THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th June, 1950

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

Present

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs. F. E. MILLER, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., E. L. WARD, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, and J. E. T. BRANCKER.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. E. K. WALCOTT, SMITH, GILL, and MOTTLEY enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting which was held on the 6th June, 1950, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS.

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

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended 31st March, 1950, from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. John.

Statement of Expenditure on Tenantry Roads in the parish of St. John for the half year ended 31st March, 1950.

Mr. ALLDER enters the House and takes his seat.

SELECTION OF MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Barbados,
19th June, 1950.

Sir,—

With reference to your letter of the 16th June, I am directed by His Honour the President of the Legislative Council to inform you that Tuesday, the 27th day of June, suits His Honour and the Members of the Legislative Council to attend a joint informal meeting with members of the House of Assembly to select a member of the local branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and General Meeting of the Association to be held in New Zealand this year.

2. His Excellency the Governor will be coming down to the Legislative Council Chamber at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 27th, to receive the Replies from the House and the Council to his Address delivered at the opening of the legislative session 1950—51. His Honour the President, therefore, suggests that the informal meeting of the House and the Council for the purpose set out in paragraph 1 above might be held immediately after His Excellency leaves the Council Chamber.

3. I shall be grateful to learn whether the time and hour are convenient to His Honour the Speaker and, if so, to ask that the necessary notices convening the meeting be issued by you to the Members of the Legislative Council at the same as they are issued to Members of the House of Assembly.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. A. HINDS,
Clerk, Legislative Council.

The Secretary,
Commonwealth Parliamentary
Association (Barbados Branch).

MR. SPEAKER'S RULING *Re* FIRST READING OF GAS WORKS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards the seeking of the Speaker's ruling by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph relative to allowing a motion to introduce an amendment of the Gas Works Act, 1911 (1911—9), on the grounds that the Government had earlier in this session given notice of a Bill to amend the said Act I have, after careful consideration and much study, come to the decision of permitting the

honourable introducer of this amendment to proceed with his first reading of the Bill. Because of all my research in the parliamentary usages and procedure of the British House of Commons and the Rules and customs of this ancient House of Assembly, I so see no reason for not allowing the honourable senior member for St. James to proceed with a first reading.

2. Indeed, to quote from Sir Erskine May's Treatise, "Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usages of Parliament (Page 387)" I read:—

> "There is no rule or custom which restrains the introduction of two or more Bills relating to the same subject, and containing similar provisions." So honourable members will see that the amendment that is being introduced is quite in order as far as the prevailing parliamentary custom admits.

3. The placing of a notice on the Order Paper is just a notice and in my view cannot, and should not, take precedence over any Bill that has been offered to this House whether or not the notice refers to the amending of one or all the provisions of a similar Bill.

4. It might indeed prove a very serious thing if a notice on the Order Paper precluded the introduction of legislation similar to that involved in the notice. The admission of such a principle in procedure would easily allow of the Government or a private member or private interest through a private member or members, forestalling very necessary and valuable legislation.

5. I now declare that the introduction of the Bill to amend the Gas Works Act, 1911 (1911—9) is in order.

K. N. R. HUSBANDS,
Speaker,

House of Assembly,
20. 6. 50.

Messrs. GODDARD, BETHELL, and ALLDER enter the House and take their seats.

PAPER LAID

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

Statement showing the Gross Customs and Excise receipts for one month ended 30th April, 1950.

PETITION

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Vestry of the parish of St. James praying the House to pass a Bill to amend the St. James Parish Loan Act, 1948. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of $10,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part I, Current Estimates, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950-51, No. 4, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. WALCOTT: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation Price Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) Order, 1950" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 15th day of June, 1950, under the provisions of sections 3 (1) (c) and 4 (3) of the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) Act, 1947, as set out in the schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Resolution to approve the rate payable to producer and the rate of tax payable to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board on fancy molasses produced during the crop year 1949-50 fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Regulations, 1938.

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

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: A Bill to amend the Gas Works Act, 1911.

Mr. WILKINSON: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully refer Your Excellency to their Address to you of the 31st January, 1950, and desire to say that the Debates Committee appointed by virtue of section 3 of the Legislative Debates Act (1894-7) has granted Mr. C .B. Rock, Official Reporter of the Legislative Council, a further four months' sick leave from the 1st March with full pay.

The Committee has decided to engage the services of an assistant to Mr. Rock for the month of July for the sum of $40, after which date the matter will be further considered by the Debates Committee.

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to send down the necessary legislation to give effect to the proposals of the Debates Committee.

Mr. WILKINSON: Of my intention to ask leave later in the afternoon to move the passing of the abovementioned Address.

QUESTIONS

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

1. Is Government aware of the fact that certain sugar factories purchasing canes in the Parish of St. Andrew have been making returns to the Vestry of a loss for the past five years and over, thereby evading paying trade tax to the Vestry?

2. Will Government send down legislation, without delay, fixing a tax on every ton of canes purchased, or some other method to prevent these factory owners evade paying their equitable trade tax?

NOTICE

Mr. MILLER, with leave of the House, gives notice of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that private Nursery Schools should be encouraged

wherever possible in order to prepare children, without distinction of colour, for the primary schools.

The House feels that, until such time as the educational building programme has overcome the present shortage of accommodation, these Nursery Schools should be given some kind of grant in aid, based on number on the roll under 5 years. Many small schools of this type are not remunerative, and by such assistance we should attract to these schools teachers with natural ability.

The House of Assembly views with apprehension the grave danger that Education will lose its meaning if the over-crowding of schools continues.

The House of Assembly therefore respectfully requests Your Excellency to send down the necessary legislation having for its object the encouragement of Nursery Schools by financial assistance to those which need it.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. E. K. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, a Bill to amend the Gas Works Act, 1911, is read a first time.

PETITION WITHDRAWN

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—In view of the fact that Your Honour has drawn to my attention certain irregularities in connection with the petition which I presented earlier to-day I ask leave to withdraw the petition.

Leave is granted and the petition is withdrawn.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order 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 Government.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. COX, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. DOWDING enters the House and takes his seat.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—This Resolution is for the sum of $40,940 to meet the cost of paying those members who the Legislature has already agreed, should be added to the present Hospital staff. As honourable members will see from the addendum, apart from the increased cost of salaries and other emoluments, provision is included for the payment of reasonable passage expenses of officers and their families, not exceeding $960 in each direction, that is to say, from the place of engagement to Barbados on appointment and from Barbados to the place of engagement on the termination of agreements. Honourable members will also note from paragraph 3 of the addendum that the housing of this additional staff will entail the rental of suitable furnished quarters for use by the officers or the payment of an allowance in lieu of furnished quarters. Provision is made for that. The total estimated expenditure on increased staff, salaries, etc., from the 1st June, 1950, to the 31st March, 1951, is $105,580 but this is offset to the extent of $62,000 by savings on the salaries of the posts of House Surgeon and Anaesthetist and House Surgeon which have been abolished. Inasmuch as it is almost certain that some honourable members on my left will say something about the qualification of the Anaesthetist I think I should say that the Government has agreed, on advice, that the Anaesthetist should be a specialist (Hear, hear). I have much pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—Any Resolution that comes before this Assembly for money for the efficient working of the Hospital will always receive my support and, I suppose, the support of other honourable members; but I cannot resist offering criticism in respect of matters connected presently with the Hospital until the Government has succeeded in putting the institution in order. I suppose that this Resolution is another sign that the Government is still trying and we all hope that it will succeed. The Hospital is in a very bad way and things in connection with it are still very unsatisfactory. There is not a day that passes on which I do not receive some complaint about the working of the Hospital and the inefficient treatment of patients who go there and I believe that there are other honourable members who have a similar experience. I want you to believe, Sir, that any criticism which I offer to-day is really an attempt to make those responsible for the administration of the Hospital come up to mark and do a better job; it is not merely because I want to criticize that I offer criticism. Since we approved in this Chamber of the Resolution to increase the staff of the Hospital —medical and otherwise—one would have thought that by now we would have had at least an increased medical staff. But what do you find? You find that steps have had to be taken to get some of our local medical men—most of whom are already overworked —to go into the Hospital and sleep in at the rate of $25 a night. You can imagine, Sir, that just to pay medical men to sleep in at the rate of $25 a night is not good enough. On the other hand, I have been making enquiries as to the procedure for getting additional medical men for the Hospital. It is true we have another young Barbadian who is in residence at the Hospital now, but how long he will stay, God only knows. I am wondering whether the insular prejudice which exists in respect of American doctors cannot be wiped out. I am saying that the practice of merely advertising in Medical Journals of the United Kingdom or asking the Secretary of State for the Colonies to get medical men for the Barbados General Hospital is not good enough. Not only is it not good enough but our experience leads us to the conclusion that no attention is paid to us. I understand that in a few days' time the Director of Medical Services will be going away on long leave and I am wondering whether this gentleman could not be empowered by the Government to examine the possibility of securing the services of young medical men who might be attracted to the West Indies at least for short periods because I am sure that there is still the possibility of American or Canadian graduates wanting to come to the West Indies for short periods of two to three years to gain experience in the treatment of tropical diseases and to practise Tropical Medicine. If the Government of Barbados confines itself to the insular prejudice to which I have referred, it is going to continue to have difficulty in getting medical men. Anybody who thinks that American graduates are not good enough is only fooling himself; that is absolute nonsense. They are as good as, if not better than, any you can find in any part of the United Kingdom and I make no apology for that statement. I throw out that sug-

