

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th June, 1950.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*);
His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*),
Mr. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*);
Messrs. T. O. BRYAN, F. E. MILLER, M. E. COX,
F. L. WALCOTT, F. C. GODDARD, J. H. WILKINSON,
O.B.E., R. G. MAPP, D. D. GARNER, D. A. FOSTER
and G. H. ADAMS, B.A.

Prayers are read.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month of May, 1950.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

MESSAGE NO. 21/1950

*His Excellency the Governor
To*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the Government of Barbados has been invited to accede to "Relief Goods" Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States of America which arises from the Economic Co-operation Agreement.

2. It will be recalled that the Government of Barbados acceded to the Economic Co-operation Agreement and in doing so accepted the condition that the Government of the United Kingdom should negotiate with the Government of the United States of America an Agreement to facilitate the entry of relief goods into the United Kingdom.

3. By acceding to the Relief Goods Agreement, Barbados will undertake to grant duty free entry into Barbados in respect of three types of con-

signment of relief goods from the United States, namely—

- (i) relief goods in bulk consigned from a recognised charitable organization in the United States to a similar organization in Barbados;
- (ii) standard packs which are consigned by an individual in the United States through a commercial organization to an individual or to a charitable organization in Barbados. For both these sorts of relief supplies the Agreement provides that Customs will admit such duty free goods as shall be agreed between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States. In the case of relief goods in bulk the stipulation is that these shall not include tobacco, cigars, cigarettes or alcoholic liquor;
- (iii) relief packages, which are parcels not over 22 lbs. in weight sent by individuals in the United States to individuals in Barbados. Duty free entry will be accorded to these parcels so long as their contents are limited to discarded clothing, food, medical supplies or soap.

4. The Government of Barbados provided for the customs duty free treatment of relief goods sent to charitable organizations under the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1948. Further legislation will be necessary to provide customs duty free treatment to the other types of consignments of relief goods.

5. If the Legislature agree to accede to the Relief Package Agreement, the Secretary of State for the Colonies will be informed accordingly and the legislation necessary to implement the Agreement will thereafter be introduced.

A. W. L. SAVAGE,

Governor.

Government House,
Barbados,

27th June, 1950.

PAPERS LAID.

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

Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders to the 31st May, 1950.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) Regulations, 1950.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) Regulations, 1950," made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 22nd day of June, 1950, under the provisions of section 4 of the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowance Act, 1948 (1948—12).

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$27,562 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950—51, Part II, Capital Estimates, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950—51, No. 6, which form the schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$6,800 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. 7, which form the schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$1 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. 8, which form the schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act, 1940 (1940—20).

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

Mr. MOTTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. WILKINSON: Of my intention to move, later in the day, the appointment of a Select Committee to consider along with the Debates Committee the reorganization of the Staff of Reporters of the Legislature, the Staff of the House of Assembly, and the re-arrangement of the present seating of the House.

Mr. MAPP: Of the following Address:—

*The House Of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly draw to the attention of Your Excellency the serious plight with which the poorer classes of this community are faced owing to the recent increase in the cost of living.

The House are of opinion that the Government should take early steps to consider means of reducing import duties on certain essential items of food and other commodities and the reduction of margins of profits secured by wholesalers and big retailers on certain of these.

The House would observe that the imposition of a purchase tax on non-essential items and the increased revenue resulting from a bigger sugar crop and a bigger price for same will offset to some extent the loss in revenue occasioned by the proposed reduced duties.

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

1. Does the Government intend to take steps to straighten the road at the Harmony Hall Bend on the St. Lawrence Road?
2. Is the Government aware of the great volume of water which remains on this road at the Harmony Hall Bend after rain to the inconvenience of the travelling public?
3. If the Government does not intend to straighten the road at this point, will the Government direct the Director of Highways and Transport to construct proper drains to remove the nuisance mentioned in question 2?

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

1. In view of the official communications and correspondence which have appeared in the Press in connection with the Petroleum Act 1950, will the Government give the following information?

- (a) How were applications invited for licences to prospect for oil?
- (b) How were applications made?
- (c) Has the Ancillary Rights Commission been set up?
- (d) If not, why not?
- (e) Have any Regulations been made under the Act? If the answer is in the negative, is it the intention of Government to make any Regulations and if not, why not?
- (f) Has any money been paid by Gulf Corporation into the Public Treasury of this Island?
- (g) If so, under what authority has such money been paid and received?

2. Will Government publish as soon as possible the text in full of the licence issued by Government to Gulf Corporation?

3. Will Government make a full disclosure of the terms of the Licence given to the British Union Oil Co. in respect of natural gas?

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

1. Has Government received a request for back pay from the casual workers and rock blasters employed by Transport Board and by the Contractor for supplying stones?

2. Will the Government give consideration to the claim of these workers to receive back pay on the same basis as that already paid to casual workers employed by the Government?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill to amend the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act, (1940—20) is read a first time.

MR. SPEAKER TO ATTEND OPENING OF NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received an invitation from the Speaker of the House of Commons to be present at the ceremonial opening of the new House of Commons on the 26th of October this year. I have accepted the invitation which is also extended to Mrs. Hushands and I think I should give this House early notice of this proposed visit to the United Kingdom in October. This visit will mean that I shall be

away in England for the last two weeks in October and I hope that later to-day an honourable member will ask that I be granted the necessary leave.

Mr. ADAMS: May I on behalf of the members of the House say how happy we are to know that Your Honour has been invited to attend the ceremony to which you have referred. The Mother of Parliaments in the British Empire and Commonwealth has been for the whole world so great a symbol of parliamentary democracy that we, who pride ourselves on being so close behind in point of time as a Representative Assembly, have a twofold pleasure in knowing that we shall have participated in the ceremony of the opening of the resuscitated and rebuilt House of Commons. We feel sure, Sir, that the dignity of this House will be maintained and, even at the risk of appearing insular, I may add the respect which is due to the House of Assembly of Barbados, because of its age and unbroken traditions, will be shown, I am sure, to you, Sir, and, through you, to the rest of the members of this House. I feel sure that the House will in a more appropriate form show its appreciation before Your Honour leaves to attend this ceremony. We look forward to your being there and to your return and in my felicitations I should like to add our congratulations not merely to you but to your wife who, as your wife, is being invited to this ceremony.

Mr. ALLDER enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—We feel that the invitation to attend the opening of the new House of Commons is an honour not only to you and Mrs. Husbands but also to Barbados and particularly this House. We are delighted, Sir, that you are able to see your way to accept the invitation. If I may add a word about expense I feel sure that every member of this House will, as the senior member for St. Joseph has said, on some other occasion show his appreciation in a more practical form. (Hear, hear and cheers.) Sir, I do not think I can say much more. I repeat that we are delighted and I know that every member of this House will wish you and Mrs. Husbands a safe journey to England and back to Barbados.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I understand that the British Government usually pays transportation expenses in matters of this sort but in view of the fact that this is an honour not only to Your Honour but also to this House I am voicing the feeling of every member on this side of the table when I say that we would be willing to support a Resolution which has for its object the defraying of expenses which Your Honour will have to incur apart from transportation expenses. Having done some travelling myself I know that it will be incumbent upon Your Honour to undergo certain expenses and, therefore, I hope that the Government will send to this House a Resolution for an appropriate sum to assist you and Mrs. Husbands in defraying the necessary unforeseen expenses which you will have to incur. I know that you will return with greater experience to guide the destinies of this House and we wish you a happy time in England and a safe journey back to Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must say that my wife and I are very grateful for the kind wishes which have been expressed to us and I hope that I shall be a worthy representative of this ancient House of Assembly.

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. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPLY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—This Resolution is for the sum of \$10,000 to make sure that funds are available in the event of damage caused by hurricane or by calamity which, though not quite as serious as a hurricane, is of the sort which would necessitate the giving of immediate relief. As the addendum states, this proposal includes provision of funds to assist the Central Relief Organization and the Parochial Relief Committees in obtaining necessary equipment and funds to allow for the distribution of food and medical supplies before the arrival of a storm. As honourable members know, nothing is perfect. It was discovered, last September, that in many instances the Relief Committees made no move to do anything, — although they knew that flood damage was likely to have taken place,—on the ground that no provision had been made beforehand. One of the objects of this Resolution is to provide equipment and make funds available for the provision of food and medical supplies at strategic points before a storm actually hits the island. It is proposed that the \$10,000 should be divided into three sections—A. Grants at the approach of the Hurricane Season; B. Reserve for a period of Threat; and C. Reserve for use after the disturbance. It is to be noted that the money in respect of C will be expended only if damage is actually caused. Honourable members may feel that it is a small amount but they will realize at the same time that the idea is to have something ready for the first refugees, if I may so call them. I do not think that I need say more. The addendum is very full and explains the objects of the Resolution. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. LEWIS: This is a very worthy Resolution to have money ready, in case of damage to property and, perhaps, loss of life resulting from a storm. But, Sir, this Resolution will depend, to a great extent, on the information you get about the approach of a hurricane and I should like to draw the Government's attention to a notice appearing in the local Press to the effect that some amateur meteorological station is to be set up for the purpose of getting information about a hurricane. I would like to ask the Government not to forget that it was blamed on the last occasion for not supplying information about the approaching storm. It may be very good to have amateurs but the Government should see to it that it supervises this amateur set-up or have its own reliable form of getting the information. Certainly in this area there must be already in existence stations for the purpose of locating a hurricane and giving reliable information about it, but, Sir, if the Government sits quietly by and allows people to get that information from whatever source they get it and a responsible government officer like the Director of Agriculture who has to see after the distribution and spending of this money is associated with this amateur set-up, the public will naturally say that the Government has something to do with the set-up and if it occurs again that the people are told, from whatever source, that the danger is passed and

they can go back to their houses in the flooded area, the Government is going to be blamed as they were blamed on the last occasion. The notice to which I refer only appeared quite recently in the local newspapers, and I see that the Director of Agriculture is associated with it—his name was put down as Mr. C. C. Skeete. The next thing is this: In having funds of this sort distributed by parochial bodies I suppose it would mean that you have to distribute them every year and I am asking the Government to give an undertaking that a statement of the accounts and the spending of these funds by the parochial bodies will be laid on the table of this House. This House passed an Address sometime ago in reply to a Message from His Excellency the Governor concerning the Schooner Pool Association and I believe that in that connection audited accounts of that Association were to be laid on the table of this House every six months. It may have escaped my attention but I do not think that any such statement has been laid on the table of this House for some time. That is something which I consider is a breach of faith. It is not provided for in the laws of the Island but it was definitely stated that those were terms on which we would utilize the funds accumulated under the Schooner Pool Authority, that is to say, the House should be able to know what was happening. There is such a fund known as the Revolving Fund in connection with the processing factory and one single statement has been rendered to this House about that Revolving Fund. We are the representatives of the people and, as such, we should know something about these various Funds and statements explaining how the money has been spent should be laid on the table of this House at least in the month of February each year. I say February because I do not think the House would be prorogued during the consideration of the Estimates. I must say that provision of these funds in advance is a very good thing. Private collections are made when occurrences such as a hurricane take place and people say that they get no information as to whether or not the money which is collected has been distributed. It is well to talk these things and I am warning the Government not to open itself to blame through any oversight on its part.

Mr. ALLDER: It would appear as if this Resolution to grant money to the various Bodies to be spent in case an emergency takes place is farsighted, but it does not appear so farsighted, Sir, inasmuch as all those persons who have suffered losses during the last hurricane have not yet been compensated nor given assistance as was promised to them. I do not mean those persons who have lost household effects or those owners whose houses have been partly damaged. I am speaking of some cases where a few houses were totally demolished as the result of the weather and whose occupants have had to seek shelter at their relatives and friends. Shortly after the incident in August—September, 1949, funds were granted to the various Committees in the parishes. Those funds, I am told, Sir, were exhausted and I was told that there was a promise by Government to forward a further sum to complete the reconstruction of those homes which were destroyed. Many of you may have seen pictures in the *Barbados Advocate* some months ago and included in those pictures was one set of householders, numbering over twelve, whose house—I am sure because I saw it—was totally demolished and the spot has since become an area for growing vines and pepper trees. That is enough to give you a true picture of the situation. These people are still putting up at their friends and the house in which

they now live is no bigger than 14 ft. x 8 ft. I am sure that when I last visited the district about 17 persons were occupying that house and after seeing those pictures in the Press I had a feeling that the Government would have seen them too and would have been urged, as a result, to take immediate action. To-day the situation is the same. I do not know, Sir, if the Government intends to fulfil its promise nor do I know, Sir, what is responsible for the keep-back but I do say, Sir, that those people are seeing very hard. The conditions under which they have been forced to live—now nearly a year—are becoming unbearable not only to the people immediately concerned but to others who know the conditions and who dislike to see people forced to undergo conditions that are below normal standards of living. I am hoping, Sir, that since the Government has seen fit to prepare for what it considers the inevitable, it will set about to remedy that ill which has the tendency to grow greater. This is not an isolated case in the parish of St. John, Sir, but there are several others of a similar nature and some of a lesser nature. There is another case of which I would make mention and this is an old woman who lived in Welch Village and whose house has been blown down. She has had to seek shelter at a friend. The friend has decided that she cannot keep her any longer, due to the lack of proper facilities, and the parish authorities have had to take her and send her to the almshouse. That woman is too old to get means whereby she can put her house back in a habitable condition and she either has to depend on the good graces of the Government or the local Authority in the parish who feels that the Government has promised to repair these houses so that the people can go back into them. Sir, I have been investigating from the Authorities in the parish whether funds were released to them and they have told me that up to this minute they have not been able to hear anything from the Government. I do not want to say much more. I feel that this Government should be a generous Government and I still feel that it would do whatever lies in its power to help people in straitened circumstances, unless some great hindrance steps in its way. I am still of the opinion that it would try to live up to expectations. I do not know, Sir, if it is a case of forgetfulness. I rather feel that it is that rather than a going-away from its promises. The public still has its eyes open to see the full effects and the assistance which were promised by the Government in September, 1949, towards the sufferers who met losses during the hurricane. They are still waiting. I too am waiting. If there is the intention to help all who are really in need of assistance, there is the feeling that too much time is taken before such assistance is extended and it also gives the feeling that when small people are to benefit at the hands of the Government they have to wait very long, contrary to the case of others who are more able to bear the inconvenience when they want assistance than those people who are known to be poor and unable to help themselves. I do not know if the suggestion is going to be made that the Labour Welfare funds can be drawn upon by these people. If that is the case, Sir, I would agree to it if the owners of these houses were younger people and are still working; but they are in the vicinity of 70 to 80 years of age and therefore they have retired already from work; they have only to depend on the charitable disposition of their friends and relatives. An honourable member has asked "What about old age pensions?" That is something far from the point because we know how small that is and if would be unwise to think that the recipient of an old age pension would be able to repair or build a house with the

