

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 14th December, 1950.

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

Present.

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 G. H. ADAMS, B.A., M. E. COX, R. G. MAPP, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., O. T. ALLDER, F. L. WALCOTT, E. D. MOTTLEY, T. O. BRYAN, and F. E. MILLER.

Prayers were read.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ADAMS
ON HIS ELECTION TO THE
CARIBBEAN COMMISSION.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : Mr. Deputy Speaker,— Before you call the first Order of the Day, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincerest congratulations to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and Leader of the House on his election as one of the Commissioners of the Caribbean Commission at the Fourth Conference of the West Indian Section. I speak, Sir, with a certain measure of gratification and satisfaction in that the honourable Leader of this House and the honourable Mr. W. A. Bustamante, outstanding leaders of their respective Assemblies in their respective areas, should, at this stage of West Indian history — I believe it is a good prerequisite to the formation of any West Indian Federation — be elected as members of the British Section of the Caribbean Commission. These two leaders in this group have been so elected at the recent Conference by the British Section of the Commission and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved of their election. With all the other laurels which have been added to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I feel that also being a member of this Commission, he has an opportunity of making one of the greatest contributions to the structure of the Caribbean area. I am sure that all of us are aware that in its functions, the Caribbean Commission has to deal with the economic, social and industrial structure of these Colonies in the West Indies. I again offer my sincerest congratulations to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and I am gratified to know that the choice of these two West Indian leaders has been upheld by the other Sec-

tions. If I am in order, Sir, I beg to move that this House place on record its congratulations to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph on his election as a member of the British Section of the Caribbean Commission.

Mr. WILKINSON : Sir, I would like to add my congratulations to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph on his appointment as a member of this important Commission. The only thing that worries me is whether we are not asking the honourable member to do too much. I know something of the duties which the honourable member has to perform now and, really, there is a limit to what a human being can do. I only hope that we are not putting too much strain on the back of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. Believe me I would regret to see the honourable member break down under pressure of work. I beg to second the motion of the honourable senior member for St. Peter.

Mr. MOTTLEY : Before the motion is put, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks which have been made by previous speakers in connection with the election of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph on the Caribbean Commission. I would like to make this one point clear; it is not that members of the Opposition are lacking in their interest or appreciation of the position to which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has been elected, but honourable members will appreciate the fact that we were not notified of the matter officially. We saw it stated in the Press that the honourable Mr. Bustamante had been elected to this position and it appeared strange to us that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph had not also been elected; we saw on a subsequent occasion that the honourable member had been elected. Speaking for the Opposition I want to say that if we had obtained the information officially, the opportunity would not have been given to the honourable senior member for St. Peter to make the motion which he has made. Whatever might be said of the political parties, each side has its virtue and each side has its vices; and we can learn many things. I have much pleasure in supporting the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. James; I, too, realise in my own case that there is a limit to what a man can do. I once looked at the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and wondered how much sleep he gets with all of this official business. I want to say from the bottom of my heart, that one could hardly find a more suitable

person than the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to be elected to this high office and I only hope that during the time he is in office, he will continue to hold the scales evenly, bearing in mind that he is first a Barbadian, then a West Indian and anything else after that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to add my quota of congratulations to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph on the honour which has been conferred upon him by his colleagues in this area.

Mr. ADAMS: I have to thank you, Sir, and the three honourable members who have spoken and offered me their congratulations. It is one of the greatest consolations in public life to find that however strenuously we might disagree on certain principles in public affairs, there are occasions when one feels that he is just a member of the Assembly and not a member of this or that Party. I feel sure that the honourable junior member for St. James and the honourable senior member for the City are no less sincere in wishing me well and congratulating me on this appointment than the honourable senior member for St. Peter who is a member of this Party. It is indeed gratifying when an occasion like this arises, that we can express our sentiments without any Party feeling. I wish honourable members to feel that there has not been any question of their not desiring to congratulate me on this appointment, only that the honourable senior member for St. Peter has come forward and done it first. Up to now, all I know about this appointment is what I have seen in the newspaper myself and what the honourable senior member for St. Peter has told me since his return to the colony; I have had no official notification of it. Like the honourable senior member for the City, I saw in the *Advocate* that honourable Mr. Bustamante had been appointed to this position, and I saw in the *Advocate* afterwards that I was also appointed to the position. I myself felt, like the honourable senior member for the City, that there was nothing official about the matter. I can assure honourable members, more especially the honourable junior member for St. James, that I, too, am conscious that sometimes you might have more in your plate than you can assimilate, and there comes a time when a public man has to be careful as to the time which he expends in this or that thing in public life. I wish to assure honourable members that I have reached that stage, and that is the reason why I am here and not in New Zealand or Australia.

There are times when one feels that the running of affairs in Barbados should come first, and I wish to assure honourable members that if I find that business in the United States or anywhere else will at all interfere with my duties as Leader of the House, I will remain here and get a substitute to attend to that business. I wish to assure the House that I feel that at this stage in our history, even though we may appear to be unselfish, the claims of Barbados come before any claims outside. Again I thank you, Sir, and the three honourable members for the congratulations which have been offered me on this appointment; I shall endeavour not to let the duties of this appointment interfere with the conduct of public business in this island.

Mr. GODDARD entered the House and took his seat while Mr. ADAMS was speaking.

Mr. MAPP: Although I am a little out of order in speaking after the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has replied — I am not speaking in respect of the congratulations which have been offered to the honourable member — I want to express our appreciation of the work which was done at this Caribbean Conference by the Barbados

Delegate. I notice that, as usual, the honourable senior member for St. Peter led off the actual work which was done and referred to the funds which must be found in order that the schemes could be implemented. I think the Conference should lead to improvements being effected in the West Indies and Barbados in particular, and our appreciation of the work of the Barbados Delegate should be placed on record. I think the House would join with me in expressing these sentiments.

The question that the House place on record its congratulations to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph on his election as a member of the British Section of the Caribbean Commission was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

RESOLUTION POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,— The first Resolution in Committee of Supply has not yet been printed and I have no cyclo-styled copies to pass around to honourable members. It is a supplementary Resolution and I feel that if honourable members had it in their hands they would be willing to proceed with it.

