

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th May, 1950.

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

Present

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

Prayers were read.

Mr. WILKINSON entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the previous two meetings are not yet ready for circulation amongst honourable members.

DOCUMENTS.

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

Report of the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1949.

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

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

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

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

PAPERS LAID.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I am commanded to lay on the Table of the House the following papers:—

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1950.

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

Messrs. ALLDER, E. K. WALCOTT and GARNER entered the House and took their seats.

NOTICE.

The following Government Notice was given:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1950", made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 27th April, 1950.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I should like to give notice that it is my intention later in the afternoon to ask leave to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the Resolution of which I have just given notice.

QUESTIONS.

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

1. Is it true that Contractors who have been supplying fresh cow's milk to the Elementary Schools under the nutrition scheme for over twelve years have had their contracts cancelled?

2. Is it true that the notices for the cancellation of such contracts were only issued to the same Contractors one day before deliveries were to be made to the schools?

3. Is it true that no reason was stated to the same Contractors as to why their contracts have been cancelled so suddenly?

4. Is the Government aware that there is a general desire for the use of the locally produced cow's milk in preference to the imported powdered milk in the Island?

5. If the answer to the above questions is in the affirmative will the Government state:—

(a) Why does the Government prefer to purchase this highly-priced artificial milk to be used under the nutrition scheme, and at other Institutions in preference to the pure, and cheaper cow's milk produced locally?

(b) In view of the possible loss which would result to the general economy of the Island, if the same Contractors were to be forced to slaughter their animals, will the Government consider the advisability of having the order to cancel the contracts for the supplying of cow's milk to the Elementary Schools revoked?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:—

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

Bill to amend the Executive Committee Act, 1891.

Bill to amend the Public Employees Pension Act, 1937.

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

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

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

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

Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act 1901.

MEMBERS ASKED TO BE CAREFUL IN REFERRING TO THE CONDUCT OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed to call the Orders of the Day I should like to make a few remarks to honourable members relative to references made in this Chamber to Civil Servants. Anything that I may say here now I hope will be construed by honourable members in the best possible light. I do not, and indeed I cannot, attempt to censure any honourable member of this House when from the floor of the House he makes remarks that may be regarded as uncomplimentary against the good conduct of a Civil Servant; but in order that good relations may obtain and prevail between the members of the Civil Service and the Legislature, I think it is in point if I now suggest to honourable members that in case they have to make any remarks against members of the Civil Service they will remember that although they have unlimited privilege and although no vote of censure can operate against them, because of these conditions, honourable members should be careful in any reference which they may make against members of any branch of the Civil Service who are not in a position to be able to defend themselves. I am saying this not, as I said before, with any idea of censuring any honourable member because I have no authority to do so; but in order that good relations might always prevail between the Legislature and the members of the Civil Service who sometimes think that honourable members take advantage of them knowing that they cannot reply to any remarks which may be made here in this Chamber against their conduct. That is the reason why I suggest that if on any occasions in the future there are matters in which the conduct of Civil

Servants is referred to unfavourably, honourable members should be very guarded in the remarks which they may have to make on such occasions.

ORDER NOT PROCEEDED WITH.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee appointed to prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency's Speech delivered at the re-opening of the Legislature.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—The Select Committee has not yet sat and therefore no Report has been submitted.

SHOP (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1950.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of what the honourable member has just said, I will pass on to Order No. 2. That Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to sanction the Order made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under section 4 of the Shops Act, 1945.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—This is a Resolution in connection with the exemption from the general Shop Order of shops engaged in the sale of fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and handicrafts of British West Indian origin or the products of cottage industry. A representation was made to the Government by the Jamaica and St. Lucia Marketing Agency as to the exemption of these shops; that representation was approved by the Labour Commissioner, and the Government agreed, hence this Resolution has come before this Assembly. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. WILKINSON: The idea of this Resolution is very good indeed. As far as I can gather, it is for the purpose of allowing shops engaged in the sale of fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and handicrafts of British West Indian origin or the products of cottage industry, to sell these articles when other shops are closed on holidays. However, I see a danger; I do not know that these shops will be confined only to the sale of these articles on holidays. In these shops there will be goods which are imported from England, France and elsewhere and they will go in by the same entrance. It is going to mean a lot of protective work to see that the intention of this Resolution is carried out, and that only articles of home or of West Indian origin and perishable articles like fruit are sold in these shops on holidays. I do not know if the honourable member who introduced this Resolution has thought of that and if he can assure me that the Authorities are going to keep a check so that no goods other than those mentioned in this Amendment Order are sold on these days. Personally I see a great difficulty; you would have to get people to see that only the items prescribed in this Amendment Order are sold on holidays. The idea of this Resolution, as I have said, is a good one, but I see the difficulty which I have mentioned.

Mr. GODDARD: I see the necessity for this Resolution so as to enable shops to sell on holidays those items which tourists wish to purchase and I would like to take this opportunity to mention that other amendments to the Shop Order might be made at the same time. At some time Christmas Day is going to fall on a Friday and stores in Bridgetown will have

closed for half day on the Thursday. I think that it would go down in history that Barbados would have been the only place in the world which would close to the public shopping facilities on the day before Christmas. The Christmas holidays cover three days and provision has to be made for that period. In many countries shops are allowed to remain open until a late hour so as to facilitate customers in their purchases. When the Shops Act was being passed no one saw the point which I have mentioned and nothing has been done since the Act was passed by way of an amendment to meet that point. I understand that the Labour Commissioner has certain powers to authorise the opening of shops on special occasions, but applications have been made to him on one or two occasions and he has turned them down saying that he has no authority to grant the applications. Whether he did not know what his powers are or the legal part of the matter is rather beclouded, I do not know; but I do think that some attention should be paid to this matter for the protection of the shopping public who might feel the position very severely one of these days.

Mr. SMITH: I must support the remarks of the honourable senior member for Christ Church. Definitely when we passed the Shop Order some years ago—it was passed in all good faith—but we were thinking then of the shop assistants and forgetting ourselves as business men. We were not thinking of the inconvenience of the businessmen especially those in the country districts. The poor, small country shopkeeper like myself has to bear the consequences; that is to say, he cannot go into the store before Thursday because he has to collect a certain amount of money to carry out so as to bring in the necessary amount of goods. The poor country shopkeeper has to wait until the very last day which is Thursday to go to the merchants and some consideration should be given to him. Definitely a hardship is being created on the small businessmen in the country districts and in the same faith with which we passed the Shop Order years ago, we must do something to allay the grievances which the small businessmen suffer with respect to the half holiday before Good Friday or on the day before a Bank Holiday. It is not so much the people in Bridgetown that we must think about; we must think of the labouring classes who will have to get their necessary supplies. When they receive their pay they have to go to the small shopkeepers and some allowance must be made for that; there are some plantation owners who do not pay labourers their wages before Saturday morning following Good Friday. If we are to stick to this half holiday before Good Friday we will definitely have to pass an Act whereby the plantation owners will have to pay the labourers money at least on the Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon. For that reason I really have to support the remarks of the honourable senior member for Christ Church because there are people who have complained to me about this matter. I have had a talk with the honourable senior member for St. Philip in connection with this matter and I had to bow my head in shame because I was responsible for agreeing to the passing of such a Shop Order. At that time we were thinking of the shop attendants and forgetting ourselves; but we want to be fair both to "A" and to "B".

