bills and Resolutions can only be initiated by the Executive Committee and as long as the power to create a charge on the Treasury remains in the House, I cannot see why a Resolution or Bill should not come into force if, in the case of the Resolution, it is read a first and second time and agreed to, and in the case of the Bill, it is read a first, second and third time and passed by the House. On the question of the limitations to be put on the powers of the Other Place in relation to the administration, that is one which can only be effective

by means of legislation initiated in this House or of course by the Imperial Parliament; when that time comes we will have to abide by the Constitution as it is then set up.

There is an amendment which deals with the cost of material and that is the amendment to Clause 10 (2). It reads:—

"All charges made by the Corporation for the sale or letting on hire of natural gas fittings shall be fixed at such rates that the revenue derived by the Corporation from such sale and such letting on hire shall be such as to ensure a reasonable profit on the expenditure incurred in or about such sale and letting on hire including the cost of providing or manufacturing such natural gas fittings."

To my mind, that amendment is very loosely worded. If it is meant that when the overhead expenses for the purposes mentioned in the amendment are met, the material supplied should not cost the taxpayers anything, I can well understand that; but if it is a question of paying rates above and beyond that, I can understand the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. George, that that will be another method of increasing the cost of gas to the consumer. In this colony where fuel is at a premium and we have to depend upon the importation of wood from British Guiana and of oil from Venezuela—we have no fuel here except megass which is used in the sugar industry—it is material that we should make the cost of natural gas as cheap as possible to the people of this colony. In so doing we will curtail the importation of fuel from other countries and at the same time benefit the people of this colony. The words "a reasonable profit" are used in this amendment, but what is a reasonable profit? One person might think that a very large percentage is a reasonable profit while another person might consider a small percentage as a reasonable profit; but the Executive Committee would take it that the price of the gas fittings should be such as would cover the actual cost of the purchasing importation and handling of the fittings. If that is the correct interpretation to be put to this amendment I do not think that anybody really has any grouse as to the wording.

There is another Clause with which I will deal before I sit down and that is Clause II. That Clause deals with the supply of natural gas to persons within areas covered by license or lease issued under the Petroleum Act, 1950, or by the Barbados Gas Company, and the proviso to Sub-clause I say this:—

"Provided that, where any licensee, lessee or the Company refuses or withholds such consent, the Corporation may appeal to the Governor-in-Executive Committee who may dispense with such consent if, in his opinion, it is unreasonably withheld or refused, and such consent shall be deemed to be unreasonably withheld or refused if the licensee, lessee or Company is able but unwilling to give the requisite supply upon reasonable terms and within a reasonable time, having regard to the terms upon which and the time within which the Corporation is able and willing to give such supply."

I myself consider that that wording is even better than the original wording. This power is given to the Executive Committee and I do not think that the Executive Committee is going to exercise it to the detriment of the consumer; on every occasion the Corporation will have to satisfy the Executive Committee that the terms are reasonable and the supply can be made within a reasonable time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have rambled all over the place, but that is a privilege which lawyers enjoy.

However, although I have rambled about I should not like the House to think that I have lost the theme with which I started.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should like to point out that privileges are extended to all Members as members of the House, and not as members of the legal profession.

Mr. REECE: I appreciate that, but I make more use of those privileges than other members of the House, having been called to the same Bar to which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has been called. I repeat that, in my opinion, these amendments constitute a breach of the privilege of this House. Under Clause 18 where interest at 4% is chargeable against the Public Treasury of this colony, there is really an amendment to the Executive Committee Act, and on a question of this sort, which really affects the House and not the Parties or individual members, and which really goes to the root of our constitutional set-up, we should speak as one Body. I am very glad indeed that His Honour the Speaker has directed the Clerk to make the note which he directed to be made and I am sure that every member of this House will support His Honour in that regard.

Mr. ALLDER: I am not at all surprised at the amendments which have been made to this Bill by the Other Place. In my opinion, they have run true to form. What does surprise me is our failure to stage a battle at some point or other, because no one could disagree that such methods as are being adopted make it impossible for the people of this colony to benefit from any legislation which is intended to benefit them. I cannot see any benefits to be derived from the present condition of the Bill as having been amended and sent back here. It is a fact that certain amendments prevent the extension of the service of natural gas so that it would have been made more economical to be run. I feel that at some time or other, we should attempt to see that this sort of thing ceases, even if we fail in the attempt; I do not agree that we should sit here supinely and accept everything which the Other Place does, because, eventually we will not get anywhere at all. We are being forced to break our promises to the public and no amount of oral expression can satisfy the feeling of the intelligent section of the public as regards our accepting such things as we are accepting now. I feel that this House should say definitely that we are not going to accept these amendments, and if there is going to be a struggle for our supremacy and privilege, that struggle should take place right now. I have noticed that occasionally the Other Place has seen fit to do something; an oral battle then takes place for a few weeks and after that everything goes dead. If the wishes of the people are to have their manifestation through the representatives of the people, nothing should prevent that from being done; nothing should prevent the people from enjoying their benefits. I am sure that very few people will admire the stand which has been taken up by this House today; it is a fact that if you approach matters in a bold way, even if you lose you must get more sympathy than if you accept them without putting up the fight which you should put up. I feel that things should not go on like this; I feel that the Leader of the Government should have some say in any nomination which is made in respect of the Other Place. It has happened in England that the Prime Minister has had to see that in the House of Lords there are members of a particular political conviction, so that any measure passed in the House of Commons would get a reason-