Consideration of the Resolution was postponed.
SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE *re* SCHOOLS AND HOUSING

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one 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 the Resolution. This Resolution is for the purpose of finishing the incompleting Schools and for housing as appears in the copies which honourable members have before them. As regards the Chalky Mount School, there is merely an outstanding balance which has been discovered recently and honourable members will see the amounts in respect of the St. Leonard's Girls' School, the Parry and Coleridge School and the Pine Housing Estate. Nobody wishes, or course, to stifle debate, and it is true that it is impossible not to bear in mind and, perhaps, mention the fact that if it had not been for Mr. Crowe's under-estimate and his conduct in beginning to build these Schools — St. Leonard's, Parry & Coleridge—we would never have heard of this Resolution. I have read the Report in connection with Mr. Crowe. As honourable members will know, it runs into more than 50 pages and I have not, so to speak, summarised it so as to be in a position to discuss this or that point. I am suggesting to honourable members that while it would be humanly impossible not to refer to the fact that Mr. Crowe failed to do this or that, the discussion of the Report should be fixed at honourable members' convenience. I do not think that we should use this occasion for a prolonged debate on Mr. Crowe's shortcomings. As far as the Government is concerned, the Government — I suppose even though Mr. Crowe did not, in the first place, say that he would like an inquiry to be made — would have to institute an inquiry and would have had to do just as it did in respect of the large chattel building at

the General Hospital. In anything which entails the spending of Government funds, the Government is anxious to have an inquiry instituted and the Government has never felt that the Report is a private document coming to it and it is not going to publish that Report. As far as the Government is concerned, careful investigation would be of use to the Government, and by investigation I mean that criticism by members of this House would be of use to the Government. I do not think it possible — not with this Government in power — for any Crowe to rise and shine for any length of time. (Cheers). The more the mistakes made by Mr. Crowe are discussed, the more obvious it is as to where he went wrong; but it will be the decision of the Government to inspect things and prevent a repetition of what has taken place in Mr. Crowe's regime.

In appealing to honourable members not to make this occasion an occasion for discussing the Report in connection with Mr. Crowe, I am not asking them to forego what I think is their duty as members of this House; I am asking them to fix a time when we can discuss the Report. It is absolutely necessary for the Government to come down with this Resolution because of the shortcomings of Mr. Crowe, and no amount of talking will give us back money which has been mispent or materials which have been misused. I am asking honourable members not to make a full-dress debate on the Report about Mr. Crowe on this occasion; we can discuss that Report on a subsequent occasion and honourable members might put it as the first thing on the Order Paper if they like. Those honourable members who have read the Report thoroughly or even semi-thoroughly will know that there has been bad estimating and, what we must say, bad overspending. I will say that the Government after careful inquiry will get all estimates from the original contractors and the Public Works Department in respect of these buildings and bring them before the House. In the case of the Coleridge & Parry School, Messrs. Clarke & Tucker and the Public Works Department have carefully gone into the figures as to what would be necessary for completing the School; the Government has accepted those figures as being accurate, and I am asking the House to pass them. As regards the Parry & Coleridge School and also the St. Leonard's School, there are outstanding amounts; I am appealing to honourable members to stop their private conversation and take notes. The outstanding amount in the case of the Parry & Coleridge is \$11,872.26, and the outstanding amount in the case of St. Leonard's School is \$15,559.90. In the case of St. Leonard's the balance is made up from the detailed amounts for the completion of the classrooms, Headteacher's room, library, and so on. In the case of the Parry & Coleridge, in addition to the outstanding amount, there are amounts for the completion of the classrooms, Assembly Hall, library, bicycle shed, and so on. If honourable members want every particular, it would take hours to read them all out. We have taken care to have everything itemised; we have the electric wiring, even the number of points — we have everything in absolute detail in case honourable members want specific information about anything. I am asked whether provision has been made for a hot water system in connection with the Parry & Coleridge School. I have not heard of that; I see nothing in the estimates about any provision for a hot water system. All we have is an estimate from Messrs. Clarke & Tucker and from the Public Works Department for installing water. Mr. Chairman, if honourable members need any details I will give them

such details as they might ask for. I can only say that we share the regret of every member of the community, not merely members of the House, that this thing should have happened; we regret that it should have happened not merely because it is a question of spending the taxpayers' money but because when the estimates were put up some time ago it was clearly made known to the Town Planner that anything in excess of £30,000 to £35,000 would not be approved by the Government, and that he would have to revise his scheme and alter his plans to suit that figure. I have to say that, because I am told that there is a suggestion made by Mr. Crowe that when he put up his figure he was told that he had to cut it down and make out with less. I say emphatically that when Mr. Crowe came before the Estimates Committee it was pointed out to him that it was asking over too much to ask the House for £60,000. I asked him if he could cut down his figure to £35,000 without spoiling his plans; he made a calculation and said that he could reduce the amount. It is not true that anybody has made a mess of Mr. Crowe's estimates by making him spend less money than he proposed to spend. The suggestion that this expert was interfered with by laymen who knew no better is not true; it is true that this expert intended to build a bigger building for more money and we told him to build it smaller so as to bring down the cost. That is the Government's position.

I do not think that, at this stage, I can help honourable members any further as regards the Schools. As regards the Pine Housing Estate, there are outstanding bills for material supplied. The amount in respect of outstanding bills is \$10,559.58; unpaid wages, \$440, providing for completing unfinished houses, standpipes and hydrants and other items including 10% for contingencies bring the total amount up to \$22,261.39. The building of new houses would not be included in this amount. I am afraid that that is all the information which I can give honourable members now as to how this sum has been made up; but I say that if honourable members ask for details I shall endeavour to give them. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—We have come here to-day—most of us at considerable inconvenience—because the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said that we should endeavour to get through with this Resolution today as wages were unpaid; and, naturally, it is not right for the Government to undertake work for which they could not pay wages. I therefore welcome the suggestion of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that we should endeavour to confine ourselves to the passing of this Resolution and reserve our comments on the Report relative to Mr. Crowe for some future occasion. I think I understood the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to say that he would allow or appoint a time at some future day for the discussion of that Report, and I think that that is a very sound and sensible suggestion. Sir, I came here to-day in the hope that I would not be staying for too long, and that we would get through with this Resolution; therefore I shall endeavour in my few remarks not to refer too much to what is contained in the Report about Mr. Crowe's work.