Mr. GARNER: Whenever the Legislature is making laws, the members must remember that there are two sides to a story; and in helping one section of the community you have to see that you do not harm another section of the community. (Mr.

ADAMS: Unduly). I add the word "unduly". That has happened in respect of the Shop Order. As the honourable senior member for Christ Church has put it, it may happen that at a Christmas season you will have to close your store or retail shop and the public will not be able to get their supplies on account of this Order. That will be a very unhappy state of affairs. As the position is now, you are not only helping the shop assistants but you are doing a disservice to the general public. Everybody knows that you are dealing with people who have no larders to be well stocked at Christmas time, and are you going to debar people from shopping when they need to shop? Why are you only exempting from the Shop Order shops which are engaged in the sale of fresh fruit and these other things? Are you having only class legislation? Immediately after the last General Election I had a chat with the honourable Leader of the House and I pointed out to him that the Shop Order is iniquitous because your humble servant had to pay a fine of 20/- for catering to the public. I refused to close my shop because the law was wrong although I had something to do with it. Since then nothing has happened; nothing has been done about amending the Act. The shopkeepers are the most deserving lot of people in the country; many a shopkeeper has worked hard and saved his money only to feed the poor people of this colony. When a shopkeeper dies and leaves anything he has been a very clever man, and I do not say that in any derogatory sense. I have said that in this House more than once. Those of us who are businessmen know the burden which we have to bear; we have to credit people whom we know are unable to pay us. Sometimes a man asks you to credit him and you know that he cannot pay you and what are you going to do? Can you send him home to starve with his family? I do not mind doing kindness to people but when the law persists in doing something which is not workable, it should be changed. You can have a person keeping his shop open all the time but as soon as you hire one person the Act militates against you. Something is wrong with the wording of the Act; you cannot make class legislation like that. You make a law that as soon as a man employs one person in his shop he has to close it in accordance with the provisions of the law, but a man's wife and his cousin can go into his shop and assist him and he has not got to close the shop. The policemen do not interfere with him, but every Thursday you get policemen coming in to see if the other man is carrying out the provisions of the Act. I ask this honourable House to postpone the consideration of this matter and let it be done in a different way. The honourable Leader of the House cannot say that I did not converse seriously with him in relation to this matter; what is more, the policeman who came around said to me: "You ought to be burnt every time if you allowed people who know nothing about business to do this thing and you did not open your mouth and say anything about it." That is what I am doing now, (Laughter). Honourable members are laughing but this is a serious matter; I do not want to continue to pay money to the Court; the people who know nothing about the hardships which the shopkeepers suffer should not sit and legislate against them. I represent the masses of the people and I must also represent my fraternity. I repeat that the shopkeepers have to bear a heavy burden in this community. There are many weeks during which the plantations refuse to give work to people and the people come to us saying: "We are your customers and you have to carry us." And by the time you have got through carrying them you have lost

customers, money and everything else; the bills have got too high. You cannot credit a poor man with too much money because he cannot pay you. How many shopkeepers' properties have been sold out in the Provost Marshal's Office? I say that the law should be amended; if you are going to have a Shops Act make it possible for all shops to be closed irrespective of whether they employ assistants or not. It is not fair to ask me as an employer of people to close my shop when a man who does not employ people can keep his open; that is not fair, that is class legislation. In the same way you think of the people who sell fresh fruit and these other articles and allow them to open their shops on holidays, you also have to think of the people who have to sell in the districts where the poor people live, because they cannot put in any big supplies. The Shops Act as it stands permits a man who does not employ any assistants to open his shop when another man who employs assistants cannot open his. That is an interpretation of the law and many Magistrates interpret it in that way; the law is badly worded. I repeat that it is not fair for shopkeepers who employ assistants to close their shops when those who do not employ any assistants can open their shops *ad lib.* I appeal to honourable members to send back this Resolution to the Government so that the whole Act can be dealt with at the same time. I repeat that this is unfair legislation; this is class legislation. This legislation has to be viewed in the light that it has been tried, and it has failed and it will always fail. I am not voting for this Resolution and I appeal to honourable members to postpone the consideration of it and let the matter be dealt with in the correct way. I formally beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: After listening to the honourable senior member for St. Philip in his usual vigorous manner, I am convinced that there is the necessity for further study and amendment to the Act. I support everything that the honourable member has said.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On a point of order. We are not now dealing with any Act; we are amending the Order which has been made under the Act.

Mr. DOWDING: There is a further point of view which has come to my notice through contact with tourists—the Venezuelan tourists in particular. The tourist trade of this island is becoming greater from year to year and every Venezuelan tourist complains about the closing of the shops at a certain time in the afternoon. When the matter is considered, that fact should be taken into consideration along with the other points which have been mentioned by honourable members. I am supporting the honourable member's motion for the postponement of the further consideration of this Resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: I agree with the honourable senior member for St. Peter that this debate went wide of the mark. What is before us is a Resolution to approve the Order affecting the sale of fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and handicrafts; it is nothing to do with the opening of all shops, it is confined to these shops which are engaged in the sale of these articles. Fresh fruit and fresh vegetables are perishable and in the outside world these articles are allowed to be sold at any time—Sundays, Bank Holidays and half holidays—because of the fact that they are perishable. The other points mentioned by the honourable junior member for St. Joseph and the honourable senior member for St. Philip can be dealt with by amending the Act. Those points affect the Act, but this Resolution affects the

Order. The honourable senior member for St. Philip can bring forward an amendment to the Act but let us get this Order amended.

Mr. WARD: I see a little difficulty in this Amendment Order, as the honourable junior member for St. James has said. I quite agree that shops which are engaged in the sale of fresh fruit and fresh vegetables should be allowed to sell these articles on holidays; but when it comes to allowing shops which are engaged in the sale of handicrafts of British West Indian origin to sell these articles on holidays and closing days, it must be borne in mind that some of these shops carry in stock other items which are not of West Indian origin and I think it would be unfair to other shops to allow these particular shops to sell articles other than those of West Indian origin along with those of West Indian origin on holidays. It is a question of ensuring that these particular shops do not sell articles other than what are set out here. I, too, am supporting the motion for the postponement of the further consideration of this Resolution until the Government can find some way of getting over this difficulty.