able measure of support. The members of the Other Place seem to feel that there is not sufficient determination on the part of this House to fight and that we merely threaten occasionally. I say that we should get what is ours and what belongs to the people without any hindrance. Everything which has been done in the past, and which has created controversy between this House and the Other Place, has given the impression that the Other Place deals with legislation in such a way as to prevent it from proving its benefit to the colony generally. We cannot go on like that; we should call a halt and see who is who and what is what. While these things are permitted to continue, the problems of this colony are getting greater and greater; more people are becoming dissatisfied not only with the problems, but with the people who are supposed to assist in removing those problems.

It seems as if this Bill will be implemented with these amendments, but I am afraid that the results are not going to be as great as we anticipated when we first discussed the Bill. Several points have been raised and it has been remarked that at present the Government has to depend upon the importation of expensive fuel to carry on an industry which is under Government control. I cannot express myself fully, but I feel very strongly in this matter; I believe in attempting to fight for a just cause even if I lose in the attempt. If you fight for a just cause and you get the sympathy not merely of the Barbadian public but that of the whole West Indian public, you will have got many sympathisers. At present everybody will say that we are falling back from our promises and putting the blame on other people. I do not feel that in this matter the members of the Other Place should be blamed at all; we should expect what we have got, but the question is whether we are strong enough to fight the Other Place on this issue and get what we should get. I would have felt much better if the Government had said that they do not intend to accept these amendments: that would mean putting off the taking over and running of this industry for some time, but when we did get that, we would be getting everything we deserved to get. At present, nobody knows how much we will get out of this industry or how much we will lose. No forces can be stronger than the Government; we say that natural gas is available and several institutions must continue being served. There is no question of closing down the institutions. We do not realise the power which has been given to us. There is no power which is stronger than the people; the will of the people as expressed by us is the only will to be expressed, and what are we if we cannot carry out our promises to the public? We are only adopting schoolboy methods. I have sat and listened to a lot of nonsense expressed from the other side of this House. One honourable member spoke in connection with bringing about emigration and allowing the coal-pots to continue to burn, but that is nothing to do with this matter: if we were allowed to take over industries and run them for the benefit of the people, more coal-pots would find their way into more people's homes. We cannot depend on emigration alone for solving our problems; we have to husband the resources which we have here and see that a fair distribution of the wealth is gone into before we can look overseas for assistance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member not to carry that point any further.

Mr. ALLDER: I am deeply disappointed over this matter; you have thousands of people expressing an opinion that something should be done and when you begin to do that thing, a few persons with per-

sonal interest can throw it to the wind and kill the moral fibre of the community. But the Barbadian public is self-controlled and an attempt is being made to keep the public in that state perpetually so that the population will become more pauperized and dependent upon a few charitable minds. Let us have the courage of our convictions and the convictions of the thousands of people who have given us the mandate to get a difficult situation removed. We cannot go on doing things under a weak-kneed policy; the weapons are in our hands and we have the world aback of us if our fight is according to what is right. I want my non-acceptance of these amendments to go on record.

Mr. ADAMS: I wish to assure the last honourable member who spoke that I sympathize with everything he has said. He has not had the bitter experience which I have had, for far more years than he, of seeing frustration of the efforts of this House when Bills which have been passed are mutilated by the Other Place. It is a courageous and manly thing to have a bitter fight and go down fighting for your principles than to surrender; but on the other hand who would be left if we all did that. There are occasions when there is an abandonment of principle, and I want the utmost publicity to be given to this matter. If I am approached personally with the slightest sign of conciliation in respect of what is a fundamental principle so far as this House is concerned, I shall not grant the courtesy of speaking over the telephone far more going into a room. The time has long passed when we should back down from our principles; there are many occasions when this House has been let down by the persons who have to see after the control of affairs in the Other Place. The honourable senior member for St. John may vote with the Government on this occasion as a matter of sheer, absolute necessity. As far as I can foresee, no matter how willing the Government is to continue negotiations with the B.U.O.C. if this Bill is not passed we will be left with two wells without anybody to run them. We will pay the B.U.O.C. for these wells and we can run them and make as much profit out of them as is available to us. We are in a hole and we thank the B.U.O.C. for coming out in their full colours.

I wish to reply to the honourable junior member for Christ Church; the honourable member made a good point in connection with the Executive Committee Act, but he forgot that the Other Place has absolutely no right to interfere with a money Bill. We have gone so far in our attitude towards this question that honourable members will remember Rule 272. A fight took place between the House of Commons and the House of Lords over a long period about the year 1678—there was one which took place in 1671—and a very famous Resolution was passed in the House of Commons. It reads as follows:

"All aids and supplies and aids to the King are the sole gift of the Commons; and all Bills for the granting of any such aids and supplies are to begin with the Commons; and it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, which may not be changed or altered by the Lords."