Now, Sir, we are asked to vote a very large sum of money in this Resolution and I think that everybody would have to admit that there has been gross mismanagement in the construction of these works. I think that the Government is largely to be blamed in the first instance for allowing the Architect and

Planning Officer to creep in by some means—I do not know how he has done it—and become a contractor or builder. In my opinion, that was never the intention of this House when we passed in the Estimates the Head “Architect and Planning Office”; we expected to have an Architect and Planning Department. I think that the biggest blunder which the Government has made is to allow this Officer to creep in and become a builder. Anyhow, there is no doubt that there has been gross mismanagement as regards the construction of these buildings and a waste of the taxpayers’ money. As I said, Sir, I will refrain from referring to the Report and these matters will be brought out when we are discussing that Report. We have got these Schools partly finished; I must admit that I have never been able to visit either of these Schools, but I understood that some honourable members have visited the Parry & Coleridge School and they are very dissatisfied with the work which has been done there. Other honourable members have visited St. Leonard’s School and while they are of the opinion that the expenses are high, they consider that in the end we will have to complete the work. We undoubtedly have to finish this work, and I am glad to see that the work is now to be completed by our Public Works Department by which Department it should have been started. I have every confidence now that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph together with the Director of Public Works have gone closely into figures and I feel sure—I hope I am right in saying this—that they have now got the amount which will finish the Schools and we will not have another Resolution with more miscalculation coming before this House asking us to vote more money. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph when he introduced his Budget had to be influenced by the amount of money which we can afford to spend; I distinctly remember that on that occasion the honourable member stressed the point that he and the Government were awaiting the Report of that renowned person known as Professor Beasley before they could commit themselves to any large expenditure. I think that that Report has been awaited for about four years; we keep on hearing that the Report is coming, but so far as the members of this House know, no Report has been sent out. It is very important that we should have that Report; we wonder if there is any serious effort being made to give us that Report.

As I have said, Mr. Chairman, we have got to finish these Schools; I, personally, am satisfied that every care has been taken to make sure that sufficient money and not too much money is being voted, and therefore I am prepared to defer any discussion about these Schools until we are discussing the Report in respect of Mr. Crowe. There was a report that a hot water system was to have been installed at the Parry and Coleridge School, but that system appears to me to be unnecessary. I do not think that there is anybody in this House who has a hot water system in his home, and we do not want it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I pass on to the houses at the Pine, and here again we have to vote a large sum of money. I would like to remind the honourable senior member for St. Peter that when, on a former occasion I was rude enough to remark that these houses looked like latrines, and the honourable member assured the House that a new design had been adopted and the houses would not only look more attractive, but they would not cost more than £500 each. I would like the honourable member to give me some information about the cost of these houses and how do they propose to sell them to the poor people on the hire-

purchase system. I do not believe that the people would ever pay for these houses; if you pay every month for a house with the knowledge that you will never pay off for it, you are not going to look after that house, and it will deteriorate rapidly. On the other hand, if you are paying for the house every month with the knowledge that if you stick to your work and get regular employment you will pay off for that house within 10 or 15 years, you will take every care of it. Sir, I think the Government has a very tough proposition in having people to pay for these houses at the cost which is apparent from this Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—Like the honourable member who has just sat down, I came here at much inconvenience to be able to deal with this Resolution; and therefore I rise to support the passing of the Resolution as I pledged myself to do when I agreed to the token vote in the Estimates. These Schools must be completed and I am sorry that we cannot have more schools built. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has suggested that whatever speeches we may make today on this money Resolution, we should refrain as far as possible from going too exhaustively into the Report about Mr. Crowe; let me remind the honourable member that that is only a suggestion by him, but in connection with a money Resolution it is my undisputed right to show every reason within my knowledge why that Resolution should or should not be passed. I, like the honourable junior member for St. James, will promise that I will not be too exhaustive in dealing with the Report; but it is not human for me to promise the honourable senior member for St. Joseph or anybody else, so long as it is my right to deal with a matter of this sort, to refrain, unless my tongue refused to operate, from making a passing reference to this Report. I promise the honourable member that I will not go into the Report as carefully as if we were considering it.

The honourable member was not in the House when we were discussing the Estimates and so he did not hear much of the criticisms. No doubt, as a result of these criticisms, an inquiry was carried out, and I want to say here and now that I felt quite justified in making my criticisms because, if I have done nothing else, I believe I have saved this colony quite a good deal. I think I spoke to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph once and to the honourable senior member for St. Peter once, and I warned them that it had been brought to my notice that the Architect and Planning Officer was giving out contracts; no one could deny it, but within a short time a stop was made to it. When I drew attention to this matter certain people tried to help out this Officer; but that is immaterial to me. There is one thing which would have prevented me from getting up this afternoon and saying one word on this Resolution; if the honourable senior member for St. Joseph who is considered to be one of the most responsible men in this colony—one whose word can carry a lot of weight—had retracted what he said about Mr. Crowe while the inquiry was going on, I would have voted “Aye” without saying a word. You can appreciate the criticism made by me in this House; when there is the inquiry going on and the Leader of the House is praising Mr. Crowe to the skies, you are bound to come to the conclusion that I unnecessarily criticized Mr. Crowe when he is the best man in the world and had done the best job for Barbados. Mr. Chairman, anyone with a passing knowledge of business must appreciate that a person would either make an over-estimate or an under-estimate; and anybody would be reck-

less if he stood on the floor of this House and criticised it. Mr. Crowe or the Government came back to the House and asked for a reasonable addition to his estimate—10% or 20%—for the purpose of carrying out the work. Even members of the Opposition would be opposing for the sake of opposition if any of us got up here and said that a man is so perfect that he should not make any error; members of the Opposition would know that they could not even suggest a thing like that to me. If the Government comes to this House and asks for a sum of money to spend say, on the Westbury School, I take it that before the Executive came for the money they were satisfied with the amount; they have to bear in mind the economy of the colony and how much they can spend on one school. There seems to have been some extravagance in respect of one school, but I take it that the Governor-in-Executive Committee must have seen some sort of plans and in their wisdom they made suggestions to the Architect. What the Architect would have us believe in his own words is that it is the Government who interfered and caused him to do this overspending.

I am going to show you what is called dictatorship; an estimate went to the Executive for a building 280 feet long and suddenly you find that there is a change from 280 feet to 337 feet. One of two things happened; either the Executive knew that this change was being made or they were railroaded into doing it. If the Executive knew about this change they should have told us; and it is obvious that if the building is made 57 feet longer, it would require more money to erect it. If in the wisdom of the Architect and all concerned it was necessary to change the plans, that is all well and good, but you should not change the plans in this manner and do not care what you do. I tell you, Mr. Chairman, that if the Town Planner was anybody looking like me his head would have been shaved. I do not care who says that I do not like Englishmen; when I came in here I was not told to criticize only one set of people and I criticize whom I like.