Mr. ALLDER: I have a feeling that honourable members have lost sight of the purpose of this Resolution. Although I feel that the Shops Act needs some slight amendment, yet the purpose for which this Resolution has been brought down is fairly clear. As far as I can see, the intention of this Resolution is to avoid the loss of perishable goods such as fruit, and so forth, imported from other colonies. These perishable goods have had to be thrown away in the past due to the fact that at some times schooners arrive here with these goods on Bank Holidays or some other days when shops are not allowed to sell such goods. I can only see that the purpose of this Resolution is to avoid that state of affairs. This is a day when everybody should try and avoid the waste of good food which people want to eat. I am supporting this Resolution and like some honourable members I do not like legislation which will benefit the community sectionally; but this Resolution definitely tends to help the entire community, both those who produce and those who consume. I feel that honourable members should look at this situation in the proper light and not agree to postponing the consideration of this Resolution. As regards the products of cottage industry I think the time has come when people should be free to do as much as possible to overcome the economic difficulty which not only Barbados but other West Indian colonies are experiencing. The question of promoting the tourist industry should also be considered; we say that we want to increase our dollars and it has been suggested that one way of doing that is through the tourist industry. One can easily imagine the difficult situation which arises when tourists go to other places and they can purchase whatever they like on holidays; but on such days they find that the Barbados stores are closed and they have to carry back the money which they would have spent here if the stores were open. I do not think that we should worry ourselves over this matter of discrimination between one kind of trader as against another kind of trader; the important point is that we should not do anything to keep down the commerce of this colony if there are sufficient benefits to be offered. I do hope that honourable members will see their way to assist in the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry that I was not here to speak before the honourable member on my right (Dr. CUMMINS) because I do not wish to give the

impression that I am replying on his behalf; but I appeal to the commonsense of honourable members on my left who with the best intention in the world, are confusing two things. The necessity for revising the Shop Act or any other Act does not in the least bit affect the question as to whether we should pass this Amendment Order or not. I cannot understand the mentality of some people; they attack members of the Government for not doing anything to aid the tourist industry and when the Executive, in a matter that can be got out of the way quickly, brings down a matter like this, they say "Postpone it." Postpone it until when? Until next Good Friday which is eleven months off in order that we might consider changing the Act to make some provision in respect of Good Friday? If this were two weeks before Good Friday that would have been a different matter. There is no point in saying that because in the actual administration of the Act you may have discovered that certain amendments are necessary, we should postpone the consideration of this Resolution. I have discussed the Act with the honourable senior member for St. Philip and with a number of firms to which the honourable senior member for Christ Church belongs; I see that there are difficulties and I also see some remedies. There are people who wait until the last minute to do their shopping, and I confess that I have bought a Christmas present and not drugs from a drug store on a Christmas morning. I repeat that people leave their shopping until the last moment and therefore the country shopkeepers must suffer. How the country shopkeepers get through, I do not know; I have already said that in this House. The question as to what should be done at Good Friday and at Christmas in respect of the country shopkeepers has given the Executive Committee headaches; and what is the fairest thing to be done in this matter has also given members of the House headaches. That is a matter which will take some months if we decide to amend the Act; meanwhile people's fresh fruit and fresh vegetables are perishing or the police are bringing prosecutions, and we can get this amendment out of the way. If the Executive Committee had said that they are not amending the Act, then that would be a different matter. There are several matters which clamour for attention; there is the question of tourists coming in and cottage industries cannot be sold them on closing days. I appeal to honourable members to see that nothing is to be gained by postponing the consideration of this Resolution; if honourable members say that they are waiting until the Executive is ready with an amendment to the Act they are going to wait until the Labour Commissioner holds an enquiry and he has to summon people from all over the island to see what can be done with the Act. I have seen purchases made at Knights Ltd. of things other than drugs on a closing day; I have known a Police Officer to purchase a camera on a Sunday morning. I have defended people on the ground that they were not physically exposing for sale articles other than drugs. When you go to Goddard's on Sunday mornings and see rum, it does not mean that you are not confined to the meat department; they can have a wire partition to prevent you from wandering from the meat department to the rum department. We need to compel shopkeepers to erect physical barriers between the articles which they can sell on Sundays and those which they cannot sell on those days. My remedy for the country shopkeepers would be to keep the policemen out of the district. (LAUGHTER). I appeal to honourable members to see that the passing of this

Resolution is absolutely necessary now; the other amendments to the Act will take months of investigation. If you make Regulations saying that fruit, vegetables and the products of cottage industry should be divided from other articles in the shops, there can be no danger as is feared by the honourable junior member for St. James. That is a matter which can be easily solved and I again appeal to honourable members to see that the passing of this Resolution is absolutely necessary; this Resolution can be easily passed, but it will take much thought and you would have to get the weight of opinion of merchants and shopkeepers so as to amend the Shops Act. I regret that I had to make this appeal over and over again, but seeing the air of reservation on the faces of honourable members on my left, I am inclined to feel that I have not yet convinced all of them as to the necessity for the passing of this Resolution this afternoon.

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. GARNER, BRANCKER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, E. K. WALCOTT and WARD—6.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, ALLDER, MAPP, LEWIS, BRYAN, COX, F. L. WALCOTT, ADAMS, BETHELL, GODDARD, GILL, and WILKINSON—13.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the negative, six honourable members voting "Aye" and thirteen honourable members voting "No". The question now is that this Resolution do now pass; honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I declare the "Ayes" have it.

THE PARKING AND RESTRICTED PLACES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 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 Regulations entitled "The Parking and Restricted Places (Amendment) Regulations 1950" made by the Director of Highways and Transport on the 25th February, 1950, under the provisions of section 7 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 (1937—16) as amended by the Department of Highways and Transport Act, 1945 (1945—12) and approved and sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor on the 18th March, 1950.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This is another of those Resolutions giving effect to the Parking and Restricted Places Regulations in order to make Bridgetown conform to some sort of tidiness in so far as traffic is concerned. There are some care-free motorists who park their cars wherever they like to the inconvenience of the public, and therefore Regulations have to be made because of the action of these motorists. Some of them are so unscrupulous that because there are no Regulations in respect of certain places they will park their cars in those places. These Regulations cover the area between Rickett Street and Crumpton Street, from the Parliament Buildings up to Queen's Park. It is surprising to know how unscrupulous some motorists in this island are; they want to park their cars anywhere in an area where there are no Regulations, and that is why we feel that Regulations should be made in respect of this area. These Regulations have already been laid on the Table of the House and I formally beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. REECE entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. GODDARD: These Regulations are most necessary for the proper conduct of traffic along that road, but again I would like to ask when are they going to do something about the parking of vehicles at corners. This is a most dangerous practice and again Barbados is one of the few places in the world where such a practice is allowed. In the vicinity of hotels you will find cars parked on either side of the road; there is a big parking space opposite the Hastings Rocks but people come right down and park their cars in front of the hotels. As to the amount of rubber which is worn out on this road, only the people who live in that vicinity know, and how more accidents do not occur around the corners, I do not know. I have seen two or three motor cars parked at Kissing Bridge and I do not see why some kind of Regulations cannot be drafted to correct these practices. I am not a legal draughtsman but I do think that some Regulations could be drawn up so as to prevent any vehicle from parking or even stopping to set down anybody at corners where there are road studs placed in the centre of the road so as to prevent vehicles from being driven on any side of the road. That is more important than this Resolution which we are passing today.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—Earlier in the afternoon when I gave notice of the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1950, I gave notice that it was my intention later in the afternoon to ask leave to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 so as to deal with that Resolution. I now ask leave to move for the suspension of those Rules in order to deal with the Resolution.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be now suspended.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 5 ORDER, 1950