That was copied word for word by our House of Assembly; about the year 1680 a Resolution was passed by the House changing the word "King" to "Governor", the word "Commons" to the words "General Assembly" and the word "Lords" to "Council". It is as clear as daylight that for nearly three centuries, that has been the relationship between these two places. Then that Resolution became section 6 of the Executive Committee Act with certain words being omitted. It is only the Executive Committee who can initiate money Resolutions; it is true that

the Act says that you cannot prevent honourable members from moving amendments to money Resolutions provided that they do not add to the Resolutions, but the position is that the Other Place had absolutely no right to make that amendment relative to the payment of 4% interest. We know that a breach of privilege has been committed and we ignore it; but it is purely on the ground of expediency that we are doing so. If I, as Leader of the House, say that I accept that amendment, it does not mean that I accept it as coming from you; but on behalf of the Executive Committee I am willing for it to be passed into law. I repeat that it is with the sole object of preventing the destruction of this Bill that I am accepting this amendment. The proper approach to this matter is that the Executive Committee are now putting before the House that we approve of the payment of this 4% interest. As regards other amendments the Other Place had a perfect right to make them, but we are accepting these amendments purely for the reason that we want to get this Bill on the Statute Book because we may discover that two wells are gushing forth gas and there is nobody to look after it. At the earliest possible opportunity this Government will take the necessary steps to bring back this Bill shorn of all its mutilation before the Legislature. The question as to instructions from the Colonial Office to the Head of the Executive relating to Bills which have been passed twice in this House in successive sessions will be treated as a matter of the utmost urgency; when this House meets again after it has been prorogued, the public will be told of the new altered relationship between the two Houses of the Legislature. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. John will not feel that we are just putting off things and again saying that we are sorry to do it; this is the last straw as far as the Government is concerned, this is the last cup that has completely run over. It is only on account of sheer expediency that I am asking the House to accept these amendments which, as honourable members have rightly pointed out, are, in fact, destroying two important principles in the Bill which was passed by this House.

The question that these amendments be now read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: In view of the fact that one of the Resolutions in Committee of Supply for the next meeting of the House is in respect of the Parry and Coleridge School, the St. Leonard's Girls' and Chalky Mount Schools—some of the money is needed to pay outstanding accounts including wages due to people—I am asking honourable members to meet next Tuesday to deal at least with these money Resolutions. I know how difficult it is for honourable members to meet next Tuesday but I hope that they may restrain their righteous indignation and come here so that it can be possible to make the money available at Christmas for some of the people to whom it is due at any rate. I understand that some honourable members will be willing to meet here earlier than 3 o'clock and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, the 19th instant, at noon.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move as an amendment that the word "noon" be deleted in order to insert the figure and letters "3 p.m." I think the

honourable member's reason for moving the adjournment until noon next Tuesday is that the Other Place might deal with this particular Resolution; but I can assure the honourable member that honourable members will be compelled to make use of some caustic and severe criticism in respect of this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member suggesting that the debate on this Resolution is likely to be protracted and the House should meet later than twelve o'clock noon?

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is what I am suggesting. I think we should meet at the usual hour of 3 o'clock, p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH: I am going to move an amendment to the honourable member's motion. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next at noon. Most of us are businessmen and it will not suit us to meet next Tuesday, that day being so near to Christmas Day. This Resolution is going to be debated at length and I feel that it will be appropriate for us to meet on Thursday this week.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that. Inasmuch as the honourable Leader of the House has said that there are some wages and outstanding accounts to be paid from this Resolution, I appeal to honourable members to meet next Thursday and deal with it. I am sure that the people will need the money to spend during the holidays and I again appeal to honourable members to meet on Thursday so that the Other Place can consider and pass the Resolution next Tuesday.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable senior member for St. Joseph willing to accept any of these amendments?

Mr. ADAMS: All are agreeable to me.

Mr. REECE: I think that we should meet on Thursday this week. Next week is a busy week and the possibility is that if we come here at twelve o'clock noon we may be debating this Resolution until late in the afternoon and the workmen concerned will not get their wages at this time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A motion has been made that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 19th instant, at noon. An amendment has been made that the word "noon" be deleted in order to insert the figure and letters "3 p.m."; and a further amendment has been made that this House do now adjourn until Thursday of this week at noon. I shall put the amendments separately and just as they were made for the sake of clarity. The question is that this House do now adjourn until Thursday of this week at noon. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. SMITH, FOSTER, COX, ALLDER, MAPP, BRYAN, ADAMS, REECE, WARD and Dr. CUMMINS —10.

Noes: Messrs. MOTTLEY, GILL, GODDARD and WILKINSON —4.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, ten honourable members voting "Aye", and four honourable members voting "No". This House now stands adjourned.