I am going to show some of the reasons why all this money is being spent. Look at pages 14 and 15 of the Report; I am not dealing with the Report, I am just giving reasons for the spending of this money. Here is the Architect making himself out to be like Caesar's wife; let honourable members read the Report and see what is said. Imagine the payment of \$65 a week for a lorry to carry people to work and then putting gas in it! For myself, I would have bought the lorry. From whom is the lorry rented? This sort of thing hurts. When any honourable member reads this Report and sees the things which were going on, to what conclusion can he come? When I was a little fellow my grandmother used to tell me that dog does not eat dog, and that is the reason why Mr. Crowe has not got locked up. Imagine a man telling you; "I do this; I import this for the Government," and then he is so reckless. We want as many schools as anybody else, but we do not want to take up money and spend it so recklessly. "Lord have mercy!" Those things are wicked to the people of this colony. I do not care whether this debate goes to the Colonial Office, the Governor or anybody else; when they read this, they must say "Do not send any more 'Crowes' down there." When you have finished this, there is no more carrier knocking about. I am going to vote for this Resolution; I am tempted to say a lot of things but I will leave them out. However, do not forget; as long as I can talk, there is going to be a full-dress debate on this matter. Mr. Chairman, in this Report in respect of Mr. Crowe, you see many people calling one another liars; you have never seen so many well-to-do

people calling one another liars, and it is a question of finding out who is telling the truth. The whole idea of these people who come out to the West Indies is that they are going to revolutionize the whole system which obtains here; they feel that we are just the same people as those who are in Africa, but some of them do not realise that we are more civilized than some of the people in London. There is no doubt about that. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph is a lawyer of long experience, and he knows that in respect of some of the things mentioned in this Report he would have great difficulty in convincing a jury that there was no *mens rea* when this gentleman made some suggestions to certain people.

As regards the houses at the Pine, we have got to vote this money; it is of paramount importance that this housing scheme be carried out if we must do something appreciable in re-housing the people from the slum areas. Mere talk does not raise the standard of people; we must house them somewhere where that standard can be raised, where they see something better than their standard. But I suggest that this system of the Architect just giving figures without any relationship to the economy of the colony is not good enough. What the honourable Leader of the Opposition has said is correct; we should be concerned as to whether we are not only building cheaper houses for which people can pay, but whether we are building more houses so that we could re-house more people. Mr. Chairman, we are voting this money, but we are voting it with a heavy heart; we feel confident that matters will be put right now that the Public Works Department has the work in hand, and it has made such an excellent job of the Westbury Girls' School and other buildings. I hope that the Government will continue to allow the Public Works Department to carry out these works.

I close by saying that there are people in the Civil Service on whom you can rely; there are people in the Civil Service who are very strict. If you go through the Report in connection with Mr. Crowe, you will find that a man like the Ex-auditor General had refused to allow the Ex-planning Officer to draw money before work was done. Is it not reckless spending when a man tells you that a job is seven-eighths finished and the money is out? When the time comes for me to go into this Report, I will go into it fully; what has been done is a white-washed thing so as to give this man the opportunity to leave. I want the Government to know that there is a bad system set up by Englishmen in this colony; a man borrows money under the new scheme to buy a car and when he is going away he sells the car and pockets the money, knowing that he owes the Government money. That is a rotten thing; it is a worthless thing. I think that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph is lucky in that he has asked us not to discuss this Report.

Mr. ADAMS: I see that the honourable member has referred to the valedictory remarks which were made by me at the Housing Board in connection with Mr. Crowe, but I want to say that we should be polite to people who are leaving us; we should thank this Officer for the services which he has rendered the colony and wish him well for the future. If you are going to speak ill of a person it is better not to say anything at all. I have been quoted as saying that when Mr. Crowe looks back on his stay in Barbados, he will have nothing to be ashamed of; if I had the slightest idea that Mr. Crowe had done some of the things which are stated in the Report, he would never have got me to say anything at that meeting of the Housing Board. As events have turned out, Mr. Crowe could live the rest of his life being ashamed of some of the things that have come to light. It is true

that I am a member of the Government and I am not under any obligation to remain silent: if anything should come to my notice I would consider it my duty to advise the Head of the Executive to take all steps necessary to see that everything is brought to light. Some of the things I have heard today I have heard for the first time.

At this stage, it now being 2 p.m., Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and adjourned the House until 2.45 p.m.

QUESTION

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I ask leave On re-assembling, to give notice of a Question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to give notice of a Question. The delay has been caused through my having to go through the Question before I gave the honourable member permission to give notice of it. If there is no objection, leave will be granted the honourable member (After a pause). There being no objection, the honourable member is granted leave to give notice of the Question.

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

(1) What are the qualifications for the post of Chief Inspector of Schools, attached to the Department of Education?

(2) Have any applications been invited for this post by way of public advertisement?

(3) If the answer to (2) is Yes, in what organ or organs have such advertisements been inserted?

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE re SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PINE HOUSING ESTATE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply before the adjournment, we were considering a Resolution that the sum of \$149,010 be advanced from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950-1951, Part II,—Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1950-1951, No. 33 which form the Schedule to this Resolution. The honourable senior member for St. John was about to speak.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—Whatever might have appeared in the Report affecting the Architect and Planning Officer, and whatever might have been said otherwise, it does not change the fact that the educational system in this island has been hardly hit economically. The honourable junior member for St. James has used the word "mismanagement", but I definitely feel that something worse than mismanagement has taken place; it is what I would call down-right corruption, theft, anything that is bad. There is no reason why we should allow Heads of Departments to have absolute power in the running of their Departments without scrutiny of the Executive Committee in respect of what might be done. Long ago the public were informed of what was considered to be theft taking place where the erection of

buildings by the Government is concerned; no notice was taken of the matter in the proper quarter to carry out any investigation and to-day we are asked to pass a Resolution calling for several thousand dollars to remedy the injury which has been caused. I do not want to be very strong on this matter, but what I feel is that the Architect and Planning Officer is not absolutely to be blamed for everything which is set out in the Report. As regards the lorry, I have noticed in the Report that when the work was first started, the Architect and Planning Officer recommended the purchase of a lorry and he has told us in the Report that he had to wait for nine months before the money was released so that he could purchase this lorry; as a result he had to hire a lorry at a cost of \$65 a week which amounts to a total of \$3,732.14 including the cost of oil and gas for running it. From my point of view, that amount is too high; no normal human being in Barbados doing construction work would hire a lorry and agree to the payment of such an amount for it, but the Administration is also to be blamed for not releasing earlier the money for the purchase of the lorry and saving the cost of the hire of this lorry for nine months and over. I feel that these things cannot continue to go on. If our quasi Ministers really want the support of the public in bringing about the ministerial system, I feel that they will have to maintain a greater interest in the Departments over which they are placed.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. No Minister quasi or otherwise is in charge of any Department.