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1950," made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 27th day of April, 1950, under the provisions of Section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution is fairly urgent; it deals with the salaries of the Medical and Nursing Staffs of the General Hospital as has been recommended in Dr. Hallinan's Report. The situation at the Hospital is very serious, and as it now stands, after the end of next month we will not have a Resident Surgeon at that Institution, hence the urgency for the passing of this Resolution. If this Resolution is passed, that will afford the Government an opportunity to advertise abroad for suitable candidates to fill these posts. I should also

mention that as from today or yesterday there is no Medical Superintendent at the Hospital. If these proposed salaries are agreed to, if this Resolution is passed urgently, the Government will be afforded an opportunity to advertise abroad offering these new salaries with the hope of attracting suitable people to fill these posts at the Hospital. Earlier in the day the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order dealing with these posts which are set out here, was given notice of by the Leader of the House. I repeat that these proposed salaries are those which have been set in Dr. Hallinan's Report, and the posts dealt with are: Surgeon Specialist, Specialist Radiologist, Medical Superintendent, Specialist Physician, Medical Officers, Sisters and Nurses. This House ought to be thoroughly acquainted with these salaries since they have been published in the Hallinan Report which was circulated amongst honourable members; and I think that only last Tuesday the Governor sent down a Message to this House informing honourable members of what recommendations in the Hallinan Report had been accepted and what had been postponed. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (b)

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—It has been drawn to my attention that Rule 61 (b) should be suspended before we proceed with the consideration of this Resolution, and I am asking leave to move for the suspension of that Rule.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended in order to proceed with Government Business.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 5 ORDER, 1950.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Your Honour do leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Resolution. It may happen that some honourable member might want to speak a second time and if he does not understand the reply which has been made, he will not otherwise be in a position to make a second speech. I do not think that anybody would disagree as to the fairness of that motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has not yet been seconded.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I agree to the motion of the honourable senior member for St. James.

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1950, be now agreed to.

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

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Most of us appreciate the fact that this Resolution is a matter of urgency, but when I turned over the page I found that this Order was made by the Governor-in-Executive Com-

mittee on the 27th day of April, 1950. Since then there has been a meeting of the House and therefore there must be some explanation why the Order has not been placed on the Table of the House before, so that we could have the right to consider it in full. I may say that it is wise to put a matter like this in the hands of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas because in his rather pleasant style he is able to make you pass things which you feel you should not pass in such a hurry. The honourable member is undoubtedly able to tell us that we must provide for sickness and once he plays on that long enough there is no answer to it. As regards this Order far be it from me to say what you should pay a Medical Officer or what you should not pay him; but this is the first attack on Commissioner Adams's recommendations. You cannot break the line in one spot without breaking it in other spots; the moment you say that a Medical Officer is to receive £750 rising by £50 to £1,000 plus free quarters—and the provision of free quarters means that he pays no parochial taxes—you are immediately faced with the position that people in the Civil Service, such as Magistrates, Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal, Specialist Masters whom we have only increased to £900, I think, and people at the Agricultural Department who have special degrees, will also want to be considered. Today the cry is for the doctor, tomorrow it is for the teachers and the next day it is for somebody else; each time you make out a special case and you must realise that you are breaking the line. It may be that after consideration one will have to appreciate the fact that you will have to deal with this matter just as you take castor oil; but it is hard for us to be asked to break the line as much as we are asked to break it here. It is only recently that we quarrelled about these extra fees being paid to the Surgeon Specialist and we were told that unless you took the gift from God Almighty, he would disappear; now we find that he is also going to move on in his salary. I told honourable members that dog does not bite dog. Some people think that the Hallinan Report is a wonderful Report, but in due course we will deal with that. Anyway, the Surgeon Specialist is going to have a move on. As regards the Specialist Physician, I do not remember if we had fixed his salary; but he will get one-half the fees as well. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas assures me that these fees will be paid, but these Officers will also get free quarters. If you cannot get Medical Officers for less than the amount which is set out here, I suppose that you will have to pay it, but other people will also want to be considered. As regards the Sisters, I do not know anything about them; I leave them to be dealt with by other honourable members. I am in this position; although I feel that I may have to vote for this Resolution this afternoon, I grumble in that I am called upon to break the line already. After all, there have been substantial increases made in these salaries, and it is going to mean that we will have to run through the whole Civil Service. We have to pay the bills and it is our special duty to see how the bills are paid; we must realise that this Schedule is not merely going to mean what it says, and to do the equivalent in respect of the other parts of the Service will mean tens of thousands more dollars, and there will be more of the vicious spiral. I know that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will help us as well as he can, and he says that if we do not pay these increased salaries, all the Surgeons will leave us and we will not be able to get anybody to carry on. If the honourable member thinks that it is only a question of money at the Hos-

pital I will venture to disagree with him, I do not say that doctors will not come out here more easily if you pay more money; the solace of a good salary is something to enable one to carry on, but you must also remove certain other conditions so as to make the position palatable. I believe that the duties of Junior Surgeons are performed by people who are usually paid little or nothing, and for the experience and knowledge they would acquire from being associated with people like the Specialist Radiologist, the Specialist Physician and other Specialists, they are only too willing to serve. One other point is this; I think that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will agree that it is of no use our talking about the Radiologist, because like in all branches of medicine, an expert in one thing is never an expert in the other thing. The treatment of radiology is now regarded as being properly served by the person there. I hear, however, that it is hard to get an appointment. There is only one Radiologist and the salary of the holder of the office has been fixed at \$4,800 by \$480 to \$6,240 and free quarters are provided. Well, those are my complaints and I hope that if I am not singular, honourable members will also voice theirs. He would be a brave man to vote against this Resolution in the face of a remark like that of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, that you cannot get doctors for lesser salaries than what are set out here, and also that the doctors are leaving the Hospital. On the other hand, these salaries do look a little high and it is regrettable that we did not have more time to satisfy ourselves that this has been an unavoidable accident.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I will begin by disagreeing in part with the last speaker who mentioned that these salaries do look a little high. I do not agree with that; while I agree that at a moment's notice we have to deal with this Resolution, I am saying that if we are serious about our position as representatives in this Chamber, this is one of those matters with which we should come out at midnight or any time to deal, at the greatest inconvenience to ourselves. Anybody who takes any real interest in the working of the Hospital will realise that even since the Hallinan Report was made public, all is still not well at this Institution. I am not surprised at that because I keep my ears to the ground and I hear things. I understand that it is only a week ago that the Hospital got "Good-bye" from Dr. Cummins, junior, Dr. Payne and the lady doctor; I heard that they took her back and she gave evidence. The Medical Superintendent has also said, "Good-bye" to the Hospital and with the existing conditions at the Hospital being so bad one wonders what will happen. I heard that Dr. Kinch is leaving too; if you leave one man with all the work, he will also leave. The medical men who went in to act are also saying "Good-bye" and even at a moment's notice honourable members will have to stay here and deal with this Resolution affecting the Hospital. There are certain things in the Hallinan Report that I am critical about and there are certain other things which I think I can honestly say I must commend the Government on implementing and here there are before us. We must render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. If the Government had waited for another week having the information that these doctors were leaving the Hospital and they had failed to summon a mid-night session or any other session of this House in order to put some scheme in operation immediately, I would have talked for about half day; so I commend them for having brought