pension which he or she gets. They cannot even repair their bodies furthermore their houses and therefore, Sir, I would like the Leader of the Government to clarify the situation, not only for the benefit of this House but also for the benefit of the sufferers, of the people who are responsible for the carrying out of the relief schemes in the parishes, and of the public generally.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman—I think we are pleased that the Government is adopting the Scout Motto "Be Prepared" and has taken steps to provide this means of relieving any situation that is likely to arise from a hurricane. But, Sir, I think the Government will agree that it is far more necessary to have a quick and efficient system of relief by the establishment of organizations in the parishes which could act with the maximum of speed when any such situation arises. It is because of that that I draw to the Government's attention that it has been reliably told to me that in the constituency which I represent there is some difficulty as regards the Committee set up in that parish to look after sufferers from a storm. I hope, Sir, that the Government will take steps to make sure that all such difficulties are smoothed out and that these Committees are able to function as smoothly and as efficiently as possible. This is only the first step to help in the various parishes in case of an emergency of this nature. Other steps are also very vital in a matter of this sort, and I hope that these Committees which are set up will be able to act with the necessary speed and that no difficulty will be put in their way, either by persons on the spot or other persons, in carrying through their various functions. I just throw it out to the Government for the sake of the people who will be affected by any difficult working of these organizations and I trust that the Government will make sure that the way is made smooth and that everything possible is done to ensure speedy relief if and when any such calamity occurs.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman,—Just in case it is thought that all of us on this side of the House are happy over this matter I will join with those on that side who have voiced their criticisms. I believe that this Resolution before us is the outcome of a letter written by the Vestry of the parish of St. George in September last year in which it was pointed out that it was useless to set up an organization in a parish if the organisation at the centre has no policy. Sir, that letter was written sometime in September last year and no reply was received by the Vestry of St. George until early this year when we were sent a letter asking us to form a Hurricane Relief Committee and we replied that we regretted very much that we would not be able to form a Hurricane Relief Committee unless the point raised in our letter of September, 1949, was noted and some agreement made about it. I must say that as far as the majority of the points which we raised is concerned, the Government has done its best to see that if we have an occurrence of a similar nature, those points which we raised in our letter will no longer exist. Sir, when we look at this Resolution we are told that it covers the necessary organisation in the event of a hurricane or storm. One of the points the Vestry of St. George raised was the fact that there was no provision for the distribution of food and medical supplies after it had been known that there was a storm approaching and the warning was given. I see that this Resolution attempts to solve that problem by allocating the sum of \$500 as a grant to the Director of Agriculture. That means, Sir, that the key situation of having food available to the parishes will be left in the hands of the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Agriculture only. Now,

we in the parish of St. George do not think that that will meet the necessary cases. It is our opinion that immediately after the cautionary warning is given, food should be distributed regardless of whether the Director of Agriculture has some whim or some desire or some thought which he may think best and I would like the honourable Leader of the House to ponder on this question because leaving the matter in the hands of the Director of Agriculture is, in our opinion, not the correct procedure. It should be a definite rule that after a cautionary warning is given these food supplies and medical supplies shall be distributed at such and such points and not purely and simply leave it to one man to decide the fate of thousands of people. I think, Sir, that this is putting too much on one man,—a responsibility which we all should shoulder. Now, Sir, if this island is struck by a hurricane accompanied by a tidal wave, the tidal wave will obviously damage the greater part of Bridgetown and, as the result, the greater part of the food in the island. And we who would be blessed by being farther in the hills would be in a position where we would be in the hills without any food. Well, Sir, I stress that point both from the point of view of food and from the point of view of medical supplies. I repeat that as soon as the cautionary warning is given, no hesitation should be made in getting foodstuffs and medical supplies to strategic points at a higher level than Bridgetown. And the amount of \$500 does seem inequitable as far as the necessary food and medical supplies are concerned. Leaving that point, Sir, I would like to join those members who have already spoken in respect of what exists to-day as the aftermath of the storm last year. In the parish of St. George, after a great deal of hard work and the wearing out of shoe leather by the parochial authorities, a complete list of the damage done to all the houses in St. George was prepared and forwarded to the Central Authority. Some time elapsed and we eventually received a letter picking out certain people's names from the complete list which we had sent to the Government and it was notable that those names corresponded with the smallest amounts in dollars and cents on the right side of the sheet. And that letter told us specifically that the money which was given was to be used for those houses picked out by Government, naming the persons in question. Sir, that has been done but in a number of cases where there was complete destruction no help has been forthcoming up to to-day. Well, Sir, what is the use of appointing a Hurricane Relief Committee in each of the parishes and giving them the trouble of collecting all the details as to how many feet of timber, how many bundles of shingles are required for the repair of the houses,—a job which takes up the better part of a whole day to accomplish and having accomplished it, to find that all your work has been in vain to the extent of 90 per cent? Unless an organization is set up whereby these Committees who are only too willing to help can be guaranteed that the work they are going to do and are willing to do will be worth while and will come to fruition, the spirit which those people displayed in the past must of necessity wane. I do appeal to the Government to try to get this matter cut and dried, so that the Central Organization will know what it has to do, what is going to happen and when these Committees are formed in the parishes they would be able to know what lines to work upon. I end by hoping that I will hear something about what is being done about the remainder of the list of houses damaged in the parish of St. George which, I believe, Sir, may probably have had a fate like the letter of September, 1949, that is,

pigeon-holed and not answered until they were told that we will form no Committee unless that letter is answered. Perhaps it will be necessary for the House to use pressure of some sort to find out what has happened to that letter in the hands of the Government stating how many houses and the amount of damage that was done in the parish of St. George.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—I should like to make a point which I should have made a little while ago when I was speaking. A member of the Hurricane Relief Committee in the parish of St. John has told me that they have received a communication from the Colonial Secretary to rent a house for Ella Small and her family whose house was totally destroyed but there were stipulations in the letter which compelled them not to go above an average sum per week and I have been told that the Committee searched around the parish and could not find a house which would be cheap enough to meet the requirements of the Government. There was one house which was available and that is a large, wall house at \$30 per month and, therefore, no house was rented for this family, they have to continue to live with a relative. I thought I should mention that point because I do not want any misunderstanding. The Committee said that they could not get a house for the amount to which they were limited and they were unable, for the lack of funds, to rent the only house which was available at that time but is not available at present.

Mr. ADAMS: The senior member for St. John would be disappointed if I did not reply but I do not intend to reply at any great length to him. I invite him to go and read the debates when this subject was last debated and he will discover that I pointed out to him that his parish was better treated than any other parish. Acting *bona fide*, the Churchwarden of the parish of St. John had even gone further than what was the policy of the Government. Mr. B. L. Barrow was energetic and had done repairs and rebuildings on a large scale before he knew the sum of money which the Government contemplated giving to anybody. He was told to go ahead and I myself went with him and Messrs. Greenidge and Clarke, the two Guardians, on more than one occasion to the Colonial Secretary. In short more attention had been paid to them because they were energetic to get in touch with the Government and me than any other parish. So, it was not a question of neglect. The Government deplores, more than anybody else, the fact that all houses which were completely demolished have not been put back, with the exception of those in St. Michael, in the position they were in before the storm. The honourable member referred to Ella Small whose house was 22ft long by 11 feet wide by 8 feet high. Its estimated value before the storm was \$230. The parochial authorities submitted a claim for \$330 but representatives of the Public Works Department went and looked at it and recommended that it should be rebuilt at a cost of \$295. So, in her case it is not a question of ignoring the claim. I repeat that the people whose houses could be repaired have had their houses repaired. The people whose houses have been completely demolished or washed away—a proper high wind could have blown some of them down—have not yet, as far as parishes other than St. Michael are concerned, been attended to. I am saying this quite deliberately: The Secretariat is absolutely overwhelmed with work and one of the reasons why those houses which have been completely demolished have not yet been attended to is the lack of staff in the Secretariat. The honourable senior member for St. John sneers; he is one of those who turned down the suggestion that the Government

should get someone from the Colonial Office to assist in the work in the Colonial Secretary's office.

Of course, it is the right of the House to be obstinate and obstructive if it has the votes but do not, when an attempt is made to re-organize the Secretariat, prevent the Government from having it staffed because of the stupid feeling that only a Barbadian can do anything, and in the meantime the work piles up. One of the things which the Government contemplates in the case of houses which have been entirely destroyed is to give the owners permission to obtain credit from lumber yards and let them pay back to the Government, over a period of time, the difference between the value of their houses before they were destroyed and the value of the new houses. That seems to me to be a matter worthy of consideration. In the case of the parish of St. Michael, it was fortunate that we had 32 houses at the Pine available. There were 28 people booked for these houses but the storm came along and we shifted the people from Delamare Land to these houses. I repeat that St. John was the most fortunate of all the parishes. Take the case of Doreen Haynes. Her house was washed away; a claim was submitted for \$75 by the parochial authorities and a new house was built for her in Wakefield Yard. As I said, the parochial authorities in St. John jumped ahead quicker than other parochial authorities and did things of that sort to help the people. I have not gone through the list thoroughly but my recollection, as regards the parish of St. John, is that Doreen Haynes's house was not the only one that was rebuilt. To show that the Government is very anxious about the entire situation I was very glad of the opportunity afforded me by the junior member for St. Andrew last week to go to the parish of St. Andrew with him and see with my own eyes the position of the unfortunate people whose houses were flattened out in that parish. In some of these cases people have been living for many years in houses that are too old to be repaired. It did not take much to destroy some of these houses. It would be an utter waste of money to repair some of these houses. They have to be rebuilt and, therefore, they come within the category of the houses to be rebuilt. We are working in the matter. On Sunday last I was in the parish of St. Joseph visiting some of these houses—the junior member for St. Joseph was somewhere else at the time and was not available—and I pointed out to the people that the Government is actively engaged in formulating a policy to deal with the houses which have been demolished. Honourable members should, instead of attacking the Government, ask what is the policy of the Government. Part of that policy is to use the organization which has been established under Mr. Haynes for the lending of Labour Welfare funds instead of setting up a fresh organization for this purpose. I have asked one or two members whether they think that the work could be more efficiently done in that way rather than by the Vestries and their advice is to do it that way. The senior member for St. John says that we would not help these poor people. Let me ask the honourable member this: What is the use of making a statement of that sort only for our unlistening ears? It is not going to appear in the *Advocate*; it is not going to appear in the *Beacon* and these poor people cannot afford to buy a copy of the *Official Gazette* to read the honourable member's speech. I do assure him that the last thing this Government wants to see is another September's rain come along without these people having been helped. Of course, the Government is still hopeful that all plantation owners with soft hearts and all those who are concerned with the

working of plantations will start to build houses and rent them to labourers on easy terms. I said a moment ago that the junior member for St. Andrew and I inspected many houses in the parish of St. Andrew last week and I was surprised at the condition of many of the houses — houses through any part of which you could almost push your finger; houses in which you would not put a pedigreed goat or sheep if you had one. Of course, I have no doubt that the big landowners in St. Andrew, by private enterprise, will help the Government to solve the problem as far as St. Andrew's parish is concerned. St. George, of course, is notorious for being always in the vanguard when it comes to the formulating of schemes. We would be really net-wits — to use a favourite expression of the junior member for St. Philip — if we did not do our best to try to get roofs over these people's heads and did not anticipate the possibility of meeting with a similar calamity next month or in August or September this year. As far as the remarks of the junior member for St. George are concerned I must confess that after listening to him and even sometime before, I felt as he feels about this discretionary power being given to the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Medical Services and I shall report to the Government and shall take into consideration his comments because it does seem that it would be better to send food and medical supplies to every parish so that it could be distributed to centres rather than wait to use discretion at a time when communications are bad. I may say that it is the best constructive contribution I have heard the honourable member make in any debate in the last two years (Smiles). I am sure that the Government will give it consideration because I think it is a very good idea.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I should say that on the last occasion when we had a storm the Government acted very quickly in affording some sort of relief to the sufferers but the Government also failed to do certain things, as the senior member for St. John has said, and I agree with him. For instance, those houses which were completely demolished have not been attended to as yet. All I can say is that perhaps the Government is too busy but while the Government may be too busy these people have no houses in which to live and no civilized Government should want to see people thrown on the streets and have to depend on charity. So while the Government has carried out certain obligations in this respect, one vital obligation remains, that is, to give these people whose houses have been completely demolished some sort of homes. Government is bound to do those things, especially when the damage and suffering are caused by an act of Nature. Food and shelter are essential things which human beings must have. I know that the housing problem in this Country is a serious one and God help the people if what occurred in August—September last year occurred again this year! I am fearful and I pray God that we shall never see that in another 100 years. If we get a downpour like that of last year, a lot of the houses that are standing now will not be standing. I am not going to make a long speech to-day, but I should like to say that I think the Government has an opportunity to ameliorate the condition of these people. There is the Labour Welfare Fund which the Government can utilize for this purpose. It is a big problem to tackle but we need to tackle it. There is a lot of work to be done. Sometimes when these problems come before me I do not know what to say. I do not

know if other people are taking them as seriously as I do. It is about time we stop rehabilitating the sugar industry and attend to the housing problem in this Country or at least the sugar manufacturers can do with less than what they are getting. You are giving to Labour Welfare less than what you are giving the sugar manufacturers and the labourers are really more in need of rehabilitation than the sugar factory owners. Again, to give this sort of assistance to only agricultural labourers is another fallacy because it is not only the agricultural labourers but also people in all walks of life who cannot repair their homes. The factory owner can do with less machinery and can still go on grinding his canes and making money. There are people who have no homes at all and we cannot wait until we get a flood to help those whose homes are in need of repair to repair them. What is more is that the price of lumber has gone beyond the financial ability of the people to rebuild or repair their homes. In my opinion the Government can embark upon the housing scheme because it has something with which it can start. If there are £400,000 to the credit of the Labour Welfare Fund, the Government can put another £400,000 with that amount, establish its own Department, import the materials and employ people who are on the spot to do the work. Have a real housing organisation and the Government would save a lot of money. I wish that some honourable members would really go into some of the slum areas in which poor people live and see the conditions under which they live. After a drizzle of rain all the houses are wet inside and what is more is that some of the people have nowhere to go; some have no closets, no baths. What sort of life do we intend that these people should live? We cannot go on like this forever. The Government will have to do something about this housing problem. I remember having an interview with a former Governor sometime ago and although I have nothing against Emigration I told him that I would put emigration aside and deal with the housing problem because I know how serious it is in this Country. I hope the Government will take heed of my remarks and will see to it that it does not only formulate schemes to lend people money. Some of those persons are going to gamble with the money that is lent to them, and the real people who want this money will not be able to get it because they are not agricultural labourers. You want a scheme whereby all classes of labourers will be helped. This is a good start but we need something more comprehensive. Housing in this island is deplorable and it is going from bad to worse because I repeat that the prices of materials with which to build houses and the price of labour have gone beyond the means of a certain section of the community. If you doubt what I am saying, try to repair a house and you will see what will happen to you. If you estimate that a small job will cost \$100, when you get through, the cost will be nearer \$400 than \$100; so do not fool yourselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but you are straying from the point.