Mr. ALLDER: I have been given that feeling and, I must say, the public have that feeling. I still feel, Mr. Chairman, that some check system should be maintained by the Executive if, as the honourable member has said, no Minister is responsible for any Department. Having had the opinion that a Minister is responsible for the running of a Department or responsible for seeing that a Department is run carefully, I feel that the Minister should also be interested in maintaining a constant check on the Department so as to be able to see any errors before they become too great. If a check were made every week or every month to see if things are getting out of hand or not, I am sure that the Architect and Planning Officer would not have had such latitude as to cause us to have to come back here to-day and pass a Resolution calling for so much money to finish these buildings when a large amount has already been spent on them. Not only should scrutiny be maintained in order to see that the Government does not incur any loss, but also to see that the regulations are carried out by such an Officer. As regards the schools which are being constructed, it has long been suggested that in a tropical climate there is no need for these large stone structures which we have been erecting. I have even heard the teachers suggest that they can teach the children very comfortably under the trees, and I suggest that instead of erecting such massive buildings we should use something like sheds in the yards of the schools in extension of the classrooms. That is more healthy for the children and the teachers have expressed their willingness to carry out such a scheme, and that scheme should be carried out in the not distant future. Another point is this; you have an Architect with a lot of initials behind his name, who selects a site which he alone appreciates and after he realises that he has made a mistake in his selection it costs the Government \$100 a day to get a bulldozer to level that site. All these things work a hardship on the economy of the island and also on the educational set-up. I have also discussed

with somebody the question of the Government spending thousands of pounds in erecting a building and then no caretaker is put to look after it. Buildings are left alone and they are invaded at night; windows and doors are damaged and all sorts of rubbish is found around the buildings on mornings. The Government has not decided to appoint caretakers or janitors. Some years ago the honourable senior member for St. Peter, in his enthusiasm, suggested the appointment of janitors at elementary schools; today the honourable member is a member of the Executive Committee other Labour members are also members of the Executive Committee and I have not been able to hear any suggestion as regards the appointment of janitors at these schools. Every month a couple of teachers have to take something out of their earnings and pay for cleaning the schools. One day last month when a transfer was to be made to the Westbury Girls' School, some parents showed me that their children's clothing was all wet and dirty; I asked them the reason for that and they told me that for the entire day the school-mistress had the children scrubbing the school because it was to be occupied. I went to the school-mistress about the matter and she said that she had found that system going on from the time she entered the teaching profession; she has asked for a janitor but none has been given her. In one instance you have given one individual absolute authority to inflict a great injury on this community and in another instance you have refused to remove a small inconvenience which might cost you only a negligible amount. Due to the congestion at the schools the children suffer a great hardship, because when they should be taught the three "R's" during the regular school hours, they are asked to do the scavenging of the school and the surrounding area. A schoolmistress has told me that she regrets having to send small children to clean the toilet bowls every day, but otherwise the Sanitary Authorities will prosecute her and she is expected to keep her school in a sanitary condition. You send your child to school and when you expect that that child is taught what you expect it would be taught, it is doing what somebody else should be doing. That state of affairs exists at all the Elementary Schools; I saw fit to make an investigation and all the headteachers have told me that they cannot help it. And what is worse is that only a certain type of children are sent to do this dirty work and the old system of discrimination and class prejudice is being maintained. What is the use of our spending so much on our educational set-up every year and then ill feeling is created? Every teacher is dissatisfied and every child is taught that which he should not have been taught; he grows up with a sort of complex and instead of becoming a proper citizen in the community, he becomes something else. When I assess the different happenings, when I see that the scales are about to come down too heavily on one side at the expense of the majority of people, my sympathy is called forth. It is time that these things be removed because they do not bring about that confidence which is badly needed if the colony must move forward. I hope that at some future date I will see these things absolutely removed; if they are not removed within what I consider to be a reasonable time, then I shall, with the limited strength which I have, attempt in a formal way to show my disapproval and the disapproval of the public of such things. The fact that people cannot get an opportunity of allowing their voices to be heard in the proper quarter does not mean that wrongs do not exist; wrongs

do exist in truth and in fact, and the fact that some honourable members have seen fit to recommend the removal of certain things should convince the Administration that there are wrongs which should be removed. I cannot refrain from observing that the results which are reported as having been obtained from our educational set-up are not as correct as one would think them to be. In respect of most of the children attending the Elementary Schools, their parents have to pay \$3.00 or \$4.00 a month for their private education, so that the results obtained are not those that are obtained from the Elementary Schools; those results are obtained by way of added expense to the parents. It is unfortunate that the same teachers who are paid to teach the children during the hours when they are in school can teach them at their homes something which they are not taught during the school hours. How can you have efficiency if that state of affairs is allowed to continue? Entrance examinations to various secondary schools have just taken place and at the Government subsidised schools they have had to turn back more than 75% of the applicants. At a private school run by one individual who boasts of accommodating 500 pupils, an entrance examination for over 300 pupils has taken place and 132 pupils have been taken into an already over-crowded building. That is not that individual's fault; it is the fault of the Administration in not seeing that the expenditure is utilized in a way whereby more children could be accommodated at the schools. A change is needed; a lot of corruption and maladministration is allowed to go on in this colony, not directly by the humble folk but by those who are expected to possess culture and refinement. Not only is Barbados subject to that evil; it is something which happens all over the world. There is error in putting too much confidence in a person because he has a certain complexion or claims to have certain qualifications. This is a day when even your wife should be dealt with until she proves to be the contrary. I hope that honourable members will become serious; here is an Officer who corrupts himself, he is given three months' vacation with pay prior to retirement and he is inserted in the social columns of the Press just as if some worthy ambassador has left these shores. He has left behind him a wound which will set back the programme of this colony for a number of years. On the other hand you read that a partially — crippled man asks for a penny and he is taken before the Court and given a month's imprisonment. What a comparison! The powerful will always continue to be more powerful and tyrannical. I cannot afford to take up the time of the House further on this matter, but I am hoping that the necessary changes will be made by the present Government within a short time. The cost of the necessary changes is not going to be as great as that of the errors of an officer. The placing of caretakers at Government buildings, the placing of janitors at Elementary Schools to keep these Schools clean and sanitary and prevent the children from being sent to clean the toilet bowls daily — something which some of the parents of the children would not send them to do — all these things need to be looked after. When children are sent to make schools sanitary they are open to the attacks of germs and to all kinds of diseases, because children at the age of seven or eight years old cannot use that care in dealing with such matters as adults would use. I have been told that on occasions the toilet bowls are broken and they have to be replaced. All that is shortsightedness and I hope it is merely shortsightedness. I will conclude my