down this Resolution. Barbados is in a bad way when it comes to medical people. I see that there are some proposed changes which I feel sure are going to be criticised. However, Dr. Hallinan proposes that the Specialist Physician should be paid a salary of \$4,800 x 480—\$6,240 plus free quarters and half fees; I have studied the economic set up of this colony and I cannot feel that even £1,300 a year is too much money for a Specialist. A good man in his line must be paid, and I feel that in this colony with one Hospital, this salary is a comparatively reasonable salary; it is not too much money to be paid for a Specialist. The average medical practitioner who specialises and wants to practice even in Barbados can do far better. Then it is proposed to employ seven Medical Officers at \$3,600 x 240—\$4,800 plus free quarters; I say that this is one occasion on which I think every honourable member will commend the Government for taking speedy action, because as I said on the floor of this House when I severely criticised the Administration, the first thing which I saw wrong when I visited the Hospital was that the Resident Staff was overworked. Mr. Chairman, it looks as if honourable members would like to have tea and so I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. GODDARD seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BRYAN, the House was adjourned for half an hour.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE FANCY MOLASSES CONTROL AND MARKETING BOARD

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Before we resume consideration of the Resolution dealing with the creation of new offices at the General Hospital, I ask leave to move the appointment of the members of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board.

There being no objection the honourable member is granted leave to proceed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the members of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board be appointed as follows:—The senior member for St. George (Mr. H. A. Dowding), the junior member for St. George (Mr. F. E. Miller), Mr. Nigel Reece, and Sir John Saint.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that the abovementioned persons be appointed members of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ORDER CREATING NEW POSTS AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. SPEAKER: When the adjournment took place, the House was in Committee considering a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1950.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee on this Order, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: On the adjournment the senior member for the City was speaking.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On the adjournment I was making a few observations in respect of the office of Specialist Physician. I said that in view of the fact that we have all these resignations not only from the permanent staff but also from the acting staff of the Hospital, the Government is to be commended on bringing down this Resolution to implement this part of Dr. Hallinan's Report leaving the other recommendations to be dealt with at a later stage. Some honourable members may feel that these increased salaries are a bit high, but when you take into consideration the health of the people and the fact that these are to be qualified, skilled men, I cannot agree that a salary of \$4,800 a year is too much to pay a medical officer. No qualified young man is going to come out to Barbados and remain at the Hospital for 4 or 5 years at the salaries which are at present in existence but I think they will be encouraged to come by these new salaries. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that salaries seem not to be the only thing complained about at the Hospital. All is still not well at that institution and we hope that when we have finished our criticisms which I led off on Tuesday last and the atmosphere is cleared, so to speak, everybody from top to bottom at the hospital will be given a square deal. I notice that provision is made for 66 nurses and 2 sisters. Personally I think that the time has come, if you want to get rid of a lot of the dissatisfaction, to employ some local people as sisters at that Hospital and I hope that the senior member for St. Thomas will be able to assure the House to-day that the opportunity will be taken in this new extension to have some of our locally trained nurses qualified as Sisters. If people are trained and they are denied promotion because they are colonials or local people, then you are not going to have satisfaction. I hope that the senior member for St. Thomas will be able to assure the House that when these two Sisters are to be appointed, consideration will be given to locally trained and qualified nurses and the opportunity afforded them to become Sisters. The senior member for St. James referred to the fact that this Order was made on the 27th April and said that we should have been given the opportunity before now to consider it but in view of the fact that there is this great shortage of medical and nursing staffs at the Hospital, there is the necessity for passing this Order to-day. I notice that the Medical Superintendent is to have free quarters in addition to an increase of salary. Was it not decided, as a result of the Adams Report, that quarters must be paid for?—I do not know if that decision is applicable to medical officers but it certainly applies to Civil Servants. With regard to the Specialist Surgeon, it is proposed that his salary be increased to \$6,240 per annum plus free quarters and half fees. Some honourable members have expressed their dislike for the idea of payment of half fees but the majority of the House agreed to it. Personally I feel that in Barbados we need Specialists in the various Departments, especially a Specialist Surgeon because life to the man in the street is just as sweet as it is to the man at the top. The great majority of the people in this island cannot afford to go abroad to seek medical or surgical aid; therefore, it is the duty of the State to provide the best that money could afford and while we have to keep a watch on our expenditure we cannot measure the health of the people in £. s. d. There is a shortage of specialists all over the world. I have given the post of Specialist Surgeon at the Hospital quite a lot of thought. I have compared the proposed salary

with the salaries which officers in a similar position in Trinidad and other Colonies receive and I have come to the conclusion that a salary of \$6,240 is not too much to pay this officer. I do not know what the fees are going to be but I do contend that in the absence of a proper salary we have to agree with the suggestion that a Specialist Surgeon who has to attend to people who cannot afford to go abroad, be given fees. I contend that \$6,240 a year is still a small salary for a Specialist Surgeon. With respect to the Specialist Physician I think that honourable members know that despite all the mechanical devices for diagnosing the ills of mankind, when these devices fail in many cases reliance has to be placed on the good old diagnoses of the Physician. In Barbados where we do not have all the necessary devices for diagnosing ills we should have a Specialist Physician. Some people may question the appointment of an officer such as this but I should like to point out that there are Specialist Physicians in all the big Countries of the world. I notice that the title of the Radiologist is to be changed to "Specialist Radiologist" and that his salary is to be increased from \$5,760 a year to a salary scale of \$4,800 x 480 to \$6,240 and free quarters. Would the senior member for St. Thomas tell this House if it is the intention of the Government to carry the present Radiologist up to this salary because when the present holder of the office was appointed you never attempted to get a Specialist Radiologist? There are such persons as "Radiologist" and "Specialist Radiologist." You have provided a salary of \$4,800 a year for a Radiologist. I contend that any Radiologist who would come to Barbados for a salary of \$4,800 a year, could hardly impress anybody that he is farther than on the threshold of his profession, and that he knows anything about it. You don't begin to pay these people until they are in receipt of \$10,000 a year. In Trinidad and British Guiana there are several institutions with people specially trained in handling these matters but in Barbados there is only one Radiologist to serve the Hospital. You propose to have a Specialist Radiologist at \$6,240 a year but I am saying that this Country can carry two Radiologists. With a population of 200,000 people I think it is an oversight in not recommending more than one. I see smiles on the face of the senior member for St. Thomas. It is not sufficient to ask people who are to receive therapeutic treatment to wait two months,—three months in some instances—for X-Ray pictures. It cannot be a question of machinery because I am told that you have the best machinery in the West Indies. Although Dr. Hallinan has not recommended a Specialist Radiologist I notice that provision is made for the appointment of one. You advertised for a Radiologist, got one at a salary of \$4,800 a year and you now come for \$6,240 a year to pay a Specialist Radiologist. I hope that you are not going, by the payment of increased salary and the giving of free quarters, automatically to change the Radiologist at \$4,800 a year to Specialist Radiologist at \$6,240 a year plus free quarters. If that is the case something is wrong and I hope that the Government will take that very seriously. A Radiologist is very specially trained. As soon as you talk in terms of \$4,000, a lot of people think that you are talking about millions. As you say \$4,000 some people think that you are giving away too much money. I am sure that when you ask the Crown Agents to get a Radiologist for you and you tell them that the salary is \$4,800, they will reply that they think they can get some student who is now pursuing the Course or somebody who wants to come out here for a holiday. When you come to pay Specialists to look

after the health of the people you must pay them proper salaries. If you want trained Specialists to look after the mass of humanity in this Country, to save the lives of people and to relieve them of suffering and pain you have to keep abreast of what is happening in other Countries. I repeat that I hope the intention is not to change the present Radiologist to Specialist Radiologist only by giving more money and free quarters. I hope that when this House is through with the Ashby fiasco we shall be able to commend the Government on allaying the fears of all the employees at the Hospital, and I further hope that every honourable member who is not afraid that he would not get an invitation to Government House or a handshake from the Governor will express his views on the Ashby affair. There is grave dissatisfaction on the part of the medical men in this island owing to this Ashby affair and unless you give these professional gentlemen the treatment to which they are entitled, whether they be Colonials, Englishmen or Irishmen, the poor people in this Country are going to suffer. It is no use increasing these salaries and granting these facilities and then treating the men who are appointed to the posts as if they were yardboys. I am going to vote for this Resolution and all other honourable members are bound to vote for it. Even members of the Opposition, if they were summoned here at midnight, could not sit at this table and, in the present circumstances, vote against this Resolution.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,— I must support the remarks of the last speaker. We, on this side of the table really sympathise with the honourable member who has introduced this Resolution. We do appreciate that the position is very urgent. We should have liked to have a little longer time to study the matter and I, like the honourable member who has just sat down, am going to vote for the Resolution with great reluctance; it is, as the honourable introducer pointed out, a matter of urgency. I consider that when it comes to the Hospital—a matter of life and death—we are bound to take the advice of the Executive Committee and increase these salaries but I do not agree with my colleague who stated that this means that we have to increase the salaries of other employees of the Government. I look upon this as a special instance: it is a question of saving the lives of the people and if better cannot be done—we presume that better cannot be done—we must grant the necessary funds to get qualified medical men. There is one thing in connection with this Order to which I really object and that is the giving of free quarters to these officers. If my memory serves me right it was recommended in the Report of Commissioner Adams that in all cases a percentage of the salary—not exceeding 10 per cent.—should be deducted if the particular officer is provided with quarters. Again, if my memory serves me right, in the Estimates you will see that in some cases that principle has been adopted. It seems to me rather strange that the Executive Committee should depart from that principle in this instance and perhaps the senior member for St. Thomas who is a member of the Executive Committee will explain to us why it has been done. It may be that it is not too late to adhere to that principle in this instance. I ask the honourable member to go into that phase of the matter and see if I am not correct in stating that in cases where officers are provided with quarters a sum not exceeding 5 per cent. in some instances and not exceeding 10 per cent. in other instances should be deducted from their salaries as rent for those quarters. As regards the

Sisters and the Nurses I thoroughly agree with what the senior member for the City has said. We now have some Nurses who can take the places of Sisters. We go on year after year importing people from England, Canada, and elsewhere as if we have not got people in this island who are capable of filling the posts of Sisters at the Hospital. Again I repeat that I am only voting for this Resolution on the recommendation of the senior member for St. Thomas that it is absolutely urgent and I agree that it is so; but I hope that he would look into the points we have raised, especially the point about free quarters.

Mr. COX: While it's true that notice of this Resolution could have been given at the last meeting of the House, as has been pointed out by the senior member for St. James, yet it is equally true to say that 85 days ago the Report of Dr. Hallinan was laid on the table of the House. We had that Report before us since the 14th of February and also on Tuesday last we received a Message from His Excellency the Governor informing the House that the Governor-in-Executive Committee had agreed to many of the proposals including this one which deals with the salaries of these officers. Therefore, we cannot regard this Resolution as something that has come haphazardly before the House. I make that statement because there are times when Resolutions or Bills are brought before this House and discussed on the same day and in such instances it might be reasonable to say that you did not have sufficient time to study them beforehand, but that is not the case in this particular instance. Everybody knows conditions at the Hospital as they exist at present. Everybody must have read Dr. Hallinan's Report in the Press and the Executive Committee is now merely telling the House that it has complied with many of the proposals, including this one, in that Report. The point has been raised about free quarters but surely we will all agree that a doctor's job at the Hospital is a sort of wholetime job and it is reasonable that these doctors should be housed on the premises so that they can be in a position to give ready assistance to patients in the Hospital. These are not like officers who go on duty at 8 or 10 o'clock in the mornings and leave at 4 o'clock in the afternoons; they have to be nearby at all times to give ready assistance if anything happens to the patients. I do not think we could look at the quarters which are provided for these doctors in the light that we look at quarters which are provided for other Government officers.