Mr. GARNER: All right, Mr. Chairman: if you say so I bow to your ruling. But I should like to draw to your attention that the addendum states that "the object of the Resolution is to provide that funds are available in the event of damage caused by a hurricane, storm or flooding, so that immediate relief can be given as necessary," and it goes on

to state what is proposed to be done. Housing, in my opinion, forms part of the Resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it that "immediate relief" would be in the form of food and clothes.

Mr. GARNER: If I start to talk about food I would talk all day because I know that there are many people who go to sleep hungry at night. But reverting to Housing I want to stress the point that the Government should establish an organization for the amelioration of the housing conditions in this Country. The people are in dire need of houses. I have in my pocket now twelve applications from persons to the officer administering the Labour Welfare Fund for loans to repair their houses so that you can see how serious the matter is. I hope that the Government will give consideration to what I have said and will endeavour to formulate some scheme whereby it can do something to help the poor people.

Mr. ALLDER: The senior member for St. Joseph has suggested, in the course of his remarks, that those houses which were totally destroyed would be valued, that the owners would be paid the values of the houses and that if the case should arise where a new house is built, the owner has to pay the difference between the two values to the Government. Now, I want to point out that there are some cases where people who have suffered are not working, do not expect to work in the future, do not have means whereby they can undertake any debts for lumber with the Government or anybody else but still have a right to a reasonable existence—Mr. Chairman, may I ask you to ask the junior member for St. Thomas to let me speak?—I am saying, Sir, that unless you take these special cases into consideration your scheme will not give the satisfaction it should give to all and sundry. There are cases where the owners of houses have passed the working stage and cannot pay anything at all; therefore you should make special provision for the repair of their houses out of whatever fund you are to take it, in order to help them to live a happy old age. Another point, Mr. Chairman, is this: You cannot, everytime that the question is raised, suggest that the parish of St. John has been treated better than any other parish when you still have a great amount of suffering to which no assistance whatever has been given. Suppose you went around and gave assistance to 10,999 persons out of 11,000 and left one exposed to the elements without succour, it is equal to the situation where you cause an infant in arms to be without any covering at all from the elements, because some of these people are incapable of helping themselves with even a cup of tea far less to repair or rebuild their houses. And it is unkind to suggest that honourable members of this House, when they come here and put the views of the people before the Assembly, are vote catching or doing this or that with an ulterior motive. There has never been any representative of the people who did not fight by every means at his disposal to cause Government to do what he thinks should be done in the interest of the community. I repeat that it is unkind to make such suggestions. We all know that the *Advocate* has been considered and is considered to be a reactionary newspaper and I am surprised to hear the senior member for St. Joseph admit that the policy of the *Beacon* is the same as that of the *Advocate*. But, Mr. Chairman, I disregard any false imputations about my actions in this House and I do not and will not attempt to obtain any paternity from a newspaper like the *Advocate*. I should hate to know the day that its actions would

have any influence on my policy. It is a paper which sometimes gives the impression that it is against progress. There was a stark example in its publication a week ago in its discussion of a matter which took place in this House. The partiality which it showed—

At this stage, 2 p.m., Mr. SPEAKER resumes the Chair and adjourns the House until 2.45 p.m. in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

SUSPENSION OF RULES 61 (a) AND 61 (b)

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to continue Government Business.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) be now suspended.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was in Committee of Supply considering a Resolution to place the sum of \$10,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950-61, Part 1, Current Estimates, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1950-51, No. 4, 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 EMERGENCY RELIEF

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply before the adjournment, the hon. senior member for St. John was speaking on this Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: I do not want to go on any further with this discussion except to suggest to the Government that those few people who are too old to go into any debt as regards the rebuilding of their houses, be given special consideration by the Government. That is to say, these people should have back their houses at the expense of the Government without having to pay any debt at their old age.

Mr. FOSTER: The Leader of the House has told us that he went down to St. Andrew, that he has seen conditions for himself and he has seen that a deserving case has been made out. I am asking him to act speedily in the matter. Last Thursday one of the people whose houses were damaged, was turned out of the Almshouse and it hurt me to hear that the Churchwarden had told her that he has seen people living under worse conditions than those under which she has to live. The house is not habitable for a dog; I would hate to see my dog living in that house and I am asking the Government to speed up as fast as they can in improving the conditions.

Mr. DOWDING: I must at this point ask for some assurance after listening to the speech of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. If we analyse that speech we can see that the hon. member was somewhat in a dilemma; that is to say, he started off by blaming the House for the fact that the Secretariat did not have enough staff to do the work which was given to it, and then he went on to say that the Government had thought of allowing people to get credit from the various lumber yards, but that was not the declared policy of the Government. On one

or two occasions he made suggestions and then qualified his remarks that it was not the declared policy of the Government. Under those conditions, I am wondering what it is exactly that the Secretariat is working on; because if it has no policy to guide it I fail to see what it can be working on. I appeal to the hon. Leader of the House to declare some firm policy in connection with this matter. We can go back as far as July, 1948, and see that there are still matters outstanding in connection with the damage done by the high winds that year. We want to have a definite policy one way or the other and then the Secretariat will be able to get ahead with the work. If the Secretariat has too much work to do and the hon. member will only let the House know, we will be willing to give the necessary staff so as to enable the work to be done.

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 one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

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.

RESOLUTION NOT ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to deal with the Resolution which has been circulated because the matter is pressing. It came before the Executive Committee only on Thursday and we were informed that it is an urgent matter. I hope that the House will agree to deal with it to-day.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 so as to deal with this Resolution.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be now suspended.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE re PROTECTION OF SUGAR CANE.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—This Resolution is one to place the sum of \$6,800 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. 7, which form the Schedule to this Resolution. This is one of those matters with which, I feel sure, the House will agree. This is an agricultural community and the danger of the root borer is very serious. The question of combating the root borer by the hand collection of beetles has been carried on for some years and that has been more of a temporary nature. Beetles are collected and after the root borer has been combated the collecting of the beetles is more or less discontinued and the pest takes root again. This Resolution proposes to subsidize the planting community where the collection of beetles is concerned and moreover, to send the Entomologist to Queensland to see how the insecticide known as Gammoxane is used. While the collection of beetles is carried on, it is necessary that the Entomologist should go to Queensland and see for himself the use of this insecticide in soil which is similar to that of Barbados. What this really means to the agricultural community is more than \$6,800; I feel sure that this House will realise that the spending of this money, especially now that the sugar crop has been increasing, is worth while in the interest of the community. I do not think it is necessary for me to explain anything more and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BRYAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: In my turn I must compliment the Government on the speedy effort they have made to get through with this matter. The situation in respect of this matter has become serious and it has become most noticeable within the last two years. Any observer or planter will have seen the hundreds of holes in the canes and that the ratoons are not thriving; and on the removal of the stumps it has been found that the root borer is the cause of the trouble. The collecting of beetles has been stopped in this island for a number of years and it is now hoped to return to this method of combating the root borer in the interim while the Entomologist is sent to Australia to gain information as to the use of this new insecticide which is being used extensively in that country. If this matter is taken up in any way other than direct contact, I believe it would take probably a year before we could reach any final decision. By taking this step of sending the Entomologist direct to Queensland we hope to cut down that period by a few months. The damage done by these beetles is definitely on the upgrade and while the use of the insecticide is being gone into, it is necessary that we also start in trying to control the pests as we did in the past by the hand collection of the beetles. I hope that this Resolution will have the appreciation of every honourable member.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I was hoping for a little information as to whether after all these years the use of parasites for combating these pests has failed. We have been made to understand by the Agricultural Department that the correct method of dealing with the root borer beetle and certain other pests was by means of breeding parasites and liberating them into the canefields and that would prevent the pests from ever becoming a danger to the crop. I believe that on one occasion we sent away the Entomologist and got another kind of parasite and there was a discussion in which the Entomologist claimed that the parasite should be different from the one which we were using. If it is a declaration of policy that the use of parasites has failed, then I think we had better know that as soon as possible. Hitherto we have been told that we

could rely upon the use of parasites. The next thing is this: Are we to understand that they are now trying out this insecticide and is there any danger? When you read a little about subjects of this nature you find that there is a great doubt among scientists as to whether in the use of this insecticide to kill the pests you are not at the same time injuring the soil. One would have thought that an Entomologist as well paid as ours would hardly need this trip to Australia to learn whether or not Gammoxane is a good remedy against the pests. As a scientist of some eminence with all the matter that would be put before him on the subject and with all the documents which he could procure on the value of Gammoxane, one would have thought that he would have tried it for himself under local conditions rather than take this long trip to Australia and then tell you what he saw over there. In a matter of this sort the money will be voted because sugar is our only crop; but while there is the value of the hand collection of the beetles I think it should be considered whether it is not possible for the Entomologist to experiment with Gammoxane without having to go on such a long trip as this.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I cannot answer the honourable member in superlative terms; I can only answer him as a layman. The same things which have occupied the honourable member's attention have occupied the attention of the members of the Government; we all wanted to know if it was not possible for the Entomologist to carry out the experiment without taking this trip. The position is that where the experiment has already been carried out, they would have acquired knowledge which we have not acquired over here. In addition to seeing the experiment carried out the Entomologist would be able to get experience which has been gained in another country. It boils down to this; you have two people in two laboratories in different parts of the world; one has experience and he says to the other: "Come to me and let me give you the reaction." The visit of the Entomologist to Queensland would enable him to gain the experience of those who have been in the field before him. I repeat that the same things which occupied the honourable member's attention have occupied the attention of the Executive.

Mr. LEWIS: In connection with matters affecting the Department of Science and Agriculture coming before this House one has to be very careful in speaking, because the Head of the Department can get anything done. As far as I remember, it used to be the responsibility of this Department to go around and eradicate the disease caused by the root borer; and relative to Love Vine, any individual who has it on his premises is responsible for reporting it. As far as I remember, an Act has been passed and we were told that the disease had been eradicated and we could dispense with the services of those persons who used to be inspectors. A number of people were chased out of the Department and there was a lot of difficulty in getting compensation for them after they had given 11, 12 and 13 years' service. We are now told about this damage and a special Resolution has been sent down in connection with it. I feel that in a matter of this sort you can only do what the Government tells you to do, because the sugar industry is like water and when you are told that the industry will be ruined you have to vote the money. As regards the collection of the beetles, it is peculiar that that is mixed with the destruction of the rats in connection with which there have been serious advertisements

carried recently. As regards this insecticide, I am wondering if literature on it is not all that would be necessary. If it is a question of spraying, it might be necessary to send somebody else along with the Entomologist—somebody who knows the economics of spraying—or send somebody out here to show us what is to be done. If it is the scientific part of the matter, the Entomologist would know about that already.

Mr. MAPP: If this were not a question affecting the sugar industry and the Government was sending out for somebody to advise it on something, the honourable junior member for St. George would have said that we are bringing in an expert. Now that we are sending out an expert, he praises the Government and says it is a wonderful idea. We expect that; as long as it is a question affecting the sugar industry, the honourable member will back this proposal fully. The person who is at the head of the Department will always back these schemes. The former Director of Agriculture is now responsible for the polarisation of sugar which used to be carried on by the Government and there has been a loss to the Government. As regards the collection of beetles, it is proposed that a subsidy be paid and that is fixed at 25 cents a pint estimating the total cost of collection to be between 40 and 75 cents a pint, and it is estimated that \$2,000 will be spent this year in subsidizing the collection of about 4,800,000 beetles. We find that the Government is paying one-third of the amount for the collection of these beetles; I take it that the sugar industry is already subsidized and I do not see why the sugar planting community should not be paying a greater amount for collecting beetles which are destroying their own property. I am not speaking about the Entomologist going to Australia if he has to go there to find out how this insecticide is used, but I am sorry that we have to rush through this matter today and we cannot give it more consideration. I repeat that the Government is paying one-third of the amount for the collection of these beetles and this is too high a proportion to ask this Government to pay. I say that the most which the Government should contribute towards the collection of these beetles is \$1,000.

Mr. LEWIS: The point made by the honourable member who has just sat down about the sugar industry taking revenue from this Government under an arrangement made by an ex-Director of Science and Agriculture is one which should be made very relevant to this Resolution. The same industry is asking the Government to assist them in the collection of beetles and it is not unreasonable to say that they should pay for collecting the beetles themselves. The Government might pay for the same pint of beetles twice. If a considerable sum of money can be taken out of the Treasury under an arrangement made by the sugar producers, I do not think that they should have asked the Government to assist them in a matter of this sort right on the heels of such an arrangement. I think that this matter should be investigated and the position explained to the sugar producers I would not mention the figure because I would like to check it first. As I say, we have to vote this money because the sugar industry is the life blood of the community and it is just like the water question; but the sugar producers should be told that they cannot take money out of the Treasury and still seek this protection at Government expense.

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

On the motion of Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Resolution in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PRESENTATION OF REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

At this stage, 3.30 p.m. Mr. SPEAKER received a Message by the Sergeant-at-Arms that His Excellency the Governor was awaiting the House in the Council Chamber to present their Address in reply to the Speech which he delivered at the opening of the Session.

Mr. SPEAKER and the House, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, proceeded to the Council Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER read and presented to His Excellency the following Address which was passed by the House in reply to His Speech:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency was pleased to deliver on the opening of the Legislative Session 1950-51.

The House agree with Your Excellency that the economic development of Barbados is of paramount importance and welcome any plan designed to give effect to such development. In this connection the House look forward to an early consideration of any plan, of a short or long term nature, which would relieve the unemployment situation.