remarks by drawing attention to the difference between the cost of a lorry, over \$3,300, and \$3,732.14 for the hire and running of another one which was not owned by the Government. All these things are wrong and they do not encourage from the public that co-operation which you should really get. It is for you to see that you do not arm your critics with material with which to throw at you because you cannot blame your opponents or those who are impartial if you are met with opposition and difficulty; you will have to blame yourself for that. These things have been drawn to my attention in and out of the House and they should be observed; you should have admitted long ago that things are wrong and say that you are willing to consider suggestions which are made and to implement part of them if you feel they need to be implemented.

Messrs. FOSTER and REECE came into the Committee and took their seats whilst Mr. ALLDER was speaking.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I hope that the Leader of the House will forgive me for saying this, but I do not think he was listening to the honourable senior member for St. John when that honourable member made some statements to which I would like to reply. It is difficult to get the confidence of everybody in the community and no Government of any type can do that. I do not think that this Government would need the honourable member to prod us to do things, because many of the things of which he has spoken have been spoken about before he became a member of this House. The honourable member spoke about our having confidence and co-operation, but it is not a matter of making him co-operative. As regards the educational system in this island, if all that should be done has not been done, then we have to try and see what we can do about the matter. This House has already agreed to the system of re-organization and that was a question of dealing with posts. As regards the appointment of janitors at Elementary Schools, the honourable member was trying to be subtle but that is not sufficient to merit a courteous reply. I think that before the honourable member gets on the floor of the House to make public accusations against members of the House, he should try to see if the accusations are true. I brought forward an Address some years ago relative to the appointment of janitors to Elementary Schools; that Address was passed by the House and when an Address is passed, it has to take its course. The matter of the appointment of janitors to these Schools has engaged the attention of a Committee and I suppose that it will be dealt with by the Estimates Committee. If the honourable member does not know how the Government has to work — it cannot work by a member saying that a thing should be done; it will take the honourable member some years in the House to realise how the Government has to work. If the honourable member is challenging the honesty of the members of the Executive, he may do so; but the members of the Executive have no qualms of conscience and they do not have to please any honourable member who makes unjust accusations against them that they are not working in the interest of the people. We leave accusations to the judgment of the public of this island and not to the honourable member. If the honourable member thinks that this Government will be rejected on his accusations, he may think so. I repeat that the question of the appointment of janitors at Elementary Schools is one which a Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee has dealt with, and the cost is something to be decided upon when we are dealing with the Estimates.

Mr. ALLDER: As a member of the Government, as a member of the House for a long time and as a member who is supposed to have all the capability in the world, whenever suggestions of members of the House are made, whether in a flurried manner or in a cool manner, it is your duty to say whether you are willing to recommend the adoption of those suggestions in the proper quarter or not rather than accuse honourable members of trying to turn public confidence from you. I ask the honourable member to give me the assurance that he is going to suggest to the Administration that janitors to the Elementary Schools should be appointed in the near future, with the same energy with which he introduced the Address in this regard some years before I became a member of the House. The honourable member's expression only shows either that he is inefficient or that a change of position has caused him to forget his sense of responsibility to the poor people who send their children to these Schools. I challenge the honourable member to do whatever he likes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ask the honourable member to stick to the Resolution which is before us; the question of the appointment of janitors has nothing to do with this Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: What has caused me to reply to the honourable member is that I remember the time when the honourable member gave notice of this particular Address. I realise that he is a member of the Executive who advises the Administration on matters such as this, and I feel that there was an easy chance for the members of the Executive to have their programme carried out. As regards the matter of my being subtle as mentioned by the honourable member.—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing such arguments to go on.

Mr. ALLDER: You have permitted the remark that I was being subtle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not entertaining those remarks; I ask the honourable member to stick to the Resolution; I am not allowing any argument which has nothing to do with the Resolution which is before the House.

Mr. ALLDER: I am trying to stick to the Resolution, but education takes in such a wide scope that I have to speak on lines which might not altogether be relative to the Resolution; but I must say I regret that you gave the honourable member latitude to speak about my being subtle without giving me a chance to reply to that. I never intended to be subtle; rather than being subtle I called attention to the fact that the honourable member has moved the passing of that Address. I am not suggesting that you cannot appoint janitors to these Schools until you have overhauled your general educational system; the appointment of janitors to these Schools is something slight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The appointment of janitors is not included in this Resolution. The honourable member has already made a speech and he is now trying to make another one.

Mr. ALLDER: The appointment of janitors at these Schools is as important as any other part of this Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Resolution does not call for the appointment of janitors.

Mr. ALLDER: I promised to discuss this matter on a motion for the adjournment of the House and I was discreet enough to tell honourable members that I was awaiting an opportunity to bring the matter before the House. If you had seen the plight

of these school children you would have felt more strongly on the matter than I feel on it now. You cannot say that you are not appointing janitors at these Schools until you have overhauled the educational system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has already made that point.

Mr. ALLDER: Do you feel that the children should continue to clean the schools? I do not want to suggest any dishonesty on the part of members of the Government, as the honourable senior member for St. Peter seems to think I am suggesting; I intend to draw matters to the attention of the Government with the hope that those matters will be remedied. If they are not remedied after they have been pointed out to the Government, then I do not think that the Government is carrying out its duties.