Mr. GODDARD: This is not in conformity with what we decided last year when we passed the Civil Establishment Order increasing the salaries of government employees. I think those persons who are compelled to live in quarters provided because of the nature of their occupation are required to pay 5 per cent. of their salaries as rent while those who were not so compelled pay 10 per cent. of their salaries as rent for quarters provided. Lighthouse keepers, for instance, pay rent from last year since that Order was passed. My reason for getting up is to suggest that we put this in line with what we did last year, otherwise the whole Civil Service will be coming at us. The Colonial Secretary pays rent and I think that this point about free quarters needs to be settled before we vote for this Resolution. I notice that these salaries are fixed on the incremental basis and it appears to me that the Governor-in-Executive Committee will have to be given the same latitude that is given to the Department of Education, for example, when these appointments are being made. For instance, when a teacher is being ap-

pointed, consideration is given to his years of experience and he is put in a scale in keeping with his experience. Will the same thing be done in this case? I think that that information should be given to the House to-day. If you are appointing a man who has just graduated he should come in at the bottom but if you are bringing in a man with experience he should be given some consideration for his years of experience and placed in a higher scale. Again, is the present situation at the Hospital such that it requires seven Resident Medical Officers or are they making provision for these medical men in anticipation of additions that will be made at the Hospital? I think it is also necessary to take that into consideration when these appointments are being made. These are points which certainly require answers, especially the point about free quarters.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman,— Firstly, I would like to deal with what most of the honourable members on this side of the table have spoken. I have on previous occasions objected strongly—and I intend to object on this occasion again—to the haphazard placement of legislation of this sort before the House on the same day that it is sitting. There is for this purpose such a thing that is sent to us called an Order Paper. All of us are not blessed with enough memory or intelligence to be able to remember all the facts — if they are facts — in Dr. Hallinan's Report to-day. If this matter had been placed on the Order Paper, it would have been first gone into by members individually and then it would have been discussed by the Parties before coming to this House. I repeat and I stress that legislation of this kind needs time and consideration. It needs time to refresh your memory on the particular Report; it needs time to give your constituents who are vitally interested in the matter the opportunity of discussing it with you and it needs time for all the evidence to be got from the various persons whom it concerns. During the last session this procedure was adopted on numerous occasions and it is the wrong procedure. Sir, everyone knows that an emergency will arise at some time or other but up to now I fail to be convinced of the emergency of this situation. What is the emergency? Is the emergency the fact that the Hallinan investigation has shown what is the real root of the unrest at the Hospital? Is that the emergency? Mr. Chairman, to tell me that the mere increase of salaries is going to save the situation at the Hospital is, in my opinion, far from fact. We are much too prone to import people from abroad into this Country to make investigations into matters which we know much more about than they and I am very sorry, Sir, that this matter has been pushed before this House has had any opportunity of discussing the so-called Hallinan Report. If that Report had been made by a local Committee with possibly a member of the Government and a member of the Opposition as observers, I think there is a great possibility that there would not have been the cause for such hurry to-day. We are taking steps here which will of necessity greatly increase the expenditure at the Hospital. What results are we going to get? Is this colony able to afford a Specialist Surgeon, a Specialist Physician and a Specialist Radiologist? Surely if you need these, you will also need an Eye Specialist, an Ear Specialist and several other Specialists as well. We will soon be having the majority of the permanent staff of the Hospital in the specialist line. Sir, I sincerely hope that the senior member for St. Thomas, in whom all of us on this side of the House

place a great deal of confidence, will go into every single point of this debate and reply very carefully before we are called upon to vote on this question. All is not well at our Hospital. All should be well at our Hospital and I think that in spite of what we may do here to-day what we need, and should appoint in the near future, is a strong Board free from politics which will then be able to take the Hospital back to the position which it used to occupy many years ago. I repeat, Sir, that I sincerely hope that this is the last time that legislation of this sort will be placed before this House on the same day it is meeting before having been put on the Order Paper. Even when we were school boys we had to take home overnight a notebook with lessons for the following day and if we take our lessons seriously in this House we will need time in which to study them.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,— I would like to make a small contribution to this debate. First of all, I would like to say that I was not in the island when conditions at the Hospital were being investigated by a Commission but I do consider that some useful purpose might have been served if some competent layman was included in that Commission because the Hospital and all that is wrong with it do not concern only the professional people there; it also concerns non-professional people working there and it concerns the vast number of non-professional people seeking the services of the Hospital as sick persons. I make that observation because I think we declared ourselves entirely bankrupt of any sort of brains in this colony for doing these things. I am not one of those who feel that everything now must be divorced from politics and still politicians must assume ministerial status to run this Country in the interest of the people. It is only if politicians have the necessary experience that they will be able to govern this Country properly. Members of the House used to dabble in every Department of Government before, in the spending of money in large sums and they could come here and speak with greater authority than is done now. Politics must enter into the life of everything that is done in this Country and it is stupid to talk about divorcing politics from matters of this sort. The honourable member who just sat down said at one time that a member of the House should have been included on the Commission which investigated conditions at the Hospital and at another time he said that what the Hospital needs is a strong Board from which politicians should be excluded. He did put forward one or two points — I do not say that I agree with him — but he upset the apple-cart when he mentioned a thing like that. I am not one of those who feel that names should be merely given to posts, not knowing whether people will be appointed to them. We are told that these ordinary professional people — Radiologist, Surgeon, and Physician — need more money but when you raise the salaries you attach something more and call it "Specialist," — something which you are not sure you are going to get. What is a Specialist Radiologist? In my opinion you are going to have a Specialist Radiologist so as to really give the people the benefit of the equipment you have. I am among those who believe that the increase of salaries at the Hospital is not going to end the trouble up there. The more you increase the salaries and the more specialists you get, the more sensitive to injustice these people will become. It seems to me as if there is to be a change of heart in respect of the treatment to the people working at the Hospital. You cannot have professional people coming

to work at the Hospital and being treated in the manner of having their contracts terminated without any sort of explanation whatsoever; they regard it as a subtle difference in the termination of contracts that can only be appreciated by a crooked mind. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I am one of those members of the House who demand that the people's business be given proper consideration. I go further and say that one of the chief functions of this House is to forbid the payment of money out of the Treasury if there is maladministration going on in a Department; therefore when you come to this House to vote sums of money the very Rules of the House provide that there should be a certain amount of delay. An honourable member of the Government said that the Report has been in the hands of other honourable members for some time. I am not denying that but what I say is that only last Tuesday those recommendations in the Report which were accepted by the Government were laid on the table of the House. It is very doubtful whether the Governor's Message embodying these recommendations has been printed and circulated among honourable members. I have not received a copy of it; therefore, to say that you have laid the Message on the table of the House, and that I, of necessity, as a member of this House must buy a newspaper to see what took place in the House is not good enough. That Message should have been printed and circulated among honourable members between last Tuesday and to-day. You have to suspend Rules in order to deal with these proposals to-day. We have, Sir, to be careful that we are doing everything to assist the Hospital to become efficient. We are undertaking, in addition, the training of 66 Nurses. I have not heard whether we are going to have accommodation for them because I know that even the recommendations of the Rushliffe Committee had to be postponed because the Hospital did not have accommodation for the necessary staff in order to have proper working hours, meal-times and things of that sort. I would like to know what arrangements have been made for accommodating this vast increase in the staff. The next thing, Sir, is that we are agreeing to-day to the payment of half of the fees to certain officers at the Hospital and we know nothing about those fees. The fees that are the legal fees, if you are going to follow the law of this Country, have been deemed, even by those who made them, to be excessive or rather high. No change has taken place yet. I do not know, for instance, what is the type of fee the Specialist Physician would charge. I would not know what fee the Specialist Surgeon would charge and yet I am being asked to agree to the payment of half the fees. It is not clear to me what the Specialist Physician would charge a fee for — whether it is for diagnosing or prescribing medicine or both. I feel that the Government should be told, when they are going to bring in the fees in the near future, the type of fees of which this Specialist Physician is going to get half and let it be settled by this House. As one honourable member has pointed out, the people's representatives have no say in this particular phase of the matter. They have given up that right and they hope that the confidence reposed in those who deal with these things will be respected and given due consideration and that they will not fall the victims of people who fix fees that they themselves alone are able to pay. Now, Mr. Chairman, there is some talk about these officers paying rent. I do not know if there is any other class of officers that can be compared with this. I know that the

Director of Agriculture and the Colonial Secretary are provided with quarters but they do not come out here on contract. They are officers who come out and can stay until they reach the retiring age, if the Secretary of State cares to allow them to remain, and I think they become pensionable officers. These officers at the Hospital, I understand, come out on contract for three years — I have been given a hint that that is so—and if you sign a contract giving them certain salaries and free quarters you cannot then talk to them about paying rent. I do not know how they would view it. It is a recognized fact that you do not have to have a place for the Director of Agriculture or the Colonial Secretary but certainly it is right and proper that you should have the Hospital Staff, especially if they are specialists, within easy call and where they can be on duty to the public at a moment's notice. An honourable member has remarked that I do not want them to pay rent but that is not the question. I am merely saying what I understand. The next thing I would like to mention is the nature of the contract. I have brought the matter up in this House before and I have not been given any explanation. The Governor-in-Executive Committee has got permission to enter into contracts with certain officers at the Hospital—Sisters and Resident Surgeons. So far as my memory serves me, the Medical Superintendent was not included, the Specialist Surgeon was not included and now you are having a Specialist Physician; so I am merely putting this forward in order that the Government may put its house in order and not have any illegal contracts with these officers. Sometimes, an entirely different construction is put on these contracts when they are signed in England or wherever these officers come from and I hope that more attention will be paid to that phase of the matter. I am merely mentioning these things, so that if the senior member for St. Thomas has the explanation he can give it. There is a Schedule to the Civil Establishment Order dealing with these people and in the Estimates provision is made for Ward Nurses but I do not see any mention of these 66 nurses to be trained. I take it that a supplementary Resolution will be coming down to increase the Estimates in respect of these 66 trainees; so that we will have not only these imported people on the staff but you will be recruiting local people and I would like to know what arrangement has been made to accommodate these people near the place where they are to be trained or within the bounds of the Hospital.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,— We have had quite an interesting and enlightening debate and I will make an attempt to answer a few of the major points which have been raised. First of all, as regards the point about bringing down this Resolution to-day, honourable members will remember that during the last session, instead of coming with a Resolution now and again as we have been doing in the past, it was decided to send down quarterly supplementary Estimates but the Governor-in-Executive Committee, faced with the existing desperate situation at the Hospital, and in view of the fact that this House may adjourn for two or three weeks, decided to get this matter through as quickly as possible so that they could advertise for applicants for these new posts. Having been criticized so severely on previous occasions for taking a procedure of this sort, the Executive Committee hesitated at first to take this step but, as I have said, in view of the serious situation at the Hospital we had to take our courage in our hands and come down with this Resolution to-day

and ask the House to be good enough to pass it after having been told all the facts as they exist to-day. Honourable members will, therefore, realize that there are two reasons for this Resolution, one is that the situation is desperate and we could not wait for the Supplementary Estimates as we have been doing in the past and the other is that the House may be adjourned for three weeks. Now, this Resolution calls for more money for the medical and nursing staffs of the Hospital and for an increase in the members of those staffs. Honourable members have criticized the proposed new salaries and quite rightly so. First of all, I will take the Medical Officers. At the moment, the Medical Officers are getting a little over £500 a year—about £572 a year—but you certainly cannot expect to get medical officers to come to Barbados for £572 a year when Trinidad, next door, is paying £750 a year. British Guiana is paying £750, as soon as they enter the Service, rising to £1,000 a year and if you want to get them to come to Barbados you have to pay at least the same salary which other colonies are paying. In addition, young graduates have the opportunity of entering the Service in those other colonies. When they are employed in Trinidad or British Guiana, they enter the Medical Service in each of those colonies; in Barbados they enter no Medical Service. They come to the Hospital to a blind alley job, so to speak; they stay there for a while and then they go into private practice. There is no Medical Service and that lack of a Medical Service is a lack of protection for doctors. That, I will tell the senior member for Christ Church and the junior member for St. George, is one of the grievances and of the causes for dissatisfaction. The junior member for St. George said he doubts whether these increased salaries will remedy the situation at the Hospital. I feel that they will. What has been happening in the past is this: Owing to these grievances, frustrations and so on, doctors who join the Hospital staff do not stay very long, consequently more work is thrown on those who remain. That Hospital has been run for almost a year with two House Surgeons and you cannot expect young men to go on duty night after night running the Casualty and the Wards. A state of affairs such as that cannot go on for any appreciable length of time. If you give them better salaries and conditions they would be more satisfied and you would not have changes so frequently. The junior member for St. George wants to know why the nomenclature has been changed from "House Surgeons" to "Medical Officers." The reason is this: When we advertise for House Surgeons, the doctors come out here expecting to do surgery, so it is better to let them know what they have to do and not mislead them by the title of their post. The reason why seven medical officers men have been recommended is that in Dr. Hallinan's Report, which I think the senior member for Christ Church has read—page 17—two of these medical officers will be attached to the Specialist Surgeon and two to the Medical Specialist. It is an open secret that medical cases at the Hospital do not get all that they should get; that is because they do not have a medical staff. The staff at the Hospital consists principally of Visiting Surgeons and they pay more attention to Surgery; it is not so much a question of money but they pay more attention to Surgery, consequently Medicine is neglected. The idea is to have a Specialist Physician and to give him two medical officers to work with him so that more attention can be paid to medical cases. There again you will lessen the dissatisfaction that exists at the General Hospital.

Two medical officers will be attached to the Specialist Surgeon and the other three gentlemen will work in the Casualty and the Wards. So that we are hoping that by the increase of Staff and the increase of salaries we will reduce to a minimum the dissatisfaction and unrest at the Hospital. As regards the free quarters, as far as I can remember I think that is for two reasons. First of all, all hospitals do not charge for quarters; they are always free. What the junior member for the City said is quite correct. These officers come out on contract and are not members of the local Civil