The House agree that in a plan of economic development consideration must be given to the establishment of a deep water harbour for this Island.

The House endorse Your Excellency's main proposition that in order to ensure economic development Barbados must by every means possible increase its production.

The House agree that the prerequisite to increased production is the extension of our water supply particularly with reference to market gardening and other food production.

With regard to subsidization the House agree with Your Excellency that this is a matter for serious consideration and feel that further attention should be paid to the development of the fisheries and livestock industries.

The House note Your Excellency's reference to the necessity for aiding the Tourist and other secondary industries and agree that the points raised by Your Excellency in respect of these matters are deserving of immediate and full consideration.

The House join with Your Excellency in expressing their deep appreciation to the Government of Alberta and their Minister of Mines the Honourable N. E. Tanner for the invaluable services which he has recently rendered the Government of Barbados in Oil development in this Colony.

The House are of the opinion that for the well being of the Colony it is essential to have a contented, experienced and efficient Civil Service and with this in view consider with Your Excellency that the establishment of a Training Scheme for Civil Servants is of vital importance.

The House note Your Excellency's reference to the Secretariat and will give most careful consideration to any scheme that may be sent to it for improving the administrative side of the Government.

13th June, 1950.

His Excellency delivered a Rejoinder.

Mr. SPEAKER and the House returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that on the occasion when we attended His Excellency the Governor in the Council Chamber and delivered our Reply to His Speech delivered at the opening of the Legislative Session, His Excellency was pleased to make the following Rejoinder:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for the terms of your respective Addresses in reply to the speech which I delivered at the reopening of the Legislature and I welcome your unanimous concurrence in principle with the several matters to which I referred.

2. It is the intention of Government first to present to the Legislature at an early date proposals designed to reorganize the Civil Service in relation to the 1948 Report of Commissioner Adams in order to bring the day to day business of departments to the highest possible standard of efficiency. Secondly, it is intended to present at an early date a short term programme of development to be financed as far as possible from our recurrent and other immediate resources. Thirdly, it is intended to prepare a long term plan of development, possibly related to the term of the new sugar agreement, to be financed primarily from loan funds, but naturally the annual loan charges and other consequential recurrent costs will need to be covered by additional recurrent revenue.

My administration will do its utmost to expedite the preparation of the material essential as a preliminary to the determination of the long term plan of development. Fortunately some of the groundwork has been done but its completion will necessitate some delay, but I trust not undue delay, in the presentation of the plan.

3. I thank you for your attention.

27th June, 1950.

A. W. L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 4.15 p.m.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until 4.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

On re-assembling,

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider along with the Debates Committee the re-organisation of the Staff of the Reporters of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, the Staff of the House of Assembly and the re-arrangement of the present seating accommodation in the House, in accordance with the notice which I gave earlier to-day.

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

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to consider these matters, along with the Debates Committee. I think that honourable members must be aware of the necessity of bringing these matters up to date; the time has come when we must seriously consider the entire re-organisation of the Staff of the Reporters and the Staff of the House as well as the seating accommodation and

additional accommodation for our Staff. It might be necessary to go a little further, but I do not propose to do so at this stage. I think the right thing for us to do is to appoint a Select Committee to go into these matters.

Mr. CRAWFORD : I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that this Select Committee be appointed. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on this Select Committee: The honourable senior member for the City (Mr. MOTTLEY), the honourable senior member for St. George (Mr. MILLER), the honourable senior member for St. James (Mr. E. K. WALCOTT) and the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. LEWIS).

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE SUGAR INDUSTRY (REHABILITATION, PRICE STABILISATION AND LABOUR WELFARE) ORDER, 1950"

Mr. SPEAKER : The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter :— To move the passing of the following Resolution :— 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 : This Resolution is a formal matter; there is not much in it of which honourable members are not aware. This is the formal matter of approving of the fixing of the amounts under the three respective funds. The amounts standing to the credit of the Funds up to the 31st May, 1950, are as follows : Rehabilitation Reserve Fund, \$1,638,603.85. Payments to factories, \$1,343,427.47; plantations, \$192,842.69; small holdings, \$362.87; and expenses \$2,070.92, amounting to a total of \$1,538,703.95. Price Stabilisation, \$2,052,581.34; and Labour Welfare, \$817,734.18. As far as housing is concerned, no statement can be made because honourable members will realise that that question is under consideration and we cannot state how much has been spent in that connection. Honourable members are aware that the sum of \$400,000 has been allocated to housing. This year, on a rough estimate, we expect to get in approximately \$360,000 for Labour Welfare, and \$720,000 and \$900,000 for Rehabilitation and Price Stabilisation respectively on an average of 150,000 tons. Honourable members will realise that this is the basis which has already been agreed upon. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX : I beg to second that.

Mr. MAPP : We have been told that this is a formal matter. These amounts are usually allocated every year and as usual the plea is made from this side of the House that they should be re-arranged. Every year we make the plea that the Labour Welfare Fund has not got a sufficient percentage allocated to it, and that an amount should be taken from the Rehabilitation Fund and the Price Stabilisation Fund, or at least from the Rehabilitation Fund and placed to Labour Welfare. On this occasion I am repeating that plea and bringing facts and figures to prove that it should be done. We are very grateful to the honourable introducer of this Resolution for anticipating our questions and giving us the figures concerning these Funds. The amount of the Rehabilitation Fund is \$1,638,603.85 and the sugar producers have been shared nearly all of it. The amount of the Labour

Welfare Fund, as we learnt some time ago from the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, is \$817,734.18, and about \$400,000 is allocated to housing and the balance to the provision of playing fields. There are about 30,000 small holdings of less than 10 acres in this island and, as we have heard from the honourable senior member for St. Peter, the amount paid to peasants from the Rehabilitation Fund is \$362.87. How many of the 30,000 peasants received money we are yet to know, but it must have been few and the amounts paid out have been very small indeed. As regards the question of housing, there are between 20,000 and 25,000 agricultural labourers in this colony and \$400,000 is allocated to a housing scheme. This Labour Welfare Fund is being worked as a revolving fund to benefit the workers and their families in years to come, but the inadequacy of the amount is reflected in the policy which has to be pursued in so far as some of these workers are concerned. I am told that in so far as loans for housing are concerned, people are informed that they must build the frame-work if they want new houses. The allocation is too small and people are told that they must build the frame-work as security! The sugar industry in Barbados is being subsidised by the Government to a greater extent than any other industry would be subsidised probably for years to come; the sugar producers are fighting for the best terms of security that they can possibly get and Labour representatives in this House have joined in that fight. We have joined in making representations to the British Government so that this industry can receive the best price for its product; all of that was done so as to place the industry on a good footing. If there is any doubt in the matter you only have to refer to figures collected by the Caribbean Commission to see how the industry compares with that in British Guiana and other colonies, and that in Barbados handsome profits accrue to the sugar producers. In 1947 the Barbados sugar producers made a profit of \$15.50 per ton as compared with \$5.42 per ton in British Guiana; and in the previous year they made a profit of \$16.92 per ton as compared with \$11.89 in British Guiana, the difference being not so great then. The sugar industry in 1947 was subsidised in Trinidad and British Guiana and yet the sugar manufacturers were operating at a profit far less than that at which the manufacturers in Barbados were operating. The sugar manufacturers in Barbados paid less for canes in 1947 than the manufacturers in British Guiana paid and processing costs were \$21.17 per ton as compared with \$32.94. The value of the Rehabilitation Fund is reflected in a lessening cost of production; the cost of production has been cut down because the sugar manufacturers are using more machinery and employing less labour. They are using more efficient methods of production and the results are greater. The sugar manufacturers in this island are far better off than those of other islands. I am told that the proportion in which the Funds are worked does not obtain in all the colonies; I understand that they are used in a different way and in so far as peasants are concerned, I think that the peasants in Jamaica are allowed to buy fertilisers and machinery. I cannot see why in Barbados where the profit per ton of sugar has been so high as compared with other colonies, the allocation to these Funds should be the same and should remain so throughout all the years. If the sugar producers need these terms for all these years then the workers and the small holders need even more; any loss in the industry is reflected more to the disadvantage of the peasants than to the sugar producers who are made better off by the Rehabilitation Fund. If the sugar producers succeed in getting the guarantee for which they are asking from the British Government, would that not be a haven for them for all these years with the figures

in respect of Price Stabilisation rising higher and higher and those in respect of Rehabilitation remaining the same and affording greater profit every year? Would they not be living in Paradise as compared with the workers in the industry? That is clear even to the most jaundiced of observers. The starting of these Funds was something worthwhile and it will produce worthwhile results, but it is not enough to say that the labourers are better off than they were before and rest there. The planters in Grenada are actually working out schemes for contributory insurance for safeguarding the health and the welfare of workers in the industry; but in Barbados all we are getting from the sugar producers is political talk; that the Labour Welfare Fund should be given away. Surely it is not good enough that such a small proportion of these Funds should be allocated to housing and playing-fields; much more should be done to ensure that these workers get some security and better conditions of living from the sugar industry. Surely it is time that the Government take action and start some insurance scheme as Grenada is doing. We cannot rest on our oars; for six months of the year our workers are not employed and when they are employed they get very little; they are not working for enough to ensure their families against bad living conditions. It is a fact that without the help of the Labour Welfare Fund the workers will be faced with a serious situation out of crop; it is time that we get going in this matter. As regards the peasants, the fact that they have no machinery means that they need greater assistance since machinery helps to keep down costs. The figures supplied by the Caribbean Commission speak for themselves as to the profits which the sugar industry makes in Barbados, though every year the sugar producers say that they face ruin. Since 1947 they have been helped to an increasing extent by the Rehabilitation Fund and the factories in Barbados are better developed than those in other islands. The sugar producers have had a good rainfall, good years and they have had a better price for their product from the British Government. I hope that this will be the last time when we shall have to ask that a greater allocation be made to Labour Welfare and that more be done for the workers in the industry. The time has come when the sugar producers of this colony must adopt an attitude such as that adopted by those in Grenada; the time has come when the Government must take action as regards these contributory schemes for the benefit of the workers. I do not want to overplead the case, but it seems to have become a hardy annual to talk about these Funds and yet we see that the figures are the same year after year. The Government is not blessed with statisticians who report to it from year to year on the profits made by the sugar industry, but it is now being helped by facts and figures supplied by the Caribbean Commission. The Government can take heed from these facts and figures and they can now appeal to the British Government and make representations to them relative to an increase in the allocation to the Labour Welfare Fund. It is time that we have the allocation to this Fund increased; it is time that schemes be started in the interest of the workers in the industry. The facts are there to prove that the sugar industry in Barbados is on as sound a footing as the producers want it to be; the industry is in a better position than in British Guiana where schemes are now being started for the benefit of workers. The ownership of land in this island is entirely in favour of the sugar producers; we have the problem here of there being thousands of people to the square mile with very little land divided among them. We are not worthy of our seats in this House if we are not doing our utmost for the workers. This is a serious matter; the Government is either sympathetic with these views or it is not. The hon-

ourable senior member for St. Peter is directly concerned with agriculture and I expect him to adopt a more sympathetic attitude in this matter than that which he is adopting.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If the honourable member wants to ventilate this matter he can do so; but I object to his talking about my adopting a more sympathetic attitude in the matter. He is talking nonsense.

Mr. MAPP: I heard the honourable member say *sotto voce* that I have run out. I may sit down but I have not run out. I know that the Government has a lot of work to do, but it is the duty of the Government to see the position of the sugar industry and do its utmost for the workers.

Mr. LEWIS: This is a matter to which I have given some attention. Ever since the introduction of the Bill to carry out what we hear is an agreement with the Ministry of Food, I have been at pains to discover whether these amounts were fixed by the people in England or if some leeway was given in the colonies to allocate the amounts as might best suit the circumstances of a particular colony. The honourable senior member for St. Peter has said that this is a formal matter; we have already agreed to it in the Act and therefore this Order merely carries out the terms of the Act. I am willing to go 75% of the way with him in that; the Act particularly lays it down in paragraph (c) of Section 3 that "There shall be raised on all produce during any year subsequent to the year one thousand nine hundred and forty seven such levy, if any, and at such rate or rates, as may be fixed in respect of that year by Order of the Governor-in-Executive Committee with the approval of the two Houses of the Legislature." Under the Act, you might not raise any levy at all, but if you raise any levy, you will take these funds from the sugar industry. Of course, the money goes back to the sugar industry. Let us take the allocation to the Rehabilitation Fund; the amount standing to the credit of that Fund was \$1,638,603.85 and \$1,538,703.95 has been taken out. If you are going to rehabilitate the industry, the time to do it is as quickly as possible. The sugar producers have got their money, they have put in their machinery and they are making a use of this Fund. The machinery enhances the value of the industry. As far as the Price Stabilisation Fund is concerned, nobody has ever been able to tell me at what point it will be used. Are you going to use this Fund when the price of sugar gets 10%, 20% or 50% below the present price or what? Nobody can tell me that. The next thing is that I cannot be told whether the Fund is going to subsidise the wages of the people. As regards the Labour Welfare Fund, the moment you start to use it, you see how infinitesimal it is; you dare not give it to people to repair their houses, because it is not sufficient to give more than a small percentage of it, so that you have to create a Bank. I leave that off so as to return to the allocation of the Funds. It is a mistake to say that the circumstances of the particular place will not permit you to alter this allocation. The allocation in respect of the Labour Welfare Fund in Jamaica was 5/- and in St. Kitts it is £1; therefore the Ministry of Food must have had to alter the supposed agreement to suit their circumstances. I have brought that forward as a specific case in which the circumstances of the island have caused an alteration in the allocation to be made by those who fixed these amounts. In Jamaica, they have gone up to 10/- in respect of the Labour Welfare Fund. I would like to draw the attention of honourable members to one more point. What is the Rehabilitation Fund?—It is a Fund by which the plantations and sugar factories can bring

in labour-saving devices; and if I am giving you a Fund free of income tax to bring in machinery to put people out of work, am I not entitled to ask you to give more money for the welfare of the people? I say that the question answers itself. There is the Price Stabilisation Fund; which you do not know how you are going to use; you are investing that money and it is proof positive that you do not want it immediately. You have done well in the past so that you can invest that money and you do not know when it will be used. You have the Rehabilitation Fund to put people out of work; you have the Price Stabilisation Fund the money from which you put on the Bank and the Labour Welfare Fund is too small for its purpose. When the price of sugar is regarded to be low you get an increase from the buyers; and of course you ask the people's representatives to help you to get it. I feel that these points have not been stressed; these three Funds have become confused. The public do not know anything about that and I do not know if the Executive know about it; I do not know if all the circumstances have been taken into consideration. Looking at this matter logically, there is only one conclusion to which you can come. You have a Fund to put people out of work, you build up a Fund for equating your price when you decide that you are going to use it, and it has been demonstrated that the money which you put for Labour Welfare is not sufficient for the purpose. And these Funds are tax free! Three million dollars of tax-free profits are going abroad and the people cannot get their homes repaired out of what is allocated to Labour Welfare. Perhaps it is good that there is a lot of machinery which you cannot get at this time. The production of sugar is 150,000 tons and it is time to allocate 10/- more for Labour Welfare; this year as a result of the sweat of the brow of the labourers and mechanical equipment you have produced 150,000 tons and it is not too much to ask for 10/- more for Labour Welfare. I am sure that the moment the planters and the factory owners have this matter put to them and we say that we are determined about it, they will say: "Yes, you have a good case for a re-allocation." The British Government might be more generous with you if they feel that in Barbados some money from another Fund was used for Labour Welfare. I have nothing more to say, but I am going to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed so that we can get the views of the members of the House. The Executive will be able to say that the House is willing to get a substantial amount for the people. We are helping to send away the Entomologist for the purpose of dealing with the beetles; I believe that there is a splendid opportunity to go to the length of forcing the Government to allocate 5/- or 10/- more to the Labour Welfare Fund. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed in order that the views of the House can be taken on the points which I have mentioned and the Government members of the House will be able to take back those views to the Executive. A point which must be made for the purpose of record is that in Barbados this cess, as I call it, is collected on all the sugar which is manufactured and the people who consume the sugar here put tax-free profits into these Funds. This export levy in other colonies is different; it is a tax on the sugar which is bought by the people who ask you to create these Funds, not a tax on the sugar which is consumed by the people. That is one of the reasons why you got the Reef Grounds. If you ship sugar from St. Lucia to Grenada, you cannot collect these Funds; you must produce evidence to show that the sugar has been received by the Ministry of Food. The sugar producers got an increased price

for sugar so that these Funds could be created. (A MEMBER: That is not true). I hear an honourable member say that that is not true: I am willing to challenge him to get up and say so for the purpose of record, so that when I read it in the *Official Gazette* and I take the necessary action on it everybody will know who is telling the truth. There is no reason why you should not make a sacrifice for the sugar workers; and every worker in Barbados is entitled to share in these Funds.

Mr. GARNER: I will repeat what I have already said in this House; I have not changed one bit. I still feel that in respect of those factories which need to be rehabilitated first, the owners are much better off than the owners of those which need less rehabilitation. I still feel that this money which they get free, gratis and for nothing does not see any light of day more than in the pockets of the factory owners. They talk about efficient factories paying more money to the peasants or cane growers but I have not seen that yet. I wonder if somebody is going to make a stern appeal to the Colonial Office or the Ministry of Food to see that these things are amended or rescinded. I am deeply hurt to think that people who have land and money can go and draw large sums of money free, gratis and for nothing, and the poor peasants who have to bear the sun, rain and all climatic conditions, who have six or eight cents allocated to them cannot draw it because of the conditions, laid down. They cannot qualify to get the money. The people who sent down this Resolution should know something about this matter. Whether you have a Conservative Government, a Labour Government or a Socialist Government, all are the same; they are catering to big business. They have a label to get them into power, but after they get into power, they are the same. You have given big business £1 5s. and 10/- to Labour Welfare, but that should not be so; only this morning we were talking about how dilapidated the labourers' houses are. There are people whose homes are not even private and you talk about rehabilitating people to control the country? The people who are wealthy are the bosses, and you are in collusion with somebody in Great Britain who is passing on money to wealthy people before you rehabilitate the workers who have been suffering for all these years. That is iniquitous; God does not sanction that. People who are drawing money from the Rehabilitation Fund have money for posterity and those who have contributed to that wealth and who ought to have been adequately paid are left to fish in the dark. All the wealthy man has to do to get his money from this Fund is to say how many tons of canes he has ground and the Director of Agriculture has to produce him a ticket; the poor man on the other hand, has to fill out a form. The poor peasant is fleeced by the factory owner who makes the money; he has to fight to get a minimum price for his canes and somebody says that he will not buy a ton of canes from me. However, when you come to these Funds and you say that you are getting more money for sugar and you are going to rehabilitate the sugar industry before you rehabilitate human lives, I say that something is wrong. We should postpone the consideration of this Resolution and send to Downing Street and let them know that we disagree with this policy. We cannot tack on a label just to get into power like the Englishman. I am genuine from top to bottom; I mean what I say even if I am victimised for it. My label inside must be what it is outside. Downing Street is catering to big business; they send Commissions out here from time to time, the Commis-

sioners have reported and most of the reports have been shelved. Mr. Speaker, I say that this is a shameful act; you cannot rehabilitate the wealthy people and leave out the people in the gutter. You cannot let the wealthy people sit by and add to their wealth while other human beings are suffering. We are either Christians or not; we either practice what we preach or not. It is of no use hearing people preaching the gospel of Christ for one hour on Sunday and after that they become beasts in the field; you are a Christian for one hour on Sunday and for the rest of the days of the week you care nothing about people who are human beings just as you are! I am saying that first things should come first. This is a serious matter; at long last we have got a chance to do something for the under-privileged and if we are reformers then we must take our work seriously. Of course "reformers" is a big word; some of us will never be statesmen let alone being reformers. Reformers have a big task to perform. I have nobody to satisfy; I have to satisfy this task which comes first. I am agreeing to the postponement of this Resolution and members of the Government can tell His Excellency that the House is doubtful about this matter. I say it is time that we stop talking about the provision of playing fields in respect of the Labour Welfare Fund and get down seriously to the question of housing. Mr. Speaker, you go around quite a lot, you see the condition of the people and you know that I am not exaggerating. Being a Christian gentleman, you know that what I am saying is true; you cannot rehabilitate the wealthy people before you rehabilitate the people in the gutter. I cannot be a party to that; I maintain that it is sufficient to cause people to be angry when you want to perpetuate this system. If a man is fortunate enough to have a certain amount of wealth, he takes the actual cash and invests it in everything possible to bring in money. He lets the source of his income go because he has taken his cash and invested it about and he gets premiums on his investments. Go to nearly all the factory owners and see where their money is invested and what are the premiums coming in. But to the people who should get the benefit of the rise in the price of sugar you say; "I am giving you 10/- a ton". I believe that some of the wealthy people want a changeover because some of them have a heart; but money is such a thing that nobody will refuse it. If you do not give money to some of these people they will not grieve and so I agree with the honourable member who says that this matter should be postponed. I would like to go before the Ministry of Food and talk; they want to hear people like me who do not talk Oxford or Cambridge language. I will talk agricultural language and they will hear me. I do not believe that they are acquainted with the lot of the people of this country, and we cannot go on in this manner. We are coming to an unhappy past in so far as labourers' houses are concerned. I know that this \$400,000 which has been allocated to housing loans is not going to meet the demands of the people who are asking for them; you will need more money if you are doing a good job. I say that with all respect to the wealthy people to whom the money is given; knowing them as I do, they do not want you to continue giving them money when they really do not need it. They would rather if you take the initiative and see the Authorities and get this money into the right channels. Let us rehabilitate poor human beings before the wealthy people; if we are socialists we will rehabilitate the poor people before the wealthy ones. I want to say publicly that I am not taking

any part in rehabilitating the wealthy people now; we have too many things to do before we rehabilitate them. I am seconding the motion for the postponement of the consideration of this Resolution; I have given my reasons for doing so and if they are not well understood I can repeat them. While it is true that standing in my name before the House is a question relative to the peasants, who are a respectable lot in this community, being given their share of Rehabilitation Fund in order to tide them over their difficulties, I am not saying anything on that matter now; but I hope that those who are responsible will change their views in this matter and see that the money is made available to the peasants. I am sure that the large plantation owners have drawn their amounts, but the small peasant has not been able to draw the small amount of 8 cents per ton which has been allocated to him. I am sure that the small peasant who has any money anywhere would be glad to collect it, let alone a couple of dollars from this source. The peasant has to do his own ploughing and we all know that the plantations are fully mechanized and that gives the owners a little rest. The peasant has no machinery to help him and I am going to move the passing of an Address asking that the island be divided into zones and the peasants be assisted in ploughing their land. The price of labour has risen to such a point that the peasants cannot pay for it and when the other man has got away by mechanization, somebody must help the peasant who is here to stay. As long as the country has a peasantry they must fight their way in the dark for assistance. A responsible peasantry means a lot to any country; most of the well-to-do people today have come from the peasantry. We want to help the peasantry, but as the position is now, we are making it hard for the peasant to get his 8 cents a ton while the factory owner can get his money *ad lib*. Small as the peasant's amount is, he cannot get it. I am making a plea on behalf of the peasants because I know how hard they work for their livelihood; they have to be ploughing in the sun when the other people are taking a rest. Some thing is wrong if you are trying to take away the little bit from them. If honourable members vote for this Resolution they are part and parcel of big business because they are rehabilitating the wealthy people before they rehabilitate the poor people.

Mr. ADAMS: I am speaking on the motion for the adjournment and I am appealing to the honourable member who has just sat down. The honourable member has made the sort of speech which I would have made myself if I were in his position. Possibly the honourable senior member for St. Peter feels the position more than I do on hearing allegations made against members of the Government in respect of certain views when those who make the allegations know that the views which are being expressed by them are the views of the members of the Government. I am rather amazed at the honourable junior member for the City, because when the 1947 Bill was before the House there was much talk and all the points were threshed out. The honourable junior member for the City wrote the Secretary of State for the Colonies two letters, one in connection with this matter and one in respect of income tax; he had the honour of being taken seriously. I was asked on one occasion as to who is Mr. So and So; in fact the honourable member was taken seriously. The honourable member should know that the Act is the result of an Agreement between the Ministry of Food, the Colonial Office and the British West Indies Sugar Association;

he knows that the Act says what the allocations are to be and that the amounts were fixed in 1947 because of the uncertainty of the position, yet he suggests that we can postpone this matter. I appeal to the honourable senior member for St. Philip to see that the Act is there; I cannot possibly see the Secretary of State for the Colonies approving of an amendment to this Act without prior agreement between the Ministry of Food and the West Indian Governments. This allocation of £1. 5s. £1 and 10/- was made in this particular way with the increase in price of sugar and the particular Boards were established; do not honourable members see that this is nothing which we can change? The honourable senior member for St. Peter said that this is only a formal matter, and I say that this debate is, to a great extent, a waste of time. I kept listening to hear what we were supposed to report back to the Executive and why the postponement of the consideration of this matter in order to give honourable members time to express their views need take place when honourable members can express their views this afternoon. I do not think that there is anybody ranging from the honourable members for St. Philip down the Table who would not agree with the honourable junior member for St. Thomas and the honourable senior member for St. Philip that more attention should be paid to the agricultural labourers than to the rehabilitation of the sugar factories; but how can you gain anything by postponing this Resolution with the Act staring you in the face, the reasons for it and the necessity for this Agreement? I appeal to honourable members to see that there is nothing to be gained by postponing this Resolution. Next Tuesday we will be in the same position. The object of the Stabilisation Fund is to have money in case the price of sugar fluctuates — and the honourable junior member for the City should have a better memory as regards this Fund—the object of this Fund is not to let the figures fall below the poor level at which they were in 1943 or 1944. The honourable member knows the views of the Labour Party and how can the postponement of this Resolution help? Whatever may be said about my preaching Party politics, I said at the Grenada Conference that I was not prepared to help in getting a higher price for sugar unless it was insisted that there be a re-allocation of these Funds, and that would have to be by agreement with the Ministry of Food. It is not a question of this Government having no views about perpetuating this matter or helping the factory owner before the labourer, but it is a waste of time to suggest that a postponement of this Resolution can help us to put our views into execution at the present time. Honourable members can see how much depends upon what is going to happen in another few months; it is not a question of the Government of Barbados alone, but a question of the Governments of the West Indies. Honourable members forget that the delegation which has gone abroad is not a Government delegation; that delegation is not making terms with anybody, but it is trying to persuade the Ministry of Food and the British Government to agree to something which the delegation can recommend to the West Indies Sugar Association to accept. The Contract is made with the British West Indies Sugar Association and we may advise it to accept the present offer. No single Government can change any of these Acts unless by agreement with everybody concerned when the Acts were originally passed, and at the present moment, to judge from some of the things I have seen in the Press, we are far from being agreed on anything: the British Government is not going to budge. I repeat; it is a waste of time our saying what we

all feel, namely, that the agricultural workers should be better treated, and therefore let us postpone this Resolution or tell the Government to change something which we have no authority to change.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It is difficult for me not to appreciate both sides of the picture as presented here this afternoon. I cannot agree with the last speaker when he declares that this debate is a waste of time; it is not a waste of time. If for no other reason than it serves as a pointer to the Government with regard to the feeling of members of this House, this debate does serve a useful purpose. The critics of this Resolution have made out a very good case and their arguments are not to be summarily brushed aside. On the other hand those of us who know something about the origin of these Funds and the Agreement under which they were created, will appreciate the position in which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph finds himself. It must be borne in mind that the total amount which is paid under these Funds is what may be termed "conscience money" on the part of the British Government. They had been, for some years previously and even during the War, buying sugar from the West Indies at a price far below what they had to pay for sugar produced outside the Empire. We ourselves could have sold the sugar for a lot more than we were getting for it if we were not compelled by agreement to sell it to the United Kingdom Government. When the British Government decided to make an addition to the price of sugar with the understanding that certain Funds would be created as a result of the allocations from the increase in the price of sugar, they did it knowing well that they had been robbing the West Indies and these Colonies were entitled to some preferential treatment. When it was decided to give the largest amount to the Rehabilitation Fund, there again it is ungracious to say that the British Government was thinking purely in terms of British interests. They knew that during the War years and for some time after, machinery could not be obtained by the sugar factories; they also knew that the price of machinery had risen 300% or 400% more than what it was in the War years. They knew that a part which cost £300 in 1938 was costing 10 times more in subsequent years; they knew that the price of machinery was beyond people's power to purchase and they earmarked the largest amount for the Rehabilitation Fund. The money from this Fund is being spent with the British Engineering firms, and it is not difficult to appreciate the underlying policy with regard to the allocation of the largest amount to this Fund. If the peasants of this colony are not benefiting to the fullest extent from the improved position of the sugar factories, there is another way of going about it and I will make mention of that later. Like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph I do not see the United Kingdom Government easily agreeing to any substantial change in the amount for Rehabilitation.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I do not know their views on that question. I said that I do not see them budging in these negotiations.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not see them agreeing to any change in view of the surrounding factors with regard to this Fund. With regard to the Price Stabilisation Fund, it is true that the question asked by the honourable junior member for the City is purely rhetorical because he is aware of the fact that that Fund is there to cushion the shock of any considerable decrease in the price of sugar. If the price of sugar drops and we have not got this Fund, we shall have to reduce the wages for agricultural labour. None of us should cavil if this particular Fund reaches

fifty million dollars, because sugar is such an uncertain world commodity that none of us knows what is to happen. If this Fund reaches a very considerable amount we need not unduly concern ourselves with that because it will be used, in case we have to use it, to see that the rate of wages for agricultural workers does not sink beyond a certain level. In connection with the Labour Welfare Fund, we all agree that the present allocation to it is too small, and in view of local conditions, it should not be the least of the three Funds; but there again the amount has been fixed and it is not merely by a wave of the hand that it can be changed. However if the Government is minded to do something to improve the situation, it can be done along entirely different lines than by postponing the Resolution. If the peasants are not getting full benefit as a result of the improved efficiency of the factories, it is the business of the Government to see that while the price of sugar manufactured by the factories is guaranteed and economic, the canes are also sold at an economic price. Attention should immediately be paid to guaranteeing that the price at which the sugar factories buy canes is economic in so far as the small producer is concerned, because he does not now share either in the improved efficiency of the factories or in the increased price which is being paid for sugar. The price paid for canes this year has not been commensurately increased with the price of sugar; and if the factories are not paying what they should pay, that is the fault of the Government because the Government has it in its power to set up the machinery to guarantee the small holder a fair price for his canes, bearing in mind the improved efficiency of the factories and the present price which is paid for sugar. With regard to increasing the amount in respect of Labour Welfare, the Government has in its power to get more for Labour Welfare out of the present price for sugar without interfering with the allocation which has been made to this Fund. In 1938-39 the Moyne Commission suggested that a special levy should have been made by the West Indian Governments on every ton of sugar produced and the funds so provided should be used for providing special welfare services for workers in the sugar industry along the lines of the Miners' Welfare Fund in Great Britain. Naturally few, if any, West Indian Governments bothered to implement that recommendation. I think that in St. Lucia and Jamaica there was some suggestion of doing it—I am not quite sure if they did it—and certainly if the Government of Barbados feels today that the amount allocated to the rehabilitation of the sugar industry is over and above what is necessary for that purpose, they have it within their power now to levy a rate of 2/- or anything which they want to make the figure on every ton of sugar produced in the colony outside these Funds and allocate the money so obtained for the same or similar purpose as that collected in respect of Labour Welfare. I commend to honourable members on my right the desirability of implementing this particular recommendation of the Royal Commission of 1938-39 in order to give practical effect to the suggestions made by some honourable members on my right with regard to getting more funds allocated to Labour Welfare and for improving the general conditions of the agricultural workers in the colony. Nobody can stop them from doing that; the levy can be made at a small figure and it can be increased from year to year according to what the situation requires. As long as these allocations remain as they are, the peasants should be protected by seeing that they get the best possible price for their canes; and if you want more money for Labour Wel-

fare you can levy a new cess on every ton of sugar produced in the colony for the particular reason.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There are few occasions when I have agreed with the honourable junior member for St. Philip, and this is one occasion on which I agree with him in the balanced speech he has made. The honourable member knows about this particular matter; he has been a member of the Executive and he knows the origin of these Funds. The honourable member is aware of the attempt made in this House to get through legislation with regard to peasants getting a good price for their canes and the reception which it had in the Other Place. As regards the suggestion of making a levy on the sugar which is produced in the colony, the honourable member may hear something about that in the future. As time goes on you may have to modify your views. As regards the honourable junior member for the City, as the Leader of the House has said, he has more than amazed me. It grieves me to think that you can be in association with men who know your views; you discuss matters with them and the slightest opportunity they get they make insinuations about your *bona fides* and honesty.

Mr. LEWIS: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member. I made no insinuation about the honesty of any member of the Executive Committee. I am very sorry if the honourable member understood me in that way.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: As a member of the Executive Committee chosen by the Leader of the House, I am quite prepared and willing to give way to any member of my Party who desires to take on more responsibility. If any member of this Party is desirous of doing so and he tells that to the Leader of the House, I am willing and ready at a moment's notice to be an ordinary member of the House and to give him all the support he needs. Your humble servant is willing to give any member of my Party the opportunity to take on more responsibility in the Government. There are those who will say that when you get close to the Head of the Administration you will say and do things which they themselves will not say or do. If I did not hear the speech of the honourable junior member for St. Philip who I would expect to say the things which came from honourable members on my right, I would be willing to tell the Leader of the House that it is better for him to get some other honourable member to be associated with him in the running of his Government. Here you have an honourable member of your own Party moving the postponement of a matter which has been described as an Agreement between the Ministry of Food, the British West Indies Sugar Association and the Colonial Office. That was done in 1947 when I was not in the island. Honourable members have accepted the Agreement which was made between these three parties and the Government is now carrying out the Agreement. As the honourable junior member for St. Philip has said, you cannot postpone this Resolution for the purpose of changing these allocations. This is not a Government allocation which you are making; after this \$13.20 has been paid into the sugar industry as a lumpsum and you want the Government to introduce a levy on the industry, you can do that for any amount you like. You can make a levy in respect of Labour Welfare alone, but the Government is not called upon to make this levy. The Government is called upon to introduce what the private people have agreed upon and this is the allocation which has been made. When honourable members impute that the members of the Government are not as much concerned with the interest of the workers as they are, I shall remind them that this is one of those issues which, whenever it

comes up, I have been very strong upon it, just as other members of the Executive. We cannot change the Agreement because it is not the Government's Agreement. Honourable members must bear in mind that the Government of Barbados is not selling sugar to the Ministry of Food; it is the British West Indies Sugar Association which has made the Contract with the Ministry of Food. For the benefit of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, I should like to say that we realise that the Government has not got any economist. If the honourable member is an economist, the Government sorely needs the services of an up-to-date one and he can join the Government. (A MEMBER: What about the Financial Adviser?) We do not want him; we want a member of the Labour Party to sit there so that all the implications can be worked out. I do not see any good in postponing this matter. To those members of my Party who are desirous of helping their Government I say that they must first begin to study before they speak about the irresponsible attitude and other statements they make about members of the Executive. They must bear in mind that the members of the Executive still have a measure of interest about them; and if any of them feels that the members of the Executive are not carrying out the wishes of their Party, I am quite willing to withdraw at a moment's notice and give him the opportunity of assuming more responsibility.

Mr. BRANCKER: The fact that this Resolution is before us gives honourable members the opportunity of expressing their views on certain matters which they have been already discussing this afternoon. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has made a point which I feel it my duty to emphasize—a point which I had proposed to make if the honourable member had not done so before me. This point is in connection with the Rehabilitation Fund and the new machinery which is being obtained as a result of this Fund. The peasants are getting no more from the factories with the improved machinery and the better returns which the factories are getting; the prices paid for canes are still as inadequate as they have been from time immemorial and the factory owners are getting richer and richer and spending more money in the United Kingdom, although I have heard about some factories returning nothing at all and they cannot pay any trade tax. As regards the motion for the postponement, I do not know what really operated in the mind of the honourable mover, but the postponement of this Resolution must serve the useful purpose of focussing the attention of the Government on the matter. It will allow the Government an opportunity to inform the Secretary of State for the Colonies or the Ministry of Food of the fact that the matter came before the House and it was postponed because honourable members felt that it should be brought home to them even more forcibly than it has been done in the past, that the people of this community are not benefitting from the improved machinery. The factory owners are getting more money per ton of sugar but the poor peasants are not benefitting or getting any reward from the factories which are receiving this money. The factory owners have applied for the purchase of additional lorries; they are driving some lorry owners out of business and they are not paying the peasants any more money for their canes. I am wondering if the Government does not see the necessity for the gradual nationalisation of the sugar factories in this colony and not allow them to go out of existence one after the other. We had Bromefield Factory going out of existence a short time ago; honourable members will recall that in

a question which I put to the Government during last session in respect of the acquisition of this Factory, I quoted certain paragraphs from the Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to study the question of seasonal unemployment and to make recommendations as to the best means of promoting full employment in rural areas throughout the year. It was stated in that Report that "It has been estimated that the present Factory capacity is insufficient to reap a crop of more than one hundred and fifty thousand tons of sugar without loss of efficiency. Under present conditions it is considered that, with good weather conditions, the Island would produce a crop of some one hundred and eighty thousand tons of sugar.... In the meantime, your Committee considers that all existing factories should be retained as operating units and the capacity of the present Factories should be expanded wherever this is economically possible." I understand that the capacity of some factories has been expanded but the peasants have not benefited. In reply to my question the Government said that they had been informed that Bromefield Factory would not operate this year and that they did not propose to acquire the factory. I would like to say that it is rumoured that another factory may soon be dismantled and this is an opportunity for the Government to start purchasing one or two factories; the Government can nationalise the factories and have them to reap canes from all over the island. Meanwhile let us draw to the attention of the Imperial Government, as forcibly as members of this elected Chamber can, what we know about the conditions existing as regards the sugar factories which are acquiring their improved machinery as a result of the Rehabilitation Fund. Let us draw to the attention of the Imperial Government that it is only the factory owners who are getting the benefit of this Fund today, so that they will give the matter some consideration and steps will be taken to ensure that the benefit from this Fund does not continue to go only to the factory owners.

The question that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed was put and resolved in the negative, the following division being taken:—

Ayes: Messrs. MAPP, ALLDER, MILLER, LEWIS, GARNER and BRANCKER—6.

Noes: Messrs. FOSTER, BRYAN, SMITH, COX, F. L. WALCOTT, ADAMS, CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY, GODDARD, GILL, E. K. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, and REECE—13.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

FANCY MOLASSES PRODUCTION RATES

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—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.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This Resolution is even more formal than that which we were discussing just now. This is a matter of approving the rates fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board in respect of fancy molasses produced during the crop year 1949–50. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

DECLINE IN CANADA—WEST INDIES TRADE DISCUSSED ON MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to discuss a matter of public interest. There appeared in the "Advocate" of last Friday an article written by a London Correspondent on the talks which were recently going on in London between Canadian and United Kingdom Ministers on the decline in trade between Canada and the West Indies. It was stated that the United Kingdom Representative who was the Second Secretary to the Treasury was emphatically told that the decline in trade between Canada and the West Indies was due to an unfair rationing of the West Indies in Canadian trade. In that article there was a report from the *Financial Times* which said that the view of the United Kingdom was quite contrary to that, the United Kingdom claiming that the decline in Canada's share of the British Caribbean market was a logical sequence of the recovery in general world trade. Because of the recovery in general world trade, the market had moved from these parts to other areas outside the dollar area; the West Indies had found that it was just as economic to buy from the sterling area as from Canada. The Report from the *Financial Times* went on to state that it was partly because of the change in the pattern of trade dictated by devaluation, that the sterling colonies had switched their purchases from purely commercial motives and without dictation from Whitehall. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is this last paragraph that I do now refute as untrue and quite contrary to the findings of the commercial bodies in the West Indies. As is well known, the markets between Canada and the West Indies are well established: they have been in existence for many decades and to interrupt this trade and divert it to other parts of the world as has been done by the dictates of the British Government has resulted in great disruption of trade and unbearable economic loss to the Colonies. If the British Government find that because of devaluation the sterling Colonies had voluntarily switched their trade away from Canada is correct, then I would say that we could do away with all controls tomorrow. But this is not so, for I know of many commodities such as potatoes, onions, textiles, drugs and hardware that despite devaluation can be bought much cheaper from Canada than we are having to pay in other markets. But price is not the only question about which we complain; Canada having supplied these markets for so many years, has learnt our requirements, the type of goods preferred in the West Indies and how they are to be packed besides their own regular sailings out of Canadian ports for their areas, and instead of having to buy potatoes three months in advance as we have to do now in the case of buying Cyprus potatoes, we used to buy Canadian potatoes and other commodities for delivery every fortnight. I have on

many occasions expressed the view that if we are to keep down the cost of living, we will need to get more dollars in the West Indies from the British Government. These dollars are urgently required to buy the essential foodstuffs necessary to feed our large population.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this statement that Canada—West Indies trade has diminished as a result of devaluation and not because of any directives from Whitehall was also published in the "Trinidad Guardian" of even date and unless it is refuted by persons in the West Indies, it will be taken as if we are satisfied with controls as they are. We are not satisfied for we do feel that a larger allocation of dollars could be made to the West Indies so that we may continue to buy in the market that experience teaches us is the most suitable and, despite devaluation, is yet the cheapest. I may mention that too often conferences are held in these areas, the composition of which are all officials, to decide on questions that vitally affect the economy of our people. Decisions are made and when months after we seek the reason for any regulation, we are told that we in the West Indies have decided it ourselves. There was a time during the War when the commercial brains were used either to make decisions or give advice at such conferences; and I am sure that such decisions that were made or advice given was always in the interest of the West Indies. But why are the commercial bodies left so completely out at more recent conferences?—I do not know. However, the decisions are made by officials, and at whose direction?—Whitehall. Mr. Deputy Speaker, regardless of what opinion is held in the United Kingdom, we in the West Indies still think that we are being forced to buy our requirements in expensive and unsuitable markets and we feel that more consideration could be given to the West Indies where the allocation of dollars is concerned.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to second the motion for the adjournment of the House to support the remarks of the senior member for Christ Church. When statements such as the honourable member has read appear in a responsible journal as *The Financial Times*, it is our duty to point out that they are incorrect. Now, Sir, you know as well as I do that it is not true to say that our commerce had diverted automatically from Canada to England. We have been forced to import from England many items which we used to get from Canada, and one of the most serious aspects of these restrictions in respect of our trade with Canada, as the honourable member mentioned, is that ships are coming down more than half empty and it is likely that they will continue to do so. The last ship which arrived here on Thursday last—the "Canadian Constructor"—landed 30 tons of cargo at this port and as you know, Sir, she has unfortunately gone aground off Grenada. That big ship left Barbados with only 300 tons of cargo for Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad, and British Guiana and under such conditions it is impossible for it to pay its way. I repeat that that is one of the most serious aspects of the dollar restrictions and if this steamship service is suspended it will mean that a lot of people would not be able to travel from island to island in these parts. There is one point which the honourable member has not mentioned and it is this: Many goods which we used to get from Canada we now have to import from England at much greater cost. It would astonish you to know that many items are imported into England from Canada and the U.S.A., put into refrigerators, then shipped to us in the West Indies and we have to pay a profit on those goods to the English manufacturers. As the honourable member has said, we are never

taken into consultation when they have these conferences in Barbados behind closed doors and as a rule these conferences are attended, almost entirely if not entirely, by officials whom I call ships-that-pass-in-the-night. For these gentlemen to decide behind closed doors what we should be allowed to import without even consulting the people who live in these islands is going a bit too far. I do hope that a copy of this debate will be sent Home, so that that statement which appeared in the Press could be corrected.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In supporting the motion for the adjournment I should like to say that I do not think that any of the honourable members who have spoken have been as strong as I have been on this matter during the consideration of the Estimates a few months ago. It gives me very great pleasure to support this motion to discuss this question of dollar restrictions and the resultant treatment to people in the colonies by the British Government. Now, Sir, I am not a merchant. I am not a financier. I am not an economist but I believe that I possess a little commonsense and I am quite sure that any man who is possessed with any commonsense is bound to realize that the question of cost of living is a tremendous one. Mr. Speaker, I stood on the floor of this House and discussed this matter a short while ago and as I have said I do not think that either the mover or the seconder of this motion has been half as strong as I was because I feel very strongly about the matter. Earlier in the day the junior member for St. Thomas gave notice of an Address which has for its object a reduction in the cost of living by way of relieving the import duty on certain commodities. I do not feel myself that that is really the cure but I do feel that the whole question wants reviewing. The allocation of dollars really affects the cost of living and any man in public life in this Country who cannot see that, is incapable of understanding public administration. Mr. Speaker, the stringent control of imports which is requested by those in Downing Street and the directions which they issue in respect of the countries from which we must import need to be strongly criticized and I have said on the floor of this House on a previous occasion that it is one of those questions on which I consider honourable members should bind themselves together and present a united front. We are still bound by loyalty although any casual observer can see that it is becoming strained. You cannot expect a hungry people to be a loyal people and it is time that some very strong talking be done by those of us who are fortunate enough to represent the people. I use the expression "strong talking" because it is no use fooling ourselves. If the cost of living goes up and up, as is the case at present, and no effort is made to release to us a greater proportion of dollars so that we can import from the dollar areas goods which can be sold to the masses in this Country at reduced prices and thereby keep the cost of living down, then I say that the loyalty of the people in these colonies will be strained. Mr. Speaker, when one speaks of the cost of living one is bound to think of Sugar because we must depend on the price which we get for our chief product—Sugar—and in this connection I should like to draw attention to the fact that the delegation from the West Indies is being knocked about London after a period of months of waiting as compared with the favourable treatment which the British Authorities gave the Australian delegation behind closed doors and sent them back home. It may appear to persons in the United Kingdom who are not fully acquainted with these colonies that the people are satisfied but such is far from being the case. The question of the allocation of dollars must interest every member of this Assembly. I too read

the statement to which the senior member for Christ Church referred. I also read a statement in the *Trinidad Guardian* of last Thursday's date, to which I should like to refer because, in my opinion, it is of paramount importance to Barbados. If my remarks seem to point to inactivity on the part of the local Government I hope that the criticism will be taken as being made in good faith. In the *Trinidad Guardian*, Mr. Shenfield, the Economic Adviser to the Government of Trinidad, gave a list of about eight new industries which would attract capital to that colony of approximately \$12,000,000 U. S. Currency — \$17,000,000, B. W. I. Currency. Those industries include textiles, flour, hotels and cement. The reason why I refer to that statement is this: Anyone who read the article would see that on the face of it the policy of the British Government in respect of dollar investments has somewhat changed and as soon as it was discovered that their policy in this respect has been changed, the Trinidad Government immediately started to work;—this, in my opinion, has to do with cost of living; everything that is associated with industry reflects in the cost of living and anything you may do here cannot really assist in reducing the cost of living unless you get dollars. Well, as I was saying, this change of policy of the British Government has not yet been advertised in Barbados so as to allow capital to be encouraged from the United States of America. I would like to know if similar conditions cannot be offered to Barbados because the establishment of new industries in this island must result in the providing of employment for our people. If, I repeat, the policy of the British Government in respect of dollar investments has been changed and new industries are to be established in Trinidad with American capital, what about Barbados? Remember that the number of industries which can be absorbed in the West Indies are really limited—there are no two ways about that—and I fear that if we sit down and let it appear that we are inactive, everything will go to Trinidad and Barbados will have nothing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member but this debate was started on a matter of allocating dollars to enable goods to be imported for dollar areas. The honourable member is now discussing the question of manufacturers coming into the West Indies to establish industries.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate the latitude which Your Honour has given me but rather than wait to do so in the future I thought I would seize this opportunity to discuss this question of the establishment of new industries in the British West Indies with American capital. In Trinidad there is an Aid to Industries Ordinance and we want in this Country a proper Aid to Industries Act; it is no use fooling ourselves; it is our life's blood apart from Sugar. You either bring new industries to Barbados or the people will starve because they are being exploited by the British people. I will never apologize for saying that the people in the British West Indies are being exploited. You do not have to be an economist to understand that. The Leader of the Opposition—he is an Englishman—has told us that the British people import goods from the U.S.A., put them in cold storage and ship them to us at a profit. Is that not exploitation? I say that they are taking advantage of us. I repeat that we want in Barbados a proper Aid to Industries Act. What industry can we attract to Barbados in the absence of a proper Aid to Industries Act? I hope that we are at one on this matter. From what I have seen and observed in recent weeks, as far as the Party supporting the Gov-

ernment is concerned, and from the Speech from the Throne I have a little hope. Whether you are a member or a supporter of the Government or a member of the Opposition it must be apparent to you that an Aid to Industries Act is needed in this island because you are not going to get people even suggesting to you about investing foreign capital in Barbados unless you can show them the law under which they are to operate. \$17,000,000 British West Indian dollars! If we could attract \$3,000,000, if we could get one industry here that would absorb a hundred of our unemployed men and women, do you know what that would mean to the economy of Barbados? It would certainly mean a lot to this Country. When I spoke here a little more than a month ago on this question I asked "Can anybody inform me what is the allocation of dollars to Barbados?" and up to now I have not heard what it is. Like the senior member for Christ Church I feel very strongly on this matter. As regards the attraction of American capital to this island is concerned, do not let it appear as if there is inactivity on the part of the local Government. The Economic Adviser to the Government of Trinidad actually went to New York to encourage the establishment of new industries in that colony and, in my opinion, the time has come for the local Government to be more active in this matter. Mr. Speaker, I read this information about \$12,000,000 U. S. A. Currency being invested in Trinidad at night and during that night I could not sleep. I saw in front of me all night \$17,000,000 B. W. I. Currency being invested in Trinidad and I said to myself "Oh, God, what about Barbados? If we could only get \$2,000,000 invested in Barbados!" \$2,000,000 is a lot of money. Can't we send somebody to the U.S.A. too? But nobody is going to invest their millions in this island without a proper Aid to Industries Act on our Statute Books. I repeat that the high cost of living and the low standard of living of the people in this island are partly due to the treatment meted out to us by the British Government. Their method of exploitation is straining the loyalty of the people of this colony and the only way, Mr. Speaker, you will stop me and others from telling them about their exploitation is when we are satisfied that that exploitation has been stopped. I could go further. I could refer to the stopping of Japanese goods from coming to this island but you may say that it was just yesterday that they offered us protection and that we must be loyal. But things are getting too bad. Do you know the price of a workingman's shirt? I have great pleasure in supporting this motion. Nothing will be done to reduce the cost of living until we bind ourselves together, make a noise as one set of people and let it be known that we resent this treatment which is being meted to us.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—Day after day I realize that we are living in a fool's paradise. We expect Britain to do for us what we should stand up as men and do for ourselves. We talk certain things at home and when we go abroad we talk something else. I have no sympathy with this motion. If you want results, join me in my crusade and let us combine to get a Country of our own (Laughter and cheers.) You cannot expect much from Barbados, a little 2x4 Country. When you talk about industries you have to bear in mind that you will have to bring in raw materials and you will be competing against people who are in the business themselves. You must get down to earth and be realistic. Do not talk in the air just because you can talk. You have to bring in, I repeat, raw materials; you have to bring in machinery and you are going to have to fight the people who are already in the particular

business. However, the senior member for Christ Church is right when he said that we need more dollars; we need them. But can't you see the handwriting on the wall? When Great Britain was a mighty Nation she did not make much use of her day and now she has no money.

*Time like an ever rolling stream
Bears all its sons away.*

Britain is a dead horse and would you put your head in a dead horse's mouth? I have one great hope and it is in respect of the land and the people whom Britain has exploited and is continuing to exploit. Africa, my Motherland, is the Country where we are going to set up a Government to aid Britain. Africa is going to be the haven of the very English people who now exploit its people. Just as the U.S.A., has come to their rescue in every war, so will Africa come to their rescue economically in years to come. And if you doubt that statement, you doubt God's work. Whatever goes up must come back down. I have nothing against the British people but knowing people as I do and having studied history such as it is I must conclude that you are wasting time asking poor people to help you with something. The British people are morally and financially bankrupt. The very people who keep Africa in the condition in which it is today are morally bankrupt. Imagine the British people after so many centuries, not having a currency of their own! The British, as you know, had at one time colonies in North America and those same colonies have had to come back and rescue England. How can you expect that Barbados, could get anything from Great Britain? The backs of the British people are to the wall because God is working his purpose out. And you cannot understand it. They are going from bad to worse all the time. They have done too many wrong things; they still have people in chains and they cannot avoid what is happening to them. What are you asking them to do—give you more dollars which they have not got?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would just like to remind the honourable member that Order No. 7 under Private Members' Business is a Notice of an Address by him to His Excellency the Governor requesting a greater release of hard currency. (Laughter and Cheers).

Mr. GARNER: That is to deal with businessmen who have no quotas. Be that as it may, Sir, I am not making fun. I am speaking seriously. I cannot help you in this business. I have another proposition. This Country is too small. I have a big Continent in view. Join forces with me and let us claim that Continent.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of explanation. The honourable member is misquoting me by saying that I am begging Great Britain for something. What I am asking is that more dollars be released to us. Great Britain controls our economic set-up and, therefore, we on this side of the House are asking her to release more dollars to us.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would just like to point out that the motion before the House has been moved as the result of a statement in a local newspaper to the effect that West Indian trade with Canada has been shifted to Great Britain in a natural way rather than the result of the allocation of hard currency.

Mr. GARNER: As the senior member for the City knows I will never misquote him. I will always help him when he is right but when he is wrong I will endeavour to bring him back on the right

track. The British Government has been exploiting us so long that its exploitation has now become a matter of everyday talk; it has been doing it whether it was a Conservative, Liberal or Socialist Government. That is its policy because it has to see that the British workers have a proper standard of living. Again, being such a small place, Britain has to snatch and go. If she has no currency of her own, what can she do? She has not got it; she cannot get it and she is not able to give you because she is on the decline. She does not have the dollars. She will continue to exploit you as long as you are a British colony. She has to depend now on Marshall Aid and European recovery. What has struck me is that England and the other Socialist Nations have refused to join the Schuman Plan. When you see these Nations refusing to come together to-day their backs must be up against the wall. When I hear these things my thoughts go to higher flights; that is why I am willing to leave Britain and look to somewhere else for posterity. Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to say any more at this stage.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Speaker,—We are expressing the opinion that we should have more dollars released to us and I should certainly like to express the view that we in the West Indies should know exactly how many dollars are allocated to the West Indies each year and, in particular, the number of dollars that are allocated to each unit in the West Indies. We would also like to know the basis on which these allocations are made and I do not think that that is asking too much. If we are permitted to spend the dollars allocated to us ourselves—in other words to buy directly from the other dollar countries—we would be able to get more for those dollars than if the goods have to come to us through the medium of the United Kingdom. There can be no doubt that the economic condition in this Country—as a matter of fact in the whole Caribbean area—is a very sad one and there is no prospect of the picture being brightened under the present conditions. It does not look as if our main industry—Sugar—has a bright future and it does seem to me that if we spend the dollars ourselves directly with the U.S.A., Canada, and other hard currency areas we would be able to benefit more because we would get greater value for the money. Above all, we would know exactly what our people want whereas persons in Great Britain who are buying to sell us will not have the knowledge of the West Indies which we have. It is not merely a question of allowing us to have certain quotas but also of telling us exactly how much we should have and, above all, allowing us to use our own initiative and purchase directly from the dollar areas to relieve the hardships which we are, to-day, suffering. When it comes to pioneer industries that is a different matter because what has been said by the senior member for St. Philip has a great deal of truth in it. We would have to import raw materials but, nevertheless, there are certain commodities which we would be able to manufacture although we would have to compete with the big financiers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already ruled that I do not regard remarks about pioneer industries as being relevant to this debate. I have allowed a little latitude in this respect and I would ask the honourable member not to push it too far.

Mr. REECE: I agree with you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but when it comes to the question of dollars I do think that we have a right to decide what we should do with the dollars that are allocated to us.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I think it is a good thing to clamour at times for more dollars because although the senior member for St. Philip observed that the British Government is at a low ebb, that the British people and the British Nation are nearly down to the bottom of the drain, yet, Sir, we know that the dollar pool is there for all sterling areas—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:—I should just like the honourable member to note this: The object of this motion is to draw attention of the fact that the shifting of West Indian trade from Canada to England is due to an insufficiency of dollars allocated to the West Indies.

Mr. MAPP: Every now and then Jamaica gets more dollars than are allocated to them because they keep a noise and I think that if we, now and again, keep on talking it may result in a little more benefit. But I want to say this: A lot of stress is being laid on giving us more dollars but I believe that our attitude should be that of spending these dollars on the right imports. A lot of this dollar business is mixed up with things connected with the tourists and little of these extra dollars we are getting are left for other interests. I heard the senior member for the City say that a proper Aid to Industries Act should be on our Statute Books but I do not know what he means by the word "proper". They want to be relieved from the payment of income tax for a number of years but they cannot ask for relief from income tax unless they make profits. Relief from income tax, as far as industries are concerned, may suit the senior member for the City but it does not suit me and I will say so. These new industries want help before they make profits and when you assist them to make profits they should pay on those profits. Certain honourable members are clamouring for more dollars; we should emphasize what we want these dollars for. (VOICES....To reduce the cost of living).

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,—With regard to the request for more dollars I can quite appreciate that but as far as new industries are concerned I should like the Government to be cautious when it comes to giving them exemption from the payment of income tax.

Mr. ADAMS: I have got up because two things seem to me to be very striking; one of them needs correction and the other needs clarification. I know that I shall be accused of being pro-Imperialist, but I do think that when honourable members make attacks as regards certain things they are not on as good ground as when they make them as regards others. No West Indian is going to feel satisfied, whatever he might think of the percentage of the sugar which the British Government may be taking from us, with how we were treated as compared with Australia; but all our strictures of the Government come back to this, that we must band ourselves together as West Indians. Although we may appear to be more than insular, we in Barbados should begin to set an example where self-government is concerned. I hope my friends on my left will see that it is immaterial what party is in power, as Barbadians and West Indians we should clamour as quickly as possible for being put in a position like Australia or Canada. New Zealand is a dominion, its population is less than the population of the West Indies, and New Zealand is entitled to sit around the table when currency and other problems are being dealt with. Therefore, the sooner we esteem ourselves as a dominion the better it will be for us. Accusing the British Government is not going to make any difference as regards the dol-

lar allocation; I will turn pink or blue before the British Government changes any dollar allocation, because we are tiny colonies that are dictated to instead of our banding ourselves together as quickly as possible and claiming the right of equality. I have already said that we should not merely make a noise but band ourselves together as quickly as possible. If the United States merely made a noise they would still be colonies instead of being the United States of America.

The next point I want to make is this. I am told that at a meeting of some Institution or Association of which the honourable senior member for the City happens to be President and the honourable senior member for St. Andrew is Treasurer or Vice-President or both, this same point made by the honourable senior member for Christ Church, about getting more dollars to purchase food was made. I cannot imagine a more fantastic argument than that; if this colony has money to spend, we should spend it on increasing our food production. I would like to see this colony going back to the days when everybody had a little corned pork instead of importing it. I think it is most fantastic to argue that more dollars should be released to us so that we can buy imported food. On a moment's reflection, the honourable member will see that it is infinitely better to subsidize the growing of pigs in Barbados and make our own corned pork than import it from the United States or the Argentine. Why should we be buying Canadian eggs? I cannot begin to see the validity of the argument about using more dollars for buying food. The honourable senior member for Christ Church used that argument at a time when he was on a political platform and one does not expect flights of genius from the Electors' Association on a political platform. I ask the honourable member to reflect and see that our dollars are limited, and it is better to increase our local production than to buy imported food. The honourable member spoke about food because the American tourists will come down here. I am only saying what is reported of the honourable member. I believe that even the "Advocate" newspaper correctly reports the utterances of the Electors' Association; it is in their interest to report those speeches.

As regards the Government's attitude towards industries, I happen to know a little of Mr. Shenfield, I know that he is an industrious gentleman, but I will have to see these dollars in Trinidad first before I swallow the argument which has been advanced. This Government enquired about the setting up of flour mills before the honourable junior member for St. Philip asked about that, and we were told that it is not economic to do so. (A MEMBER: Trinidad has started.) Trinidad has started a lot of things; they started on a development scheme which went into liquidation before it began to operate. All these schemes appearing in the Press are excellent ideas; it is good to explore what other people are doing, but do not say that it is an excellent thing because you see it on paper. In connection with aiding industries, the gentlemen who started this knitting business here informed me that they preferred to come here rather than go to Trinidad and declared to me that they were not asking for income tax exemption; and they are Hebrews. Mr. Benjamin came down here and the first proposal which he put up was free importation of raw materials and machinery and exemption from income tax; but he did not insist on income tax exemption. That was cut out before the matter reached the Executive Committee. Although this Government may feel that it is reasonable to induce people to start business here by giving this or that exemption, it is not so in every case. It is surprising that Jews can come from Jamaica and set up a plant here

instead of going to Trinidad; they prefer the Barbadian workers. They find that the girls have learnt the job quickly and they are first class. The attitude of these Jews is that if you work for profit you should pay income tax. I want to say that the setting up of flour mills, knitting mills and so on—all these things have been explored. Suggestions have been put up to us that we can make cement which is better than Portland cement and different from what Puerto Rico is making. The House will also remember that we passed a Bill to aid the pottery industry and we found that the Other Place unceremoniously threw it out. We are up against such things but the Government cannot allow them to make us mark time. I have had a prolonged conversation with Professor Arthur Lewis, whom I respect both from the point of view of his brains and the interest which he takes in all things affecting the under-privileged, and I am yet to be persuaded that industrialisation, except possibly in the sense of encouraging and hoping for well-established industries in the island, can be the solution to our evils, especially that of unemployment. There is always the tendency to have cheap power. This Government would deserve to be called nitwits if we did not explore every means of improving the economy of this island; but we do not get on the house-top and shout about what we are doing. Sometimes you cannot do that because matters might be in a delicate state of negotiation. Sometimes Trinidad and Jamaica have been trying to jump where we are. The honourable junior member for St. Philip is laughing; he himself was a member of the Executive and he attacked us on the question of emigration when he knew what was being done. Even the "Advocate" drew attention to what we have been told about the delicate prospect of emigration to the United States, but it was still thrown at us that we made no provision for it. The honourable junior member for St. James, speaking as the President of the Electors' Association, referred to members on this side of the House; at one minute they are "yes-men" and at the other minute they can talk as they like. It is good that the honourable senior member for Christ Church has drawn the attention of the House to that paragraph in the article which we may not have seen, but in our position as tiny colonies we should see that the energy we expend in cursing the British Government could be far better used in getting out of colonial status. We are still going to be colonials when we curse the British Government; we will still be with the amount allocated to us. We should insist on having self-government in the West Indies and, as speedily as possible, dominion status. Of course from a psychological point of view, this is the moment for insisting on federation. I hope that honourable members will see that it is our duty to get together and try and put an end to these things; I hope that honourable members from all parties will see how essential it is to lift ourselves out of the position of being colonials and then there will be no question of getting more dollars. We will be at the beginning of any currency negotiations that may be taking place.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The hour is getting late and most of us are reasonably tired after a long sitting; but I want to disabuse the mind of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph of the idea that the proprietors of this textile concern in Coleridge Street were not as anxious as any other industrial group in these colonies to get assistance under an Aid to Industries Bill. Before they started here they were assured that the Government had such a Bill under consideration: I think the Bill had actually been introduced and it was with that in mind that they earnestly began to start the plant here. With regard to the fact that they are not specially concerned with income tax

exemption, the honourable member supplied the answer to that himself. They are Hebrews and they did not think about income tax before hand; but I know that Mr. Saunders, who was the moving spirit in the whole affair, was particularly concerned about having legislation for assisting in bringing the equipment here. I think the community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Beaubrun for getting this plant here; when it came, there was no Bill to exempt the proprietors from the payment of Customs duty and they were minded to send all the machinery to Trinidad. However, they were assured either by the Colonial Secretary or the Financial Secretary that the Government would refund the Customs duty and they established the plant here. On the whole question of industrial development, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has advanced excuses for not doing certain things and he says what has been done and what has not been done; he does not believe in industrial development in a little colony. That is the main reason why the policy of the Government is as non-existent as it is on the question of industrialisation. I could never see eye to eye with him on that point; we are going to sit here and in the next five or six years other colonies will be completely industrialised and we will not have got anywhere. Plans for industrial development in Trinidad are not remaining just plans; we can be certain that in the near future industries will be established there. They already have a box factory, you are getting a beer factory and a cement factory and they are supplying other West Indian colonies with their products. Half dozen of the various items which you see in Broad Street have come from Trinidad and Jamaica is also doing well. If you want to know how well colonies are doing, you can think of Trinidad, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. As regards Puerto Rico, even America realises that she has much to learn from that colony and it has been said that Puerto Rico is the inspiration of what is in Jamaica. There is hardly a suggestion made by either of the major Parties in Jamaica for improving that colony, which is not based on something in Puerto Rico, and if we are sitting here and saying that we are mainly an agricultural community, we will never get anywhere. I am willing to agree that the sooner we are united by federation and have self-government, the quicker we will control our own affairs; but that does not mean that we will bring to bear a proper perspective on a particular colony. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph will be the first to admit that in so far as the question of industrial development is concerned—well we almost have self-government now and if we want to embark on industrial development nobody can stop us.

As regards the question of dollar allocation, that is more or less like an individual giving us just what we earn. In fact, I believe that the expenditure is more than what our earning is. That is a matter about which I intended to ask myself; I did not expect it to be answered because it is a carefully guarded secret. We in the West Indies are allocated the amount of dollars which we earn for the purchase of essential commodities from the hard currency areas, but on the question of a greater allocation to Barbados for the purchase of foodstuffs, it is impossible not to agree with the submissions of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. It is far better to subsidise local production than to spend money in importing foodstuffs; however, there are certain foodstuffs which we shall have to import for a long time, and it is to those foodstuffs that honourable members referred when they spoke about a greater allocation of dollars. If we can produce some of what

we need, we cannot produce all we need, and it seems that there is some case for our having dollars to buy foodstuffs cheaper than how we have to buy at present from sterling areas. In other words if we can buy these foodstuffs cheaper than we are now buying them, the cost to the colony will be less than at present. If, on the other hand, one saw some active policy on the part of the Government for making the colony more self-sufficient, one could more appreciate the submissions of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. If I had more time at my disposal I would certainly ask for the opportunity further to discuss the whole question of industrial development because it is a matter to which I have devoted some time and attention, a matter on which those of us who think like myself will have to go on talking until we can bring our opponents to our point of view. We have done a fair measure of conversion; the Aid to Industries Bill would not have reached here if we had not done the job of conversion which we have done, and in process of time, by sheer force of circumstances if nothing more, honourable members on my right will be completely converted to the view that every possible thing must be done in order to develop the country industrially. On this question of dollar allocation, honourable members will be well advised to try and get some facts about the position; every time you talk with an official on the question he tells you that you are spending more than you earn, and you cannot press your point. The Government should be asked to make a statement on the matter and if they are hiding anything, there must be something to hide. If we press the point here that we are spending more than we earn, they will readily give us the information. There are other points which I wanted to make but I am sure that the opportunity will come in the near future for us to have a more exhaustive discussion on this most important matter.

Mr. GODDARD: I should like to reply to certain observations and criticisms of members during this debate. No one can deny the fact that Canada-West Indies trade has diminished as a result of direction from Whitehall and not as they say from purely commercial motives, for if we are allowed to buy in whatever market we wished we would revert to Canada to-morrow despite devaluation, for almost every commodity was bought from Canada before devaluation.

As regards the reference by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph about a public speech which I made on behalf of the tourist industry and the economic advantage to be gained from such an industry, my plea was for additional dollars to buy food and other merchandise that the American and Canadian tourist expected to find in any vacation resort, my argument being that those additional dollars could be doubled or even trebled. That has no bearing on this subject, for the foodstuffs about which I was speaking would be the essentials which we have to buy for our poor people, such as pigtails, snouts, cornmeal and flour and we do need these essentials in great quantities. Therefore if we are to get greater quantities of these items we would have to be allotted more dollars than we now get.

With regard to the new policy of allowing American capital to come into the West Indies under certain conditions, I do agree most emphatically with the hon. senior member for the City that our Government will release the news long after Trinidad and Jamaica have taken full advantage of the same policy. We shall probably wait until these two colonies have attracted all worth-while industries and then it will be made known that such a policy also applies to Barbados; by that time we will have

to content ourselves by being good consumers of the products which these very industries established elsewhere in the West Indies are making. Again we shall be too late for the economic set-up of these Colonies is such that one well-established industry in any colony will satisfy the requirements of the entire area.

Mention was also made of some industrialists asking for exemption from income tax for a period of time and others not asking for this exemption. Again I say that is probably true, for if someone does establish a factory which is mostly machinery and he finds after a few years that it is not a paying concern, then he may remove the machinery elsewhere without very great loss. But hotels are of a different nature; they cannot be removed and the uncertainty of a continued flow of tourists is always great. Quite naturally hotel investors do consider that their risks are greater, and with to-day's extremely high cost of building, except such tax exemptions are made to such industries, you are hardly likely to attract anyone in that field.

Sir, if the view held in London is true that Canada-West Indies trade has shifted to other markets purely from commercial reasons and without dictation from Whitehall then let them give us more dollars and see if within three months the Canadian ships will not be calling at every West Indian port with full cargoes. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

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

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 21/1950 which has just been cyclo-styled. I would like the House to reply to this Message by the end of the week because the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been sending urgent cables in connection with this matter. This Message relates to the "Relief Goods" Agreement between the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. It is an extension of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act which was passed in 1949 providing for the free entry of relief goods sent to charitable organisations, and the colonies have been asked to join in this matter. The Secretary of State for the Colonies expected an answer as a result of our meeting today: so that if the Select Committee will meet before the end of the week and prepare the Reply to this Message I shall be very glad.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 21/1950.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following hon-

ourable members to serve as members of that Committee:—The honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. MAPP), the honourable junior member for St. James (Mr. WILKINSON), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. GARNER) and the honourable senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox).

Mr. ADAMS: I ask that Your Honour be associated with this Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall be pleased to be associated with the Committee.

At this stage Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask that the honourable junior member for St. Philip be associated with this Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think that we amended an Act in order to allow these goods to come in duty free. I think that this matter has been dealt with already.

Mr. ADAMS: This Agreement goes further than that. Paragraph 4 of this Message says this: "The Government of Barbados provided for the customs duty free treatment of relief goods sent to charitable organisations under the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1948. Further legislation will be necessary to provide customs duty free treatment to the other types of consignments of relief goods". A relative in the United States of America can now send packages through a commercial organisation to a relative or to a charitable organisation in Barbados. This is really an extension of what was passed in 1948; there are three types of consignments of relief goods which will be allowed to come in duty free.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 4th day of July, 1950, at 3 p.m.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I observe that there is not a quorum present. I will ask the Clerk to ring the Bell. The Bell having been rung,

Mr. SPEAKER: There being less than twelve honourable members present, this House stands adjourned until this day week at twelve o'clock noon in accordance with the Rules.

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ERRATUM

In the Debates of 20th June 1950 page 91, beginning at line 42, please delete whole paragraph and substitute the following:

Mr. LEWIS: Although you can take these Clauses as read they must still be passed separately.