Mr. MAPP: I do not intend to review or attempt to discuss any of the long catalogue of disastrous happenings which have led up to this Resolution being brought before us, but I feel sure that this whole Committee and the public have been faced with a serious predicament by the series of open-handed, barefaced thefts which apparently have been taking place in connection with the erection of these buildings. I can only say that the Report which came out of the investigation of the Commission was very mild; the Officer has gone and it is up to us to benefit from the mistakes that have been made. It is up to us to put matters right and see that we tighten up and go over every Department which is concerned with the spending of Government money, with control over importees who may want to put their ideas into action without the advice of local politicians as doubtless Mr. Crowe wanted to do. I went to Government House and informed the then Acting Governor that the public were dissatisfied with the buildings which Mr. Crowe was erecting and he asked what the public knew about architecture. But the public do not have to know about architecture to be dissatisfied with the buildings. There are certain people in high positions who overlook other people simply because they are Englishmen or because of their colour, and that is an evil which consistently faces us. I do not know how far the spending of these additional sums of money will affect the entire educational programme for the coming year. When the Estimates for 1950-51 were being considered by this House we were told that the funds at the disposal of the Government were limited and that the Budget was a "housekeeping" one and that the Government could not afford to spend more money on any one Department than was in keeping with the Government's financial ability. Well, Sir, this additional sum of money is a vast amount to be spent on these schools and we have not been told what effect the spending of this money will have on the Government's spending programme in respect of buildings in the new Estimates. Unless we have additional sources of revenue, the spending of this money will have a serious effect on next year's spending programme; because over \$56,000 is to be spent on one school and over \$70,000 is to be spent on another, and nobody can say that these are small amounts for a colony like this. It is hardly necessary for me to draw to the attention of the House and the Government that already we do not have enough buildings in which to house our present school population, and I hope that the Government will be wise and start now and plan to meet this state of affairs. I see that in Jamaica they were considering subsidising private Secondary Schools, having a proper system of inspection and registration and seeing that these Schools are properly staffed and properly

equipped. If it is necessary to do that in this island, I think that it should be done. I think that this is the proper time to issue the warning which I have issued because this additional financial undertaking will seriously interrupt the entire plan and policy of the Government in so far as the erection of buildings is concerned. I feel that we should touch lightly on this matter and throw out a hint about getting around the difficulties with which the Government might be faced; if the Government go about this matter properly I feel that they can still assist in educating vast numbers of children. Our population is increasing every year, but we can still find buildings in which to accommodate the increasing number of children who will be in need of education.

Mr. GODDARD: Such an exhaustive debate has taken place on this Resolution mostly in respect of mismanagement in the building programme that it is hardly necessary for me to refer to that matter. I have mixed feelings on this question; I regret that this mismanagement should have taken place so early in the programme of capital expenditure where the building of schools is concerned, because that is likely to put back the building programme for a few years. There is one redeeming feature about the matter and it is that I am glad that what has happened has not happened when the Christ Church Foundation School was being dealt with. I visited the Parry and Coleridge School a few weeks ago; the design must have been submitted to somebody, but how anybody could have allowed that design to pass I do not know. No one with a knowledge of local weather conditions could allow any architect to put into effect a plan such as that. There is no shade whatever to the windward side; if a shower of rain comes down you have to close the windows completely and then the children are in an oven. On the western side, the position is even more hopeless; by one o'clock in the afternoon the sun gets in and by 3.30 o'clock I do not know where the children will be. What the Colonial Engineer proposes to do about this building I do not know; I would plant a row of trees so as to shade the children from the sun. Anybody with a knowledge of local conditions will realise that although buildings in the tropics must be well ventilated, they must be protected from the weather. At this school there is a long corridor which is absolutely no use for protection from anything except the overhead sun. I may say that the workmanship at this building seems to be quite good; there is only one section at the far end which has a crack, but that is only superficial and can be remedied. There is no semblance of any crack anywhere in the concrete work; the roof of the building seems to be all right, but my complaint is about the lack of protection from the weather. The building is one long one, about 300 or 400 feet, and the Headmaster will surely need a pair of skates to get from one part of the building to the other. There are other new buildings to be erected and the present elementary school buildings need to be remodelled. I understand that a survey is being made of these buildings and I hope that the House will be given an early opportunity of seeing the improvements which are to be made to the present elementary school buildings. I have visited some of these schools and some of them are hardly fit to accommodate the children; it is better to go under a breadfruit tree than to go into some of these school buildings on a warm day. I hope that this setback will not delay for any long time the building of other schools mentioned in the Estimates and which have been mentioned for two years. Sites are to be selected and I hope that with the experience which has been gained from the mismanagement in respect of the building programme, something good will result

in connection with the erection of other buildings in the near future.

Mr. FOSTER: Everything calls for education to-day and I do not think that we can spend too much on education. I commend the Government for having sent down this Resolution and I also hope to commend it for sending down a Resolution for the extension of the Alleyne School in St. Andrew. Some time ago I mentioned on the floor of this House that there were 36 applicants seeking admission to this School and owing to the lack of accommodation they had to be turned down; it is obvious that these 36 children will not have the benefit of secondary education in this island through no fault of their own, because it is a rule that children must be between the age of 11 and 12 years so as to be admitted to these Schools. I think that that is a bit slack on the part of the Government, because it is the duty of the Government to provide education for the masses. On the question of transportation to school by bus, today you really need an aeroplane in order to get out of St. Andrew; the buses have to travel through St. Peter in going to and from St. Andrew and a hardship is being inflicted on girls who are just entering womanhood and who have to travel daily by bus up the rocky hills. They have to leave home early on mornings and it is ridiculous to expect those children to be able to study; they have to travel 40 miles daily. I understand that \$2,000 has been allocated to make an extension to the Alleyne School, but that is a small amount for that purpose. At present an entrance examination is being held at this School; I understand that there are 50 children seeking admission but there is only room for half a dozen. The parish of St. Andrew will never be in the limelight because of the lack of educational facilities for the children; none of them can enter the Civil Service because every occupation calls for the possession of a School Certificate, even the occupation of a grave digger. I am appealing to the Government to do all in its power to assist the poor children in St. Andrew to get education.

Mr. MILLER: I should like to make a few remarks on this Resolution. I am not at all disturbed about the amount of the Resolution; although the report about Mr. Crowe is one which has caused much alarm in this island, I am not at all surprised about the amount of this Resolution because it is in connection with education. If you look up the several debates which took place in this House dating back 50 or 60 years ago you will find that this question of education has always been a burning one: To-day I still hear the same view expressed as I heard expressed about 20 years ago in respect of education. The honourable senior member for St. John has referred to the question of appointing janitors at the Elementary Schools and I would say that the money which is spent in replacing the toilet bowls which are broken by the children would help to pay janitors. I take the view that everything is being done to curb the opportunities of children for getting education, but it is fortunate that we have a Socialist Government in power. I do not mind how much money is allocated to be spent on education: if this Resolution was for a million dollars I would vote for it. As regards Mr. Crowe, the idea that corruption has taken place has been supported by many people; it was known all over the City that a racket was going on and that some eminent gentlemen were sharing in it. The matter was being discussed long before it had anything like the attention of the Government. What I regret most of all is that there will be a set-back to the progress of education itself; we have a Department of Educa-

tion and I believe that that very Department is concerned about turning colleges into secondary schools; but you will be alarmed to find that the same system of educating the masses is going to continue in this colony. It has been said that if you educate the masses they will not dig cane holes; the set-backs which education has had in Barbados go back from the days of Oliver Cromwell. I tell you I do not think that Mr. Crowe has all this money; people in high places, people who are interested in the education of this community, have shared in the larceny. The prime idea is to build schools and educate the people; I have been hearing about compulsory education for a long time, but to-day compulsory education is only a sweet dream. To-day we have a Government in power different from before; we have people who have been given a mandate by the barefoot man in the street and it is our duty to educate the masses. There is a school in St. George for which I pay the electric bill because it brings a little education to some children after hours. We have corruption taking place today in our system of education; I refer to the system of superannuation and age-grouping. That is all right for the old shepherds and farmers in the hills who teach sheep, but it is a slap in the face of the Government.