gestion from this side of the table and I am sure that my colleagues will support me. You cannot merely come and ask for this money, saying that you are going to increase the medical staff; that is not good enough; that is only so much on paper. The general public is not going to be fooled. You must not merely come for the money, get us to vote it and then ask "what more can we do?" You must, in addition, do everything possible that lies in your power to secure the services of young practitioners for the Hospital. I repeat that now that the Director of Medical Services is about to go away on leave I am wondering whether it would not be wise to consult with him—he has been here long enough — and give him a certain amount of authority to select medical men for the Hospital. There is always a greater opportunity of selecting men by someone on the spot,—someone who is able to tell them about local conditions and the requirements that are necessary for the particular job,—and I further repeat that these appointments should not be confined to only United Kingdom graduates but that American and Canadian graduates should be invited to accept some of them. I observed that quite recently an American graduate has been appointed to the staff of Harrison College. Apparently they are breaking new ground. I knew that there is a shortage of medical men but I again repeat that it is not good enough merely for us to vote this money and to say that by so doing you are doing your best in the circumstances, because while you may consider that you are doing your best, the people are suffering. Perhaps it would surprise honourable members if I tell them something about the state of affairs at the Hospital. Only two days ago — I want to know who is responsible for this — persons applied at the Hospital to have X-ray pictures taken and they were told that there were no films at that institution. Can you imagine, Sir, that such a state of affairs would exist at the Hospital? Is it the fault of the Director of Medical Services? Whose fault it is I would like to know. Did the machine break down? If the apparatus is all right and there are no films at the Hospital for the taking of pictures, then that is not good enough. Somebody should be censured for that. You cannot run out of films overnight; you must know what stock you have and for people to be told that there are no films is not good enough. Somebody must be responsible for the importation of these films. Now, Sir, I have a comment to make in respect of this Resolution and I hope that the Government will be able to explain the matter to me. My comment is in respect of Item 43, "Ration allowance to additional nurses on leave or off duty at the rate of 60 cents per day." If you work this out for 31 days it comes to $18.60 per month. I refer honourable members to item 45 (a), "Living allowance for two additional Sisters in lieu of free quarters and board and servants' allowance," the explanatory note to which states:—"There is no accommodation at the Hospital for the additional Sisters, and consequently it will be necessary to pay them an allowance at the rate of $1,440 per annum each;" that works out at $120 per month. I want to get this clear: If you allow for servants, house rent, water, and light, it strikes me that you are differentiating between the Nurses and the Sisters in the matter of ration allowance. You are giving the imported Sisters a higher allowance for ration than you are giving the local Nurses. You know that it was once said by a certain gentleman that you could not expect the imported Sisters to eat the same things which the local Nurses eat. I do not subscribe to that; the imported Sisters might eat more and drink more too. I fail to understand how you can give a Sister more than you give a Nurse as a ration allowance. Eating is eating although it has been suggested that the Sisters have to eat English potatoes while the Nurses might be able to eat breadfruit. When you consider that you are giving a Nurse $18.60 a month as ration allowance, you would be leaving a Sister roughly $100 a month to pay for servants, house rent, water, and light, and before I vote for this Resolution I should like to have an explanation of that matter. Bear in mind that I began my remarks by stating that any Resolution which has for its object the efficient running of the Hospital would receive my support. I do not offer my criticisms just for the sake of being critical or with any idea of being destructive. I offer them with the idea of getting the Hospital on a proper basis. I offer them with the idea of letting people know that there is always that watchful eye of the representatives of the people on the Hospital, because if there is an institution we want to see run for the benefit of the people of this colony it is the Hospital.

Mr. LEWIS: I have an observation or two to make in respect of the Nurses. The House should say how many of the 116 Nurses will be in the grade regarded as Charge Nurses and how many will be in the grade regarded as Staff Nurses because it appears to me as though somebody will be able to decide that you only want so many in one grade and so many in the other. It also appears as though somebody by that method could create a charge on the Treasury. They are providing money for Nurses that they will not get and if the money is not spent you cannot say that anything is wrong. However, I feel that inasmuch as it is stated in the Civil Establishment Order for instance, how many Principal Clerks and how many Senior Clerks there should be and you have a salary scale for them, there should be something here too of a similar nature. We can fix the maximum for each of these two grades and they can take on the Nurses to suit. If they feel that they need the entire maximum for one grade they could use it. They must have calculated the amount by means of some figures. To arrive at $35,640 on two grades of salaries they must have used some figures and I am asking a member of the Executive Committee to state what those figures are. Mr. Chairman, there is another point which I should like to make and it is this: I understand that ever since the proclamation bringing the Hospital Act into effect, nobody working at the Hospital, apart from those on contract, have been actually appointed to the posts entailing the work which they are doing. Nobody has received any notification from the Governor or the Colonial Secretary stating that he has been appointed. For the benefit of some honourable members whom I hear making certain remarks I should like to say this: The identical thing happened when the Central Road Board became the Department of Highways and Transport. The Government took over from the Central Road Board and as soon as it knew the requirements for the Department of Highways and Transport, instructions were received from the Governmtnt stating that Mr. So and So has been appointed to such or such a post. The employees of the Department hold something to show that they have been appointed to government posts on particular dates but I understand that the same thing has not been done in the case of the Hospital on its becoming a government department. There are employees at the Hospital, both whole-time and part-time, who are anxious to know what is the position as far as they are concerned and I would welcome a statement on the point from some member of the Executive Committee to-day.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. ALLDER: I would like to know if the Government knows exactly where these particular doctors will be living. I ask that question with the view of finding out if the Government is going to regulate the distance between the Hospital and where these doctors will be living. I agree that the House Surgeons should live as near as possible to the Hospital and I should like to know if the Government would consider it advisable that instead of allowing these doctors to have to rent houses at far distances from the Hospital, accommodation should be provided for them in the flats at the Garrison. The Government has some lovely flats up there and the rentals are very cheap as compared with rentals charged by private individuals. You would be surprised to know, Mr. Chairman, that some of those flats are rented for as low as $14 a month. In this matter you are going to spend a lot of money as rent allowances for these medical officers and I feel that a saving could be effected by just spending a little money to put those flats at the Garrison in order for the accommodation of these officers. I think that that is a very important point which should be considered because everybody knows that when the Government has to rent it is required to pay very much and when it is about to buy anything it has to pay several times more than private persons are asked to pay. In this instance it would not be a case of the Government spending money with somebody else but of spending money with itself and deriving benefits which would result in a saving of its revenue.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman,—I must say that I had it in mind to speak along the exact lines on which the honourable member who has just sat down has spoken. It does strike me that the Government should utilize the housing at its disposal for the purposes necessary under this Resolution and I hope to hear something further on that point Now, Sir, what I really got up to speak about is what I pointed out to the honourable member on my right and he has spoken briefly upon it. There seems to me some inconsistency in these figures, as far as the ration allowance to the Nurses and Sisters is concerned and I would like to know exactly how this $120 per month for the accommodation etc. of the Sisters has been arrived at. The salary of a Sister is $120 rising to $132 per month while the salary of a Charge Nurse is $60 rising to $80 and the salary of a Staff Nurse is only $40 rising to $60 per month. The difference between $120 and $60 is $60. The allowance for a Sister is $120 a month and for a Nurse $18 per month,—a difference of $102 in favour of a Sister. Now, in fixing salaries it is usual to make the basic salary more than the allowance but here we have a case in which the basic salary of, and the allowance for, a Sister is the same per month and the ration allowance for a Nurse is at the rate of 60 cents a day. I cannot equate the $120 for a Sister with the $18 for a Nurse, although I admit that the $120 per month for a Sister is for other things besides rations. Food costs the same thing to a Nurse as it does to a Sister and I do hope that the honourable member in charge of this Resolution will be able to clear the matter up and tell us exactly how the $120 as an allowance for a Sister has been arrived at. Tell us how much has been allocated to the rental of a house, how much for light, how much for water, and let us see where the difference in the ration allowance to a Nurse and that to a Sister comes in.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—I do not know if honourable members are pleading for time on the ground that the Government has rushed this Resolution and that they have not had time to consider it beforehand; but such should not be the case because the proposals that are set forth in this Resolution have already received the approval of this House. The Government is not asking for one penny more than what the House has already agreed to. An allowance of $4 a week to a Nurse is something to which the House has already agreed. I wonder if it is necessary to remind the honourable senior member for the City that when it was drawn to the attention of the House that it was necessary to have Nurses living out, a special Resolution was brought to the House and it was agreed that $4 a week should be paid as a living-out allowance to those Nurses! Mr. Chairman, do not let honourable members think that I am going to come to this House with intemised figures for them. (A VOICE. Why not?) Why not? Because any honourable member who comes to this House should be capable of breaking down elementary figures such as these are. To ask the Leader of the House to break down figures for other honourable members is *infra dig.* and I would not reduce myself to the level of breaking down figures for honourable members. As regards the number of Nurses, we have at present 50 trained nurses—28 Charge Nurses and 22 Staff Nurses—and we are now asking for 66 more. As soon as you reduce the working hours from 60 to 48 a week, you automatically increase the staff of Nurses and in so far as the 66 additional Nurses, for whom the Civil Establishment (Amendment) Order No.5 of 1950 makes provision, are concerned the House has already approved of these 66 trained Nurses, so that the money you are about to vote is the money that may be paid to the maximum number of trained Nurses; that is, to say, if the Hospital were forced to employ all the 66 additional Nurses this Resolution makes provision for that eventuality. But the junior member for the City is asking that the Government should pin itself down to the actual number of Charge Nurses and Staff Nurses that it is going to employ now. It is expected that by the 31st March, 1951. only 44 of these 66 additional nurses will be available but the Government may be forced to employ all 66 and it should not be placed in the invidious position of not being able to employ the number of Nurses that are required at the Hospital. I am not aware of the Government having these houses to provide living accommodation for these people and so far as the breaking down of the figures is concerned I regard that as a stupid thing for me to do and I do not intend to do it. I would have to do that for people who are not capable of doing it for themselves.

Mr. MOTTLEY: However stupid and elementary, Sir, it may be I want the honourable member to understand this: I can break down the figures too. Before I attempted to offer any criticism of these proposals I asked the honourable member to explain them to me. An additional Charge Nurse will receive $60 a month and 60 cents per day as ration allowance. An additional Sister will receive $120 a month and according to the explanatory note on page 8 of this Resolution she will be paid an allowance at the rate of $1,440 per annum, that is, $120 per month, owing to the fact that there is no accommodation for her at the Hospital. You are giving the Sister quarters, water, and light and I even make allowance for the payment of a servant for her. What I am asking the honourable member is this: How much are you paying a Sister as a ration allow-

ance inasmuch as you have told us exactly what you are paying a Nurse as a ration allowance—60 cents a day? In my opinion one or the other is wrong. The honourable member said that it is elementary and stupid to ask him to break down the figure but it does not appear to be so stupid and elementary to other honourable members Let us say that of the $120 per month which you are about to allow a Sister $40 is for a house and $20 is for servants. Are you not allowing her $60 per month for rations and are you not, by so doing, saying that she should eat better food than a Nurse? One or the other is wrong. Either you are not paying a Nurse sufficient—and I do not consider 60 cents a day to be sufficient—or you are paying a Sister too much for rations. How do you reconcile paying a Sister $60 a month as a ration allowance with paying a Nurse $18 a month also as a ration allowance? I repeat that 60 cents a day as a ration allowance for a Nurse is too small. I would like to see the Nurse who could feed herself on 60 cents a day! She must get tea, breakfast, and dinner and how can she provide these with 60 cents? If you ever had the opportunity of engaging the services of a Nurse you would realize that she could not be fed on 60 cents a day. Can't you see that whoever made these recommendations came to the conclusion that an imported Sister must eat better food than a local Nurse? And the honourable member tells me that it is elementary and foolish! It has been suggested to me that I should put what I am saying in simpler language. I do not know that I can put it in any simpler language. As a matter of fact I cannot talk in any other language than simple language. My language is so simple that the senior member for St. Peter thinks it is stupid. I can always tell when the senior member for St. Peter has a weak case. He rambled in his reply by saying that we agreed to this and we agreed to that and that they are not asking for anything more in this Resolution. That is all right. We agree to a lot of things but he cannot tell us that we agreed to an allowance of $120 per month for a Sister in addition to her salary of $120 per month. Further, there is to be a lighting allowance for a Sister at the rate of $36 a month; that is, $3 per month additional to the $120. I am not asking that a Nurse and a Sister be paid the same salary, I am not such a fool. The Nurse gets $60 a month and the Sister $120 a month—all well and good. But the Nurse gets $18 a month for rations and if you allow $60 a month for a house, water, light, and servants for a Sister, she will then be getting $60 a month for rations. If the senior member for St. Peter thinks it is stupid, it is a matter for him.

Mr. ADAMS: I have asked the honourable member to point out specifically what he says is either an anomaly or something unjust. What is the good of saying "$120 a month for a Sister and 60 cents a day for a Nurse as an allowance" when the two are not on par? I wish the honourable member will show me where there is, in these proposals, some unjust differentiation with regard to allowances. When the honourable member referred to a statement made in this House about a Sister's food being different from that of a Nurse, such a statement could only have come from the senior member for St. James.

Mr. MOTTLEY rises.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not giving way. The honourable member can get up on a point of order. If an honourable member is speaking another honourable member has no right to interrupt him, except on a point of explanation or on a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of explanation. The honourable member said that I said that a member of this House had made a statement to the effect that there should be one type of food for a Sister and another type of food for a Nurse. I never said that a member of this House made such a statement. I said that it had been said that a Sister should eat better food than a Nurse.

Mr. ADAMS: That, Mr. Speaker, is neither a point of explanation nor a point of order. However, I apologize if I misunderstood the honourable member. I understood that at one time a reason was asked for in this House as to why there should be a differentiation in pay and the reason given was that the Sisters eat English potatoes while the local Nurses eat sweet potatoes and I remarked that if such a statement was ever made in this House it could only have been made by the senior member for St. James and then as a matter of duty. Imagine any of us on this side of the table getting up and saying that an English Nurse should have different food from that of a local Nurse! I again appeal to the honourable member. The honourable member is not more anxious than any of us to see that all the anomalies and injustices of the past are got rid of. In the House and out of the House we on this side have been preaching—and we intend to put it into practice—that there should be no differentiation. If the honourable member can show that a differentiation is made between people in the same categories, as far as the allowances are concerned, I would cheerfully ask for the postponement of this Resolution in order to have the matter smoothed out. I invite him to point out where we are giving people in the same category different rates of allowances for food or light or water.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,— I want to take up the senior member for St. Joseph on the question of ration allowances to employees of Government institutions in the colony. The senior member for St. Joseph has more or less implied that the ration allowance for all employees of government institutions is the same; that is definitely not the case. As a matter of fact, Sir, the point is this: While the members of the staff of the Mental Hospital, for instance, now get, after long agitation, a ration allowance which puts them more or less on a par with some staffs of other government institutions, the members of the staffs of the Government Industrial Schools actually get half of the ration allowance paid to the members of the staffs of other institutions in the colony; so that there is no question of uniformity of ration allowance to government servants in this Country. and if somebody wants to say that that is not true I only have to repeat that in October last year I asked the Government to place the ration allowance on a uniform basis. There is before the Whitley Council at this moment a memorandum from the staffs of the Government Industrial Schools—it has been before them for months—begging that their ration allowance be increased to the same level of that paid to more favourably placed employees of other government institutions. But to get back to the real point before the Committee, what has happened is that the senior member for St. Joseph knows that he really has no case; therefore, he has tried to obscure the matter as much as he possibly could, in the hope that the opposition to these proposals may peter out. Charge Nurses, Sir, are being paid a commencing salary of $60 per month and Staff Nurses are getting only $40 a month. The Sisters who begin at a salary of $120 a month are earmarked here for an allowance of $120 a month plus $3 for lighting, a total of $123 per month each. According to the notes to the appendix

to the Resolution, this $120 is in lieu of free quarters, board, and servants' wages and the senior member for the City submitted as a breakdown of this $120, $40 for rent and $20 for servants' wages, leaving a balance of $60 for board. Well, all it means, Sir, is that the Sisters are being given $60 for the same board for which the Nurses are being given $18, and if it is true that the House has already agreed to paying $4 a week to Nurses for board, well certainly, Sir, if you are going to give board to the Sisters, almost the same or very little more should be given to them. We certainly would never agree to give a Nurse $18 a month and a Sister approximately $60 per month for board. Whether the facts have escaped the attention of the senior member for St. Joseph, the inescapable conclusion is that whoever is responsible for the compilation of these figures had in mind that it costs a Sister from England almost four times as much for food per month as it costs a local Nurse. Whether or not, Sir, you are a member of the Government I think it is very easy to see that if you are going to pay a Sister $60 a month and a Nurse $18 per month for board, you are either paying one at too high a rate or the other at far too low a rate. Therefore, assuming that the honourable members on my right are of the opinion—also making allowance for that fact—that the House has previously agreed to pay $18 a month to a Nurse, I suggest that we reduce the amount asked for for item 45 (a), Living allowance for two additional Sisters in lieu of free quarters and board and servants' allowance, to bring it to a figure much nearer to the figure we are paying to the Charge Nurses and the Staff Nurses at the same institution. On the basis before us, it works out to $42 a month more. Even if we allow an additional $12 over and above what we are giving the Nurses we will still be able to decrease this amount by $30 a month. In the case of the two additional Sisters that would be $60 per month—$720 a year. Sir, the position is this: We are not authorised to increase the vote but it is entirely a matter for the Committee to suggest that the $4 which has been previously allowed to the Nurses be increased or that the $120 which is earmarked for the Sisters be decreased. Bearing in mind our limited powers in this matter I suggest that the House decrease the amount asked for for item 45 (a) by the sum of $720, leaving the sum of $1,680 to be voted. I, therefore, move that the amount of $2,400 be reduced by $720. I repeat that the House is not authorized to increase this vote and if honourable members are of the opinion that justice will be done to a better extent if we allow the allowance of $120 per month to a Sister to remain and give a substantial increase to the Nurses, well, Sir, I am willing to go along with them, but my suggestion is to reduce the amount to $1,680. It appears to me that the feeling of honourable members is that the amount should not be decreased but that the allowance for Nurses should be increased and, therefore, I am left with no alternative but to ask that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,— The food allowance has nothing to do with the $4 a week which is granted to a Nurse as a living-out allowance. The question of the $4 a week arose when Nurses had to live outside the Hospital but they still ate food in the Hospital. The $4 a week was not a ration allowance. The Nurses ate in the Hospital but when they had to live outside the institution $4 a week was given to them and the House agreed to that. The Sister's allowance was always there. Why try to bring in the question about their being English people? I am not one of those who talk in this House about these English people and outside draw up almost in their arms. Such talk sounds well for political purposes. It has been recommended that there should be local Sisters too. I am a Barbadian and I intend to make my living here. Honourable members are talking about something being done to help English women but I do not have any such ambition. If a Sister lives in the parish of St. Philip and she is a Barbadian, this privilege will not be taken away from her and given to a white Sister. Look at the accommodation which you now provide at the Hospital for Sisters, compare it with the accommodation which you now provide for Nurses at the same institution and ask yourselves whether there is not a differentiation. You provide the Sisters with nice, comfortable flats. If that is the provision you make for a Sister in the Hospital and you have to make the same provision for a sister outside the Hospital, what would be a reasonable allowance for a house? The Senior member for the City says "$40 a month." How can he say that $40 is going to be the accepted figure when some people like to live in mansions if they are afforded the opportunity to do so? I admit that the senior member for the City has not given sufficient consideration to the Resolution—

Mr. MOTTLEY: I object to that statement. I take my duties very seriously.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I repeat that I do not believe that the honourable member has given serious consideration to this Resolution because if he did give serious consideration to this Resolution he would see where things clash and where they do not clash, as far as provision for Sisters and Nurses is concerned. For practical purposes we will ignore the things said about allowances to employees at the Mental Hospital . As regards the suggestion for the postponement of the Resolution I do not think that any honourable member takes that seriously other than the member who made it.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman,—I must really say that I fail to see why so much hedging has been necessary over a simple question which we on this side of the House, have asked, that is, to tell us what is equal to and we will be able to solve the problem. To suggest that past legislation should have nothing to do with present legislation before us to-day is, in my opinion, just hedging. If there is an anomaly or a mistake or a wrong in the legislation before us to-day no honourable member has any right, just on account of past legislation, to push it through. When the senior member for St. Joseph talked about comparison in the same categories, I should like to say that when it comes to the stomach, that is one category for everybody. What we are merely asking on this side of the table is to tell us exactly how many dollars are allocated to the stomach, how many to house, water and light, so that we may correlate the difference between the allowance to a Nurse and the allowance to a Sister. We on this side are saying that when it comes to rations, there should be no difference between the two and as far as I know that system has existed and still exists to-day in other establishments. Having had experience in the Army I know that an officer gets exactly the same rations as a private. In the British Army, under the Regulations, an officer gets exactly the same rations as a private; if the officer chooses to expend money on buying extra rations, that is entirely a matter for him but both the officer and the private are allowed exactly the same rations in kind. If, Sir, those on that side would stop hedging and just give us the key to the problem, we are quite capable of working it out. What is worrying me a bit is this: If there is accommodation in the Hospital for a Sister she does not get an allowance of $120 per month but if

there is no accommodation in the Hospital for her, you propose to pay her an allowance of $120 per month to be able to live out, plus $120 per month as salary. Tell me how much of the $120 as an allowance is allocated to house rent and how much to servants' wages. From what I see, eventually all the Sisters at the Hospital will be living out or would want to live it. I feel that certain information is lacking and if the honourable member cannot give the necessary information, he should postpone this Resolution temporarily instead of running the risk of having it put to the vote to-day and rejected. As I stand at present I do not know which way to vote. I do not feel that you should pay one individual such a vast difference for ration, although the explanatory notes do not state any amount for rations to Sisters at all. I am not saying that a Sister is not getting enough or that a Nurse is not getting enough. The 60 cents per day is only an off-duty allowance to a Nurse and the persons in charge of the Hospital should be able to know whether they could command the services of nurses on an off-duty allowance at the rate of 60 cents a day. But as far as the £300 per annum as an allowance to a Sister is concerned, we should have some information as to how it is to be spent because it is a large amount to be granted as an allowance.

Mr. ADAMS: I must apologize to the Committee for not taking members of the Committee seriously. If honourable members are really in a quandary as to how to vote I ask them to take me seriously. We are not asking for one thing different from what exists to-day. Dr. Halliman specifically drew attention to this state of things and this is what he said in regard to the increasing of the number of Sisters by two—this is the answer to any talk about discrimination—: "One of the difficulties of appointing a locally recruited Nursing Sister is that the most suitably qualified persons are at present in the U.K. in training. The cost of a Nursing Sister is as follows:—

'Salary ($1,440 x 48—$1,584), Allowances board and lodging in lieu of free quarters and servant's allowance ($1,440), Uniform ($80)'"

That is what exists to-day. All we are saying is: "You have passed the Civil Establishment Order providing for these appointments, and these are the salaries which, in fact, are being paid." The senior member for St. George should get it clear in his head that there is no differentiation. You are not paying these additional Nurses any ration allowance while they are on duty. The allowance is given to them when they are going on off-duty. My recollection is that this off-duty allowance applies to all staffs when they are going home to eat with their parents, relatives or friends. Who would agree to giving a Sister an allowance of $120 per month and a Nurse $18 per month while they were both on duty? If Nurses are on duty they would eat a particular type of food and the idea is that if they are off-duty they should not be deprived of the value of the food they eat while on duty. The ration is part of their salary and therefore when they are going home they are given the equivalent in money and it is computed at the rate of 60 cents a day. You may disagree and say that 60 cents is not enough; you may say that they should have orange juice or brandy or liqueur but it is wrong to say that these Nurses are getting rations at the rate of 60 cents a day while Sisters get rations at the rate of $120 per month while they are all on duty. There is no question of discrimination. I repeat that this is nothing new which the Government is proposing. Nobody wants to give Sisters $120 a month as an allowance if it can be avoided. I may say that the Government is considering the question of building a new hospital or extending the present hospital on the same site and one of the immediate objects of the Government would be to start the Nurses' quarters before they start anything else. But it is utterly wrong for some honourable members by their speeches to give the impression that we are providing food of two different types for people, that we are providing food at much less cost and at a lower rate and of a different standard for Nurses than we are providing for Sisters. You should compare like with like. It is like a policeman going off-duty. Suppose a policeman was getting free mess you will have to say that it costs X pence per day; so too would it cost X pence per day to feed a Nurse at the Hospital and the Government is saying that the day a policeman or a nurse is offduty that X pence should go into his or her pocket. This is a formal matter. Having regard to the additional Nurses we are merely asking you to provide the money at the rate that exists now; that is all. There being no room to accommodate the additional Sisters and Nurses at the Hospital we are saying "Continue the present conditions that exist to-day." I appeal to the senior member for St. Lucy to see that this is in keeping with conditions that exist to-day, that in view of these additional posts the sum involved is the sum mentioned in this Resolution.

Mr. WARD: I thank the honourable member for his explanation but I am still a bit worried about the matter. I am not worried about the off-duty allowance. What is worrying me is the £300 per annum as an allowance for the Sisters who have to live outside the Hospital. On page 7 of the Resolution it is stated:— "Living allowance for two additional Sisters in lieu of free quarters and board and servants' allowance, $2,400", and on the next page it is stated:—"Lighting allowance for two additional Sisters at the rate of $36 per annum each." I feel that if we can get the £300 broke down, the position would be made clear. I honestly feel that the Government has the Hospital heart and is doing its best but we should be in position to know what is going on. When one sees that $120 per month is provided as an allowance for Sisters who live outside the Hospital and $4 a week for Nurses who live outside the Hospital, it may one desire that the $120 for the Sister should be broken down in order to see how much is for house how much is for board, and how much is for servants' wages because light is provided for separately. It would not be fair to give a Nurse $4 a week as a ration allowance while a Sister may be getting $25 a week also as a ration allowance. That is why I suggest that if the honourable member is not sure about the figures, he should postpone the further consideration of the Resolution until next Tuesday or the Resolution may be rejected.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I listened very carefully to what the senior member for St. Joseph has had to say and as far as I have been able to gather, all he did do was to emphasize the position of the opponents to this Resolution. This allowance of 60 cents a day is based on the assumption that while a Nurse is not being fed at the Hospital it is going to cost her an average of 60 cents a day to feed herself. Now, a Sister is not going to be fed at the Hospital either. She has to rent a house and pay servants. You are giving her $3 per month for light and $120 per month for board, house rent, and servants. We estimate approximately $40 for house rent and $20 for servants' allowance, leaving an estimated balance of $60. Is there any other conclusion to come to than that it

takes a Sister $60 a month to feed herself while a Nurse can feed herself on $4 a week? If the honourable member on my right can rationalize the difference we would support the Resolution, otherwise we would not support it.

Mr. ADAMS: We can go on in this way indefinitely. Honourable members have chosen to take this £300 per annum as an allowance for a Sister and divide it up in the way which the last honourable member has mentioned. Now, I am going to use argument that appeals to the honourable member on my left. Implicitly in his talk is that we are drawing a distinction between English Nurses and Barbadian Nurses when he knows that there is a chance of putting Barbadian Nurses on the footing that past Governments used to put English Nurses. I am using that argument to the junior member for St. Philip and to him alone. I again ask honourable members to show me where we are discriminating or doing something which perpetuates an injustice. Show me in what way this is something new, something that is not in operation and I would be content to postpone the Resolution or withdraw anything in it that does not find favour with other honourable members. I repeat that the confusion started at first by looking at the 60 cents per day. It is not a question of whether when a Nurse goes home 60 cents would feed her for a day. To some of us a meal costs $6 because the food which some of us like to eat includes brandy and chicken. The 60 cents is calculated on the basis of what it costs the Government to feed its employees at the particular institution. When I first saw the amount I too was amazed. That is the amount which a Nurse would be losing by not eating in the Hospital. I cannot put it any plainer. I am not casting any reflection on you, Sir, but what we are arguing now is not before us. We passed the Estimates for 1950-51 and by implication we have agreed to this as the scale to be paid to people who happen not to have quarters at the Hospital. This is a *fait accompli*. We are merely asking you to provide for these people, in view of the fact that you have already passed the Civil Establishment Order. All these rates have been approved of in the Estimates and we are merely saying that this is the new set-up and are asking you to provide the money. I cannot tell you now how much is for board, how much is for house rent, how much is for servants' allowance but that is beside the point in this argument because we have taken it for granted that this is not inequitable. Honourable members say that they do not have any row with us as regards the $120 per month as the allowance for a Sister, that they are not saying that $120 per month is too much but they are saying that 60c. a day for a Nurse is too little. You have already agreed to these rates in the Estimates and let me sit down by saying that it is not a question of Barbadians and English. As far as this Government is concerned every post that can be filled by Barbadians will meet with its approval.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I have absolutely no complex where Barbadian Nurses and English Nurses are concerned. If these figures were put for Barbadian Sisters to come from England to fill these posts I would not be a party to making fish of Barbadian Nurses and fowl of English Nurses. I would insist that the allowance for the one approximates to the allowance for the other. I would not expect the senior member for St. Joseph to say other than he would expect the Barbadian Nurses to be paid nothing, comparatively speaking, and the English Sisters to be paid a big salary because he actually made a statement to that effect before the United Nations. When he was asked to justify the difference between the wage of 50c. per day paid to natives and $50 a day to officials he actually attempted to do so.

Mr. ADAMS: I am in order now in rising to a point of explanation. I am going to quote his good friend, Mr. Bustamante. The honourable member is an expert at misquoting other people and he has one of the worst memories. I have never said anything of the sort and if the honourable member is going to attack me I want him to give chapter and verse.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable member definitely made the attempt to justify a wage of 50 cents a day for suffering natives and a salary of $50 a day for officials. Mr. Bustamante has a memory like the honourable member's,—sometimes inconvenient. I repeat that if a Sister is worth an allowance of $120 per month, whether she be a Barbadian or an English lady, by all means pay it to her. But my sole contention is that you are going to pay a Sister too much in comparison with what you are going to pay a Nurse and I say that if a Nurse is insufficient it is our duty to postpone the Resolution and increase the amount. Nothing that the honourable member has said would convince anybody — even himself — that there is not such a gross disparity between the two figures. As regards his statement that he does not have the information to give us is concerned I already have the information because the schedule to the Resolution most emphatically states how this $120 per month is arrived at. It is merely in lieu of free quarters, board, and servants' allowance and anybody who lives in this country and knows living conditions in this Country is able to find out how much a Sister may have to spend on quarters, servants, and food.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. COX, the CHAIRMAN reports progress and asks leave for the Committee to sit again.

The House resumes and on the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. LEWIS, the House is adjourned until 6.15 o'clock p.m.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On re-assembling

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was in Committee of Supply considering a Resolution to place the sum of $40,940 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. 5, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE *re* GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When we were in Committee of Supply considering this Resolution before the adjournment, the honourable junior member for St. George was about to speak.

Mr. DOWDING: I still have not been able to get clarified the simple point about which we on this side of the Table have asked. I think that if the information is not available the matter should be postponed so that the information can be obtained: I fail to see the impossibility of acquiring that information . Some levity and lightness have been shown in connection with this matter, but I view it from a serious angle. We know the conditions which existed in the recent past and the conditions which exist at present at our one and only Hospital. I will resort to the well-known slogan of the honourable senior member for St Joseph that this House

is capable of doing anything except possibly changing a man into a woman: and if we have discovered something which we did not see possibly on account of the absence of electricity, we should do our best to amend it now. To argue that this is a matter of Bajans versus English people is, in my opinion, beside the point. I have argued that there is a difference between the allowance for a Nurse regardless of class, creed or colour, and that for a Sister If one looks at the total figures per annum he will see that the amount for a Sister as regards allowance and light is $1,476. Taking the figures that are here, the expenses per annum would be: Light, $36: Rent, $480; Servant, $240 making a total of $756, leaving a balance of $60 a month for food. I still argue that regardless of whether she be a Sister or a Nurse, the stomach is in the same category. Another light in which I look at this matter is the possibility of there being friction between those who are afforded quarters and those who are not afforded any quarters. Let us suppose that these two Sisters rent one house: that is immediately a saving of $40 a month. Let us suppose that they both employ one servant; that is a saving of $20 a month. Let us suppose that both of them use the same electricity; that would be a saving of $2 a month. On those suppositions there would be a total saving of $372 per annum by the fact that the two Sisters have amalgamated and used one common house. I have had experience with regard to this type of allowance and I submit that the matter is well worth looking into to see that no friction is caused between those Sisters who are living in and those who are living out. I am of the opinion that unless these figures are broken down and this House is informed of the exact break down, there might be a mixture of salary and allowance. Friction might be caused by those Sisters who are living out being able to save $372 a year by teaming together; I can assure you that that is what will happen. If we can hear clearly and accurately how this $1,440 is computed it will save a great deal of friction in the future. As I have said, this is a simple matter; the argument on this side of the House has been as regards the break down of these figures, and I fail to see why honourable members who are responsible for this Resolution should be hedging and not giving us the figures. If the figures are not obtainable at the moment let them postpone this Resolution for a short period so that we can be given the information. I repeat in all seriousness that my criticism has been for the better running of the Hospital. If there is a discrepancy in the ration allowance between a Nurse and a Sister there is going to be friction; if it is possible for two Sisters to amalgamate and gain $372 a year there is going to be friction and unless these figures are clarified and all other channels explored I think we would be wrong in passing this Resolution. I make that submission in all good faith and I hope that honourable members will take it in the spirit in which it has been made.

Mr. LEWIS: I am making a few observations which I hope will help honourable members to vote for this Resolution. I remember well when this off duty ration allowance for nurses started; it came about as a result of conditions which existed in two other Government Institutions. It was argued that the rations supplied at the Hospital were part and parcel of the salary; because you gave a certain salary plus rations and therefore you had to give something to the Nurses when they were off duty because that was in the day's pay. I think that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said that working it out on some basis, you were entitled to what it costs in the Institution, and I think an amount was arrived at as to what it costs to provide rations within the Institution. The payment of $4 a week as a living-out allowance came about as a result of the Government not having a Rent Restriction Ordinance and they realised that they were renting a house for too much money. They gave up the "Sea View" residence and gave the nurses an allowance of $4 a week for sleeping out, but if one of those Nurses was off duty a day she would have to be given $4.60 that week. As far as rent allowance is concerned, I do not think there is a precedent as regards provision for Sisters outside: Sisters have always been accommodated within the Institution. When free furnished quarters are given, the minimum amount of furniture is put in the premises. The first person to rent a house outside the Institution was Dr. Leacock who was given a house allowance of $60 a month. In the Estimates for this year nothing about house allowance was put down because Dr. Leacock was not given any house allowance at that time. The note in the Estimates says: "Surgeon Specialist no longer provided with quarters or house allowance." This new arrangement has come about and in the Resolution there is provision for a house allowance for six members of the medical staff: I take it that Dr. Leacock is included here. If you look at the Schedule on page 3 of this Resolution you will see: "Rental of Quarters for six Officers, or allowance in lieu, $3,600". That would be roughly $50 a month for these Medical Officers. I am saying that the provision of free, furnished quarters outside the Hospital may be something new and we will have to watch ourselves in that respect. I fail to see how $50 a month could pay for the rental of a furnished house outside the Hospital for Dr. Leacock. As regards ration allowance, that is provided in the Estimates for the Radiographers and the Assistant to the Radiologist at the rate of $20 a month, as honourable members will see on page 126 of the Estimates. There is not therefore this great disparity between the Nurses' ration allowance at 60 cents a day and what you give as a ration to other people outside What I am concerned with is to discover whether the provision of quarters outside the Hospital means free furnished quarters as they would be inside the Hospital. If that is so I do not think that this Resolution provides sufficient money for the Officers whom you are going to appoint; probably you could increase the item in the Estimates and put the servants for the two Sisters under that Head rather than give a lumpsum of money. If you have to rent furnished quarters outside the barest minimum would be $80 or $90 a month and it would cost about $18 or $20 a month for rations. However, I do feel that this lumpsum might need some further information: if you detail these figures and they amount to more than what you give the other people, that might cause discontent. While these things are nothing new since they are already in existence in the Estimates, the figures should be put together to see if they come to the total which is there; perhaps they might need further revision or breakdown to show what is house allowance and what is ration allowance. If the ration allowance is $60 a month and these Officers are getting $20 a month, that would mean that the House tried to remedy one thing and got into some other trouble. Perhaps you should increase the amount to provide furnished quarters for Medical Officers outside including Dr. Leacock who I believe is outside now. In my opinion the House has got to

state definitely whether "rent allowance" means free furnished quarters outside since you provide free furnished quarters inside. I think that this Resolution far from being reduced will have to be increased, because I see that only $50 a month is provided for what may be called free, furnished quarters for the new Officers.

Mr. ADAMS: I shall not be speaking again after now. Reference has been made to English people, but in a Message from the Governor dated 2nd May, 1950, it was specifically said that certain recommendations of Dr. Hallinan's Report had been accepted and that these extra posts of Sisters would be filled by suitable local candidates. That is a clear undertaking by the Head of the Administration. I have told honourable members already and I will tell them now again; this computation has been done long ago and I have not traced it. As the honourable junior member for the City has said, the amount of this Resolution is possibly too little rather than too much. What does it matter if I tell honourable members that the rent is so much, the allowance is so much and give figures which add up to $120? The honourable junior member for St. George has used the word "hedge", but does the honourable member know the meaning of the word? We are not hedging, we say that we do not know what these figures are. If the figures are $40, $30 and $30 or any other combination it does not matter where this vote is concerned. This amount is in the Estimates and you cannot change it. The honourable junior member for St. George has said that they made a mistake in the dark; he should be outside saying that, not inside. Well the honourable member is facetious and I am glad to see that he is facetious. We are told that the Hospital is in a mess and now we are trying to get things done we are told to wait until next week to see what information is given; and when next week comes you will still have to vote for the Resolution. Some of these debates are sometimes read outside the colony and there are instances in which people applying for jobs have taken the trouble of going around to the Colonial Office and getting copies of the debates. Sometimes they ask if they accept jobs whether those remarks are going to be applied to them if they come to Barbados. I do not think that merely for the sake of scoring a debating point, honourable members should make it more difficult for appointments to be made. We are determind that these appointments are to be local appointments; if honourable members make it more difficult for appointments to be made, are they not spoiling their own case that the Hospital is in a mess? Let them try and clean up the mess. This House has already tied its hands to these salary scales and it is only formal to vote this money which I ask the House to do.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I suppose this debate will end now. Having raised this question of salary allowance, allowance for Sisters and so on, I just want to add a few more observations. The honourable member who last spoke seems to feel that there is some idea on this side of the Table of reducing this vote.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry if I gave that idea. I completely withdraw any such idea if I did give it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The honourable member did imply that there was an idea of reducing the vote, but he will recall that I said there was no idea of reducing it. What I ask for, the honourable member says it is impossible to give. I appreciate that because the honourable senior member for St. Thomas who would have been in charge of this Resolution, would be really acquainted with the facts. I have always given every opportunity for honourable members to get the facts at their disposal. At the outset the honourable senior member for St. Peter seemed to have resented even the idea of asking about these figures but at this stage the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has actually admitted that a search has been made for these figures and he cannot give them. If you look at the notes to Appendix 2 of this Resolution you will see: "Ration allowance at the rate of 60 cents per day for additional nurses," and in comparison with that you find that the allowance for these Sisters is really $120 a month each; then there is "Living allowance for two additional Sisters in lieu of free quarters and board and servants allowance." If the idea is to pay $40 a month for a house and $20 for the servants, then you are offering the Sisters $60 a month for rations as compared with 60c. a day for the Nurses. I have never attempted to put Sisters who are doing a certain amount of mental plus physical work against servants whom they employ. If you are giving the Sisters a ration allowance of $60 a month, then something is wrong with the ration allowance for Nurses. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said that we have passed this amount in the Estimates already and we cannot speak on it now; but I will still find a way of speaking on it. You are extending the Hospital and therefore you have to employ more Nurses; and in arriving at their pensions you will take into consideration not only the house allowance but also the ration allowance. We agreed on the house allowance in the Estimates and everyone knows that we had to rush through the Estimates; it was only those who could spend all night and come back next morning who would be able to trace anything. I do not know if that was preventing the Opposition from getting time to offer opposition. We offer this criticism today and it is well for the Government to look very clearly and carefully into this matter. We never had any idea of reducing this amount. I said at the beginning that in respect of any amount which is required for carrying on the work of this Institution you could always depend on my vote. I am not satisfied that the Government has been able to answer us in every detail: I believe that they themselves are not satisfied that the whole situation as regards the ration allowance between doctors and nurses is right. I quite appreciate that they are trying to get this Resolution passed but on reflection they are bound to say that those boys over there are correct. All is not well; members of the Government are bound to say: "They have drawn something to our notice and they are right." If we had power to increase this ration allowance of 60 cents a day we would increase it. I hope that on the next occasion when they are dealing with any Resolution in respect of the Hospital Nurses, the Government will go carefully into the question of this allowance. These people who not only work with their hands but also with their brains and who must keep themselves physically fit, must eat well; it is not merely a question of 60 cents a day. I hope that honourable members will be very much enlightened by the observations which we have made today; I hope that the members of the Government will let the Head of the Administration know that we of the Opposition are demanding treatment for

Nurses equivalent to any treatment which might be meted out to any Sister whether local or imported. This debate will do all the good; it has brought out that we are not going to stand for treatment meted out to imported Sisters whether English or otherwise being different from that which is meted out to local Sisters. That might happen; you will get some imported Head of a Department who will ride roughshod over local people and members of the Government will hear about it in the street. Mr. Chairman, there are still some of us on this side of the Table with little strength and when we ask questions the Government must not try to side-step—I do not use the word "hedge—" because the honourable senior member for St. Peter answered us everything except what we wanted to know. It was only at the last stage that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said that they could not find the papers although a search has been made; we would have got on much further if the honourable member had said that earlier. I personally think that in future the Government should be able to tell us how they break down this Resolution. The Government would have scored a victory by getting this Resolution passed, but they will not be satisfied with a ration allowance of 60 cents a day for nurses.

Mr. CRAWFORD: One brief final word, Mr. Chairman. It has been argued by the Government that conditions at the Hospital have been chaotic and there has been rife dissatisfaction———

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member has brought me to my feet. I said we are constantly being told that conditions at the Hospital are chaotic, that something should be done and when we try to do something honourable members want to postpone it. The Government has deplored the name which the Hospital has earned outside; and here you hear remarks about doctors murdering people.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Not in here.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Government has said that there is a lot of dissatisfaction at the Hospital. All I am trying to do is to improve the conditions at the Hospital, to bring order out of the chaos; but I sincerely say that if we pass this Resolution as it stands, instead of bringing about satisfaction at the Hospital we will be adding to the confusion there. There is bound to be dissatisfaction on the part of Nurses when it is brought to their attention or when they read that in this Resolution there is such a tremendous disparity between the amount for their allowance and that for the Sisters Moreover, it is bound to cause dissatisfaction in other parts of the Government Service; I say that there is no uniformity in respect of ration allowance in the Government Service. Employees at the Government Industrial Schools are only allowed $8 a month for rations when off duty or on leave, and it works out at 28 cents a day. Two years ago these employees petitioned the Government about this matter and they have not heard anything about it; earlier this year the matter was taken up with the Whitley Council and a Memorandum was sent to the Colonial Secretary, but no reply to it has been received as yet. I was reminded during the tea interval that the allowance which the Government makes for the purpose of assessing income tax on a married couple is only $100 a month and $20 a month for a child.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member; he must try and stick to the Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What I am saying is that we are allowing $120 a month for a Sister and as far as income tax is concerned, the allowance for a bachelor is $60 a month. A Sister is getting $120 a month over and above her salary—a total remuneration of $240 a month and $120 out of that is for board, rent and servant allowance. After all, there must be some reasonable basis in assessing these allowances and those of us who regard it as our duty to bring to an end as speedily as possible, the chaotic conditions at the Hospital should see that we give satisfaction where dissatisfaction now reigns supreme. We should see that far from rendering a disservice either to Government Servants or the colony as a whole, we are rendering a service for which there should be some slight degree of support and appreciation.

Mr. BRANCKER: What emerges from this debate is that there is a remarkable unanimity of opinion of members of this House as to the inadequacy of this ration allowance at the rate of 60 cents a day for additional Nurses. Obviously we cannot on this occasion increase this amount, but it is only a matter of two or three months from now when the Government should be preparing the Colonial Estimates and may I suggest that they dare not face this House with the Estimates if there is not a substantial increase made in this ration allowance which is only 60 cents a day for Nurses? This amount is grossly inadequate for professional women whether it is called 60 cents, half-crown or 2/6 and a substantial increase should be made in it. One thing which has been mentioned is that in respect of additional Sisters it would be necessary to pay them £300 per annum; there are Barbadians in the United Kingdom who are now being trained and and I shall look forward to seeing those Barbadians come out here and fill these posts.

Mr. DOWDING: This debate has brought to light certain illuminating facts but it has failed to bring about the piece of information for which we asked. I hope that the Government will scrutinize the facts which have been brought out in this debate and that the existing anomalies in the various allowances will be put right in the near future.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not want to waste time but the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said that undeserving things have been said about the Hospital. Those things have always been said in the Other Place; the hon. Dr. St. John and the hon. Dr. Massiah have actually said that the conditions at the Hospital have been appalling and deplorable.

Mr. REECE: I was not here earlier in this debate to hear all the arguments which have been adduced but we have to bear in mind what the hon. senior member for the City has said. This question of providing rent-free quarters for the Staff at the Hospital should be carefully considered by the Government. If the Hospital is being extended and we need more Staff and at the same time we have no accommodation at the Hospital for them, naturally we would have to spend some money for the accommodation of the Staff. That is a very important matter. There are two points; one is the question of expense and the other is whether it is expedient that the Hospital Staff should be housed outside the Hospital. On the question of expense, we must consider that we have large commitments and there are other matters which will be constantly calling for more financial assistance from the Government and out of the Treasury. When it comes to the question as to whether it is right and proper for the Staff to be housed outside the Hospital, I say that that is even a more important point. I feel that the Nurses should be housed inside the Hospital, and

that is going to raise another question—the question of the extension of the present Hospital. The time is coming when we will have to acquire some of the surrounding property in order to extend the Hospital. I have not heard any debate for a long time on the question as to whether the present site of the Hospital is a suitable one or whether the Hospital should be removed to some other site. I believe that the Hospital is well placed but it is not big enough; and instead of thinking of the huge sum of money to be expended on the laying out of a hospital, we should think of extending the Hospital in the position which it now occupies. I do hope that now it is apparent to all that the Hospital Staff must be increased, the Government will pay attention and give consideration to the question of acquiring the property surrounding the Hospital. I know that, in the past, Governments have been faced with difficulties in the matter of acquiring land, because we have always found that we have had to go to a jury and the value of the land has been highly assessed, but within recent years we have had an Act on the Statute Book and I am hoping it will be so amended that the Government will be able to acquire land at a reasonable figure. I do hope when that time comes that the first thing to be done will be to acquire some of the property surrounding the Hospital so as to have a Hospital not only large enough to cater to the sick, but to house the Staff on the spot so that they can look after the patients. It is essential and vital to the welfare of the patients that adequate Staff should be at the Hospital, and if the Hospital continues to grow and the Staff continues to be increased in proportion the Staff outside will be a big one and the Staff inside will become too small to deal with duties in the Hospital during the night. From whatever angle you view the matter, it will be costly to provide free quarters for the Staff. I am hoping that this matter will be really given consideration. I have no doubt that sooner or later we will be able to acquire a large portion of the property surrounding the Hospital so that the Staff can be housed. As regards the points raised by hon. members, it is not my intention at this late stage to go into the merits of them. I know that this Resolution has come before the House to-day because of the Report which was recently laid on the Table of the House; and I feel confident that when the whole question of salary and staff is really reviewed, many of the anomalies which have been mentioned will be dealt with and everybody will be happy. However, it does not seem right to me that the ration allowance for a Nurse should only be at the rate of 2/6 per day. I have no doubt that if the Hospital is feeding a large number of people, the cost will be at the minimum; but if people are away from the Hospital they will not get the benefit of the bulk-purchasing system and they will have to buy as ordinary individuals. Therefore, in my view, what it costs a person in the Hospital for rations is not a correct estimate of what a ration allowance for an individual should be. As to the Sisters, you have got to find free quarters for them either in the Hospital or outside. I know that when Medical Officers were housed outside the Hospital they were given special salaries and emoluments in order to cover their expenses in having to remain outside the Hospital; so that the point about housing people outside the Hospital is not a new one. It is however a matter which I do hope will be given most serious consideration and the only solution to the problem, the solution which will make for the efficient running of the Hospital, is to have a Hospital large enough to be able to accommodate the entire Staff.

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 Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Resolution in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

FURTHER SICK LEAVE TO THE OFFICIAL REPORTER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to proceed with the Address of which I gave notice earlier to-day. The matter is an urgent one and I hope that hon. members will agree to deal with it at once.

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

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not think that this Address needs very much explanation. Hon. members know that Mr. Rock, the Official Reporter of the Other Place, was taken ill at the end of last year and he was granted two months' leave. The Debates Committee had to extend Mr. Rock's leave because he was seriously ill and he was given leave up to the end of this month. I am glad to say that he has considerably improved and it is hoped that he will be able to resume his duties on the 1st of July with the assistance of somebody. This Address is asking for provision of money to pay someone who acted for Mr. Rock from the 1st of January. Unfortunately by an oversight the provision was excluded from the Estimates although Mr. Rock had been given leave on full pay. This Address is merely asking the Executive Committee to be good enough to send down a Resolution to provide for the payment of the substitute for Mr. Rock during his illness, and also to provide a small sum for his assistant during the month of July. Mr. Rock is a man who has worked in the Other Place for, I believe, 15 or 16 years. I beg to move that this Address do now pass. It reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully refer Your Excellency to their Address to you of the 31st January, 1950, and desire to say that the Debates Committee appointed by virtue of section three of the Legislative Debates Act 1894 (1894-7) has granted Mr. C. B. Rock, Official Reporter of the Legislative Council, a further four months' sick leave from the 1st March with full pay. The Committee has re-engaged the services of a suitable reporter at the rate of $80.00 per month.

The Committee has decided to engage the services of an assistant to Mr. Rock for the month of July for the sum of $40.00 after which date the matter will be further considered by the Debates Committee.

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to send down the necessary legislation to give effect to the proposals of the Debates Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second the motion. It is generally agreed that Mr. Rock has rendered very faithful service to the Legislature; we regret

his illness and wish him a speedy and complete recovery. The least we can do is to give him the leave asked for in the Address and provide him with the necessary assistant to do his work until such time as he can resume his duties.

Mr. LEWIS: On hearing about this Address one could not disagree with it; this Address is in connection with continuing work in the Legislature —work which is of very vital importance. But I do say that any hon. member who brings forward an Address of the length of this one, should have had at least three carbon copies distributed at various points in the House so that hon. members might be able to appreciate the Address at early notice. I say that because I am sure that hon. members on the other side of the Table will some day say that they did not have a copy of an Address, and believe me, if they are on solid ground, they will get my support. I believe that every member of the House should be able to represent his constituency properly by having the documents of the House placed in his hands at a proper time. Bearing in mind that an Address of this kind call for money out of the Treasury and that we have a machine for producing cyclo-styled copies, the hon. junior member for St. James ought to have availed himself of the use of that machine and furnished copies of this Address. I will support the Address although I never had a copy of it to read.

Mr. ALLDER: The hon. junior member for St. James has not seen fit to circularise the House with copies of the Address, yet I feel that he has proceeded with the Address in good faith. Inasmuch as the gentleman who stands to benefit from the Address has given good service to the Legislature, I feel that he deserves the consideration which is being given to him.

Mr. WILKINSON: I fully sympathise with the two honourable members who have just spoken, because I do think that honourable members should have a copy of any Address which is put before this House. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we found it very difficult to get a quorum of the Debates Committee. I should like to say that although an Address was passed in January this year, it was never presented to His Excellency the Governor and probably that is why the money to pay the substitute for Mr. Rock was never included in the Estimates. As I have said, I sympathise with honourable members in that they have not had much time to peruse this Address, and we have agreed, much against our inclination, to pass measures at a moment's notice. This is not a very intricate matter; this is a matter of a man who has served the country well. He has been ill and it is a question of paying a substitute so as to allow that man to draw his full salary for a period of six months. I do not think that this is a matter in which the House should quarrel, but I do agree that honourable members have not had sufficient notice of this Address You know, Sir, the reason why that has happened on this occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I will ask the honourable junior member for St. James to present this Address.

Mr. WILKINSON: As Your Honour pleases.

ST. MARK'S CHAPEL AND BURIAL GROUND BILL, 1950.

Mr. BETHELL: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to proceed with the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to proceed with the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business as the next Order of the Day. Unless any honourable member objects, leave will be granted the honourable member.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I object. The Government has only dealt with one Order and there are more important items on the Order Paper to be dealt with. The honourable member's item can be dealt with as soon as we re-assemble.

Mr. ALLDER: The honourable member had this Bill on the Order Paper for several weeks and it is the first Item under Private Members' Business: he might not have attempted to proceed with the Bill now if the line had not been broken to allow the honourable junior member for St. James to proceed with his Address. I feel that the honourable member should be given the opportunity to deal with the Bill. A Bill of this sort prevents certain negotiations from going on and the Authorities have asked that it be dealt with as soon as possible. Certain correspondence is being carried on with persons overseas and I feel that it is necessary for the honourable member to be given the opportunity to deal with the Bill. It is not a controversial matter.

Mr. ADAMS: I am the person who is in charge of Government Business and I am in a position to say whether I am going to yield to the honourable member or not. I did make the promise that almost immediately after tea we could proceed with this Order at which time I hoped that more Government Business would have been finished. I have no assurance that honourable members will not walk off immediately after this Bill is finished or not. I am suggesting that we do a little more Government Business; honourable members may be interested in this particular Bill and they may walk off after it is finished. I did make a promise to the honourable member but with the state of Government Business now, I cannot at this stage, agree to this Order being proceeded with. I agree that it is necessary for this Bill to be done, but I also agreed that it is necessary for Government Business to be done.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to proceed with the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business as the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. FOSTER, ALLDER, CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY, BETHELL, GODDARD, GILL, WILKINSON, WARD and REECE—10.

Noes: Messrs. MILLER, MAPP, LEWIS, BRYAN, COX, F. L. WALCOTT and ADAMS—7.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John—Second reading of a Bill to vest a certain parcel of land situate in the parish of St. John in this island with the Chapel of St. Mark, the parsonage house, and other buildings, and the burial ground in the Lord Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of St. John and their respective successors in office upon certain trusts..

Mr BETHELL: This Bill seeks to vest certain lands about 13 acres 31 perches, St. Mark's Chapel, the Parsonage and old School house, in the Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of St. John and their successors in office. The Bill is the result of a petition by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, an Anglican Missionary Society whose Headquarters are in London and are the Trustees of the Codrington Estates. The land in question forms part of the College Plantation, one of the two plantations bequeathed by General Christopher Codrington to the said

Society. In 1877 the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel issued a Trust Deed declaring their ownership of the property and the purposes for which it was held. The present Bishop informs me that so far as he has been able to trace the course of events, this Declaration of Ownership was issued when responsibility for the payment of the clergyman serving as Vicar of St. Mark's was undertaken by the local Government.

The Vestry of the parish of St. John from time to time voted funds for the repair of the Church. Parsonage House and probably the School when it was in use. Funds were also forthcoming from local residents. Latterly, there has been far less money, and the Parsonage House in particular needed attention, being without water supply and with bad sanitation. Under the Vestries Act, power is conferred on the Vestries to undertake repairs of churches and parsonage houses, although the church is not Vestry controlled. The power thus conferred is permissive and not obligatory. About 18 months ago the condition of St. Mark's Vicarage was such that it was necessary to remove the Vicar elsewhere. The Vestry felt some difficulty in spending public money on private property, and expressed the view that its position would be easier if the property were vested in the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector of the parish, as is normally the case throughout the island. There are instances where church property is vested in the Rector of the parish alone, and this goes back to the days before there was a resident Bishop. As a result of a meeting with the Vestry to which careful consideration was given concerning the suitability of the present house, if, repaired, and the possible alternative of erecting a new Vicarage, it was agreed between the Bishop and the Vestry that an application be made to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to have the land, Church, Parsonage and School house vested in the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector of the parish of St. John and their successors in office. It was represented to the Society that since the erection of the first St. Mark's Chapel and the provision of a burial ground, glebe land, Parsonage House and School, the 13 acres of land in question had, in fact, been detached from the Codrington Estates, in that they were no longer producing revenue for the Codrington Trust. It was also pointed out that the present house, if reconditioned, was far more conveniently situated for the Vicarage than any other, and that if the Society would agree to vest the property as suggested, it would remove a difficulty which the Vestry had always felt when making grants for repairs. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel considered the request, and in their reply stated to the Bishop that as far back as 1875 they had taken Counsel's opinion whether they could detach any portion of the Codrington Estates by sale or otherwise. Counsel had advised that although General Codrington had expressed a desire that the Estates remain intact, there was no specific provision in his Will that they should never be divided, and accordingly the Society was advised that it could be done. This opinion has been confirmed by their present Legal Advisers, and acting on that advice the petition which is before the House, and on which the Bill is based, was prepared and sealed. The Vestry of the parish of St. Joseph, the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector of the parish are desirous that the prayer of the petition be granted by the passing of this Bill; this will facilitate the handling of this Church property in the future. The main object of the Bill is to bring St. Mark's Chapel, the Parsonage House, the old School House and land into line with the general practice of the Church in this island, and thus to remove any difficulty which the Vestry may feel if it is disposed to exercise the permission granted under the Vestries Act to vote funds for the repair of churches and parsonages not under Vestry control. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. ALLDER: In seconding the motion I should like to say that it is very necessary to grant this permission for doing what is asked for in the Bill. In the past there has been some difficulty in getting vicars to remain at St. Mark's Vicarage as it is situated because of the fact that the parish of St. John found it difficult to expend certain funds for the reconstruction of the Vicarage. The property formerly belonged to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the state of disrepair of the Vicarage caused the last Vicar, Reverend Woodland, to leave it. Since then an attempt has been made to reconstruct the Vicarage and install water services, and so on, but the fear of the Vestry of the parish in doing these things is that they have not got sufficient control over the property. In this connection negotiations have been carried on between the Bishop and the owners of the property, and this Bill asks the permission of this House to vest the property in the Bishop, the Rector of St. John and their successors. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the second reading of this Bill and I hope that honourable members will see their way to give the Bill their blessing because it is a necessary Bill. I do not agree with some honourable member who promises to "talk it out" for personal reasons; everybody would like to see improvements made to this Vicarage and this Bill seeks to give permission for those improvements to be carried out, so that the people in this particular district will be able to get a permanent vicar to attend to the Church and do the social work which is done by vicars and other persons for the benefit of the community.

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

Mr. BETHELL: I beg to move that Your Committee on this Bill.

Mr. ALLDER: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have no intention of associating the Bishop with this wickedness. I will explain what I mean.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is out of order.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. BETHELL: I beg to move that the Preamble be postponed.

Mr. ALLDER: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman.—If you look at the Preamble of this Bill you will see that they want to vest this property in these Authorities. As I say, I will not associate the Bishop of Barbados in this matter. We know the late Vicar of St. Catherine's and St. Marks; everything was done in this island to make his stay here uncomfortable. Because of Rev. Woodland's political ideology, people who say that they are connected with the propagation of Christianity made it so difficult for him that he was forced to leave the island. I feel that the Church as a whole should run its own business according to its own desires; and when it comes to asking for legislative

approval to do certain things, I am shocked to think that honourable members can get up in this House and speak in support of this Bill without realising what has taken place. I feel that it would be very ungracious of me as a man with a social conscience not to voice these sentiments in connection with this Bill which is before the House and which I am asked to support. They are now seeking to improve conditions at this vicarage but why did they not seek to improve the conditions before? People associated with the Church could not make improvements for the late Vicar, but now he has gone they are now making those improvements.

Mr. MAPP: I have listened to the honourable introducer of this Bill and he seemed to know very little about it; the seconder did not seem to know very much about it himself. However, they have assured us that this is a very good cause, and certain of the facts show that we should vote for the Bill because the purpose is a good one. However it seems a remarkable coincidence that these things are being done now that the vicar to whom the honourable senior member for St. Peter has referred has left the island—Reverend Woodland. I am not going to say categorically that these things are being wilfully done now that Reverend Woodland has left the island; but I am saying it is a remarkable coincidence—it is peculiar—that these things should be done after Reverend Woodland has left here. It is remarkable that we have been hearing all the time that Rev. Woodland was forced to leave because the house in which he was living was not put in decent order although application had been made to the Vestry; and now he has left, they find it necessary to do all these good things. All the profits accruing from the property are to be received by the Curate for the time being, and so on. I did not oppose the second reading of the Bill because that would be pound foolish and penny wise; on the other hand I am wondering if it is fitting for us to pass a Bill in these peculiar circumstances. We are ashamed to think that in this colony there still exists that reactionary element that would try to run people from this colony because they associate themselves with popular causes — people whose intentions are good and honest, people who speak from their hearts. In so far as such a state of affairs is concerned, we are back in the middle ages and we did not think that such things went as far as the Church. We thought that the Church had been removed from such things. In the old days you could run into the Church in certain European countries and take refuge there; but now you have no refuge or freedom in the Church. Even if we are assured that these things are not being wilfully done now Reverend Woodland has left, we still say that the coincidence is remarkable because the vicarage is being repaired and land is being added to it now that Reverend Woodland has left. It is time that something be said about these things: I really felt like moving that this Bill be read this day six months but it would be carrying feelings too far to do that. I think we should express our feelings because those who are responsible for such actions might change in the future and show a little democracy in high places.

Mr. BETHELL: I cannot let these accusations go against the St. John's Vestry. The honourable senior member for St. Peter has said that it is only since Reverend Woodland has left that the Vestry realised that the house is bad. Because Reverend Woodland has gone, does that stand to reason that the other man must go? We in St. John are trying to make a wrong thing right; we realise that the conditions were very bad for Reverend Woodland and we are trying to make the other man comfortable (Cheers). I might say here and now that Reverend Woodland was paid his rent for the house which suited him; but I would not carry on with that because I cannot keep honourable members here all night. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas seems to think that I know nothing about this Bill and that my honourable colleague knows less about it; but I challenge him to ask me anything about this Bill that I cannot answer.

Mr. ALLDER: I always like to be serious. The honourable senior member for St. Peter has not argued against the principle of the Bill, but he feels that something wrong was done to the former Vicar of St. Mark's. The honourable member has waited until the horse got out of the stable and then tried to close the door; the hon. member who is a member of the Executive Committee, has more influence than your humble servant in all quarters of this colony, but he did not see fit to gather his forces in order to protect the man who was a friend of the working classes. The honourable member waits until now to express his disapproval of what he thinks was the treatment meted out to Reverend Woodland; I say that he is late and I hope that in future he will adopt an attitude which will be much more compatible with the office which he holds. (Cheers). I am nothing to do with whether or not discrimination was practised by those who had this Bill in their hands to give to a member to handle in this House; I do not want empty honours. It is a fact that this Bill stands to benefit the masses and I am satisfied to play second part in getting it passed through this House. If I had a similar mind to that of some honourable members I would oppose this Bill to show those who I know are my enemies in the parish that I can hold things against them; but I am not so small minded therefore I will take this part in connection with this Bill. Posterity will show a man whether he deserves praise or not by his works. I am saying that the Vestry of St. John and the Rector and the Bishop do not want vi ars to be coming to this cure and leaving every month as has happened in the past. I have visited this district and I have seen that the vicarage is in a deplorable condition; that is why many vicars have had to leave. I have discussed the question with Reverend Woodland and although the reactionaries in the parish were not favourably inclined towards his activities, yet he told me that it was the condition of the house which caused him to leave this colony. The authorities feel that such a situation should be changed and they are therefore asking permission to amend what has been wrong all along.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not think I can be silent in this matter because as a member of the Labour Party and of the Government of the colony, I think I should publicly express my gratitude to Reverend Woodland and his wife for all that they did for the underprivileged in the colony and to say how much I deplore the absolute driving of them from this island by the Vestry of St. John. I understood an honourable member to say that the Vestry had nothing to do with it. However I go on to say that the last lunch I had in England I had with Reverend Woodland and his wife and they regretted not being among us to continue real Christianity; they had rendered valuable help in bringing back to the people of this colony some faith in Clergymen and Englishmen which others had done much to destroy. If every Englishman was like Reverend Woodland and his wife we would not hear any talk about displaced persons and expatriates from the honourable junior member for St. Lucy; the names of Englishmen would be honoured names. I

think I would be failing in gratitude if I did not say that this island would be a much better place if it had more "Woodlands" in it. It is possible that with true representation in St. John a few Vestrymen will be brought to realise their duty to the community. I have heard the honourable senior member for St. John read a Scripture Lesson, but, I have not heard the honourable junior member for St. John read any such Lesson. Judging from the way in which he put forward the objects and reasons of this Bill—I do not know whether he had them written out—we may yet see him converted and also read a Lesson in a place of worship.

Mr. CRAWFORD : Surely the correct solution of the matter as regards the background of this Bill and the treatment which, it is alleged, was accorded Reverend Woodland, is for the Government to proceed at the very earliest date possible to make it impossible for either the Central Government or the local body to exercise its influence over the ministers of the Established Church in this colony. In other words, the Government should realise that the time has come when the Anglican Church should be disestablished; and if the State either through the Central Government or the local body no longer contributes to the maintenance of the Church, it can have no say as to the terms and conditions under which the ministers operate. At present both the Central Government and the local body contribute appreciable sums towards the Established Church in this colony, and so long as that continues, a certain degree of influence will be exercised over the ministers even unfairly and discriminately as has been suggested in this case.

The question that the Preamble be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause I was read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. ALLDER, the remaining Clauses of the Bill were taken as read with the substitution of the word "parsonage" for the word "patronage' occurring in line 6 of Clause 2.

Mr. LEWIS : Although you take these Clauses as read they must still be passed; the Clauses must be called but you cannot take them as read and not pass them.

The remaining two Clauses of the Bill were called and passed, and the Preamble was taken as read and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. BETHELL, seconded by Mr. ALLDER, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee with an amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1950

Mr. SPEAKER : The next Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael :— Second reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Mr. COX : Mr. Speaker,—This Bill seeks to allow the importation in this colony duty free of machinery and apparatus for the purpose of manufacturing cloth from cotton yarn and other materials, and to reduce the British Preferential Tariff and General Tariff on material imported for the manufacture of cloth from 10% to 5% and from 20% to 10% respectively. As will be seen from the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill, a company called the West Indian Knitting Mills, Limited, has been formed for the purpose of manufacturing cloth from cotton yarn, etc., and this Company comes within the category of pioneer industry. Honourable members will remember that sometime last year—I think it was in the month of July—the House passed a Bill which allowed pioneer industries to import not only machinery and apparatus but also raw materials duty free. Honourable members will also remember that the Other Place, for reasons best known to itself, did not pass that Bill, hence it is necessary for us to bring forward this Bill to-day. If that Pioneer Industries Encouragement Bill had been passed we would not have had to come here to-day and ask that this Bill be passed. I think that all honourable members will agree that we should help this new industry to get on its feet because of the fact that it absorbs some of our unemployed and at the same time it is likely to produce items at a more reasonable cost than we are importing them from outside. I would like to say that the statement which I have made does not necessarily apply to the hotel industry; as far as that industry is concerned, it is a horse of a different colour. I have some very strong views on that question. This Bill deals purely with the industry I have mentioned; this Company employs a total number of 78 people and about 76 of them are Barbadians. The Company has applied to the Government for these remissions, the Comptroller of Customs has made recommendations with which the Government has agreed and the matter is now before the House for its consideration. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BRYAN: In seconding the motion for the second reading of this Bill I take the opportunity of throwing out a suggestion and also to make a few brief remarks. There is in our midst another minor industry engaged in the manufacture of footwear; I know that some correspondence has already passed between the Government and the proprietors of this industry with respect to the refund of duty. and I am wondering if the time is not now opportune to review the case. I have had the privilege of going through this factory and of seeing some of the finished products. In my opinion, they compare very favourably with the imported articles: in fact, they compare so very favourably that several stores, both in Swan Street and in Broad Street have placed orders with the firm. I feel that if assistance similar to that which is now being asked for on behalf of the West Indian Knitting Mills, were extended to this firm, it would be a boon to this industry. Such assistance would mean additional machinery which is at present very much needed. It would open the door for more employment, it would assist in improving the standard of local workmanship, and would also bring the price of footwear nearer to the pockets of the average working man. I throw out that suggestion to the Government for what it is worth. To revert to the Bill in question there are two points which I would like to put before the Government. The first point is to question of wages; I feel it is the duty of the Government to see that the West Indian Knitting Mills Ltd. pays a decent living wage to its employees; fortunately for us we have just passed in this House legislation setting up a Wages Board. I also feel that the Government should have a say as to the price of the finished article, inasmuch as Government funds will now be involved, at least to the extent of the refund of duty paid on the machinery used by this factory. I feel that the general public should be given some protection in this matter. With those few remarks I beg to second the motion for the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. ALLDER: The number of girls which I see go into the premises of this Company to work on mornings and come out on afternoons will cause me to give

my support to the passing of this Bill. But it is not sufficient for the Government to assist industries; the Government also has to see that such industries conform with present-day social demands as applied to workers. If this industry is given assistance which it deserves, I feel that it is not only the people who work within the factory who will benefit, but also those peasants in the country districts who plant cotton which had to be shipped overseas. Those peasants will also benefit and the general economy of the colony must be improved as a result. There is another another point which I want to stress; it is that I do not see any reason why we should not offer protection against outside competition to any industry which is working to the general advantage of the colony as regards producing a good article to be sold at a reasonable price to the consumer. I have seen that Trinidad is exporting a lot of shirts to this colony and the prices are fairly high, although the shirts are made in the West Indies. I feel that if a local concern can produce shirts of as good a quality as or better than the quality of imported shirts and sell them for less than what the imported shirts are being sold for, I do not see that there would be any harm if you protected the local production. I am glad to see that the Government has decided to extend assistance to this venture because many people have already benefitted from it and I hope to see more people benefiting from it in the near future.

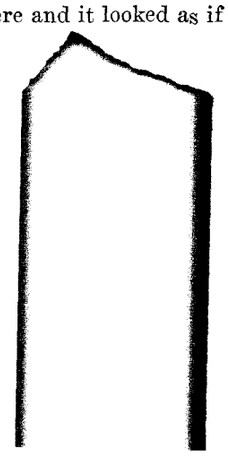
Mr. MAPP : I think I am right in saying that the terms of this Bill extend a little further than those which were agreed on in connection with the Pioneer Industries Encouragement Bill in that they include the refund of a part of the duty paid on raw materials used by the factory. I think it would be worth while for the Government to re-introduce the Aid to Industries Bill at the earliest opportunity; that would save the Government from bringing up each case separately and it would make it appear that the Government is putting all industries on the same footing and not giving priority to any, or that assistance is being given to one and not to another. The honourable junior member for St. Michael has made reference to a shoe-making industry; I happen to know that a hat-making industry has been started by two Barbadians who had a refund of duty on machinery, but I do not think they had any refund of duty paid on the raw material which they imported. While we are not agreeing on income tax remission, we agree that these industries should be assisted by a refund of duty. I hope that the necessary amount of dollars will be obtained so that the people who are carrying on this industry will be able to import more machinery from America and so give more employment to local people. Representatives in Jamaica took strong steps in tackling their problems and recommended that many dollars worth of machinery be passed on to a particular industry which wanted assistance in this manner, and I think we would be well advised to take similar steps so as to relieve the unemployment problem. The more we can do to relieve the unemployment situation, the better it will be for all of us. We hear that the dollar problems are getting easier day by day and it would be worth while for the Government to recommend that more dollars be allocated to this industry so that the Company could purchase machinery from United States sources. In an interview with one of the people connected with this industry he said that if they could get down the necessary machinery they could employ twice as many people as they now employ; they would be able to employ 76 more people and that would be of great assistance to this colony. One of the representatives of a concern told me that he was thinking of starting here and it looked as if he would have to apply to Trinidad; I hope that all assistance will be given him to start here instead of going to Trinidad. Professor Arthur Lewis has said that Barbados is an ideal place for starting industries because of the character of the people, their training, their education and industry. It only requires initiative in the matter of getting industrialisation from the academic stage to the practical stage. I hope that industries will be encouraged and assisted, with of course, the necessary controls as regards wages of employees and other things for which people on this side of the Table have always clamoured. I think that the Government should approach this matter in a more comprehensive manner.

Mr. MILLER : I should like to say a few words on this question of local industries. I should like to caution the Government that it is not good enough to say that a company which has started in Barbados should be given all this protection. I am to some extent in agreement with giving protection to a new industry but the Government is likely to run into difficulties; you may give a manufacturing company protection from the imported article but you may run into difficulties in that the quality of the article may be beneath the actual price to the consumer. One concern operating with protection against the imported article is the Soap Factory; it has been said that the soap is of a rather cheap quality and the concern is protected against imported soap. The particular brand of soap might be sold beneath the cost of imported soap, but that does not necessarily mean that it is sold as cheaply as it could be sold thereby robbing the consumer with the pretext that it is cheap because it is locally manufactured. I hope that the Government will bear in mind. It does not necessarily mean that the country will benefit by this protection being given to local manufactures.

Mr. CRAWFORD : My view on this question is so well known that any reiteration of it tonight would be redundant; but I do want to endorse the suggestion made by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas with regard to the re-introduction in the Legislature of the Aid to Industries Bill, limited as it was in extent, which we passed some time last year. As a matter of fact I can state in passing that the absence of an Act of this sort on the Statute Book very nearly cost us the textile industry in question, because the proprietors after getting machinery from America and becoming aware of the actual amount of money which they would have to pay in duty, were very seriously considering sending the machinery to Trinidad. They were only induced to take the machinery out of the Customs because people of some influence in the colony including the Financial Secretary promised them sincerely to use their influence in enabling them to get a refund of any money which they paid by way of duty. The proprietors of this industry were very seriously minded to leave Barbados out of the picture completely and take their stuff to Trinidad. I have on other occasions recalled similar instances in which the absence of such an Act from our Statute Book has materially affected the colony. With all these facts and the additional advantage now of actually seeing the benefits derived by the colony from these new industries, there can hardly be any excuse on the part of the Government for not endeavouring to have an Aid to Industries Bill passed by the Legislature and placed on the Statute Book of the colony.

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

On the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. BRYAN, the three Clauses of the Bill were taken as read.



The three Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RATES OF INCOME TAX BILL, 1950

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—Second reading of a Bill to settle the rates of income tax for the year 1950, and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax and to amend the law relating to Income Tax.

Mr. ADAMS: This Bill is the annual Income Tax Bill which is sent down to the House. The Bill is the same as that of last year except for the conversion of the sterling into dollars and cents. The rates of income tax are the same and I hope honourable bers will see that this is a Bill which we can pass without any difficulty. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

On similar motions, the four Clauses of the Bill and the schedule were taken as read.

The four Clauses of the Bill were called and passed and the Schedule was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest that we meet at noon next Tuesday inasmuch as the Governor will be attending the Legislature to receive the Replies to his Speech delivered at the opening of the Session and we also have to meet the members of the Other Place. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 27th day of June. 1950, at 12 o'clock noon.

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