To refer to Mr. Crowe again, I believe it is a commonplace to have larceny of this type in Government quarters by these Englishmen; because Mr. Crowe comes from England you must form fours and salute, and then when the corruption is exposed he is given three months' vacation with pay and he goes back to England. I ask the Government to realise that the progress of a country is always measured by its education. You criticize Mr. Crowe and you criticize the buildings and it may be that the money was spent before he left the colony. I am willing to support this Resolution and if it was for this amount multiplied by 40 I would vote for it; one half of this money will go by the wind but it is money to be spent in the interest of education and so I am voting for this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: I am very sorry for some portions of the remarks made by the last speaker because I thought I had given enough warning before. The honourable member has made use of a very serious statement and I suggest that it would be impossible for me, having heard that statement, to ignore it. The honourable member came parlously near to saying that he is an accessory after the fact to some grand larceny which has taken place in the island. The honourable member knows that this larceny has taken place and it has been shared by some big people, and I call on him now to disclose that information to the Commissioner of Police. If the honourable member has that knowledge and is concealing it, he comes parlously close to being an accessory after the fact; I suggest to him to see his Solicitor early and see what his position is. The Government has had a public inquiry which has not gone as far as the honourable member's saying that there has been a clear instance of theft, in which case it would be the duty of the Attorney General to advise a prosecution. The honourable member has informed us that he knows that larceny has taken place and shared by other people who were concerned in the erection of these buildings; he is so strong a supporter of the Government that if the Resolution was for more money than this, he would vote for it. Does the honourable member not see that it is his duty to give the information which he has to the Commissioner of Police? He could do that without his name being called; he could tell the Police where to investigate.

When honourable members have information of that sort where the taxpayers' money is concerned, it is their duty to bring everything into the glare of publicity and leave it to the Government; if the Government does not do its duty, then they can try to overthrow the Government for not doing its duty.

As regards the honourable senior member for St. John, he must forgive me if I adopt the role of a father and elder brother; but he must give the Government credit for a little knowledge much as he dislikes the Government.

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of order. How does the honourable member prove that I dislike the Government? If a father chastises his son that does not necessarily mean that he hates his son; that is something for the son's welfare.

Mr. ADAMS: I am glad that the honourable member chastises the Government out of love and not out of dislike. The honourable member is too sensitive, to begin with, and he does not always appreciate things; when the honourable senior member for St. Peter spoke of him as to making accusations in a subtle way, that was a compliment paid to him. Very few people can be subtle, but the honourable member took that seriously. I think it was an absolutely undeserved compliment. I think the honourable member is far from being subtle; he is too blunt and sometimes blind and he does not like correction. The honourable member has said that "Ministers," who are in charge of Departments should keep a check on things; that is excellent advice but it is not relative to members of the Executive Committee and their position. Let the honourable member be informed that the four members of the Executive Committee are responsible for matters of legislation; we have never been in charge of any Departments, we will be in charge of Departments when a proper system of ministerial status is established. That is likely to be very soon when office accommodation, and so on, is available. Sometimes I see things for the first time in the "Advocate"; I saw the recent appointments in the Colonial Secretary's Office for the first time in the *Advocate* although I knew that they would be coming out, and it is only a matter of courtesy that I knew they were coming out. These posts were held temporarily by the holders who were eventually appointed to them. When we sometimes know things only through the "Advocate," there is no blame on the Administration, and I wish the honourable senior member for St. John would remember that. I wonder whether the honourable member—not only he—thinks that he has the intelligence which God has given him and others have not got intelligence too. Sometimes I cannot help feeling when some suggestions are made on the floor of the House, that honourable members have heard that those suggestions are being worked out by the Executive; members of the Executive do not like to take the credit for bringing forward anything from members of the House although the same thing has given the Executive headaches for months. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas spoke about subsidising private secondary schools; I will tell him that we are going further than that. This has never been made an Executive secret, but there is a proposal before the Executive Committee—a proposal which we are seriously considering—to take over the biggest

private secondary schools in the island, we are so anxious to help where education is concerned. If the Government were to take over any private secondary school in the island, the pupils could rest assured that the curriculum would be as high as that at Harrison College or anywhere else, and the unfortunate teachers would get adequate salaries. I say without offence to any honourable member sitting in this Committee that it is very seldom indeed that any suggestion is made here and the matter has not already been agreed to by the Government, or the full implications have been thought out and discarded or accepted in some cases. Occasionally in the course of debate some honourable members have pointed out the implications of a particular Clause of a Bill, and in this respect I pay a compliment to the honourable junior member for Christ Church who will point out the implications of the wording of a Clause; however, when it comes to ideas and principles which should govern our policy, they are thought of over a period of years, and it is only a question of time that has caused the absence of many more measures being placed on the Statute Book. I am glad for this declaration of love from the honourable senior member for St. John; I hope that the harmony which exists between two lovers will exist between the honourable member and the Government.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Resolution passed in Committee of Supply was read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the adjournment of the House, I take this opportunity on behalf of the House to wish you, Mr. Deputy Speaker and Mr. Speaker, the compliments of the season and a bright and peaceful New Year. I hope that we will all come back to our labours feeling refreshed in our peculiar ways, spiritually revived and anxious and eager to do more useful work in the interests of the community. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 9th day of January, 1951, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. WILKINSON: I have much pleasure in seconding that motion, particularly in wishing you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and Mr. Speaker a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On behalf of the Speaker and myself I thank honourable members for the season's greetings and I am sure that, like me, the Speaker would heartily reciprocate the good wishes which have been expressed. The question is that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday the 9th day of January, 1951, at 3 p.m. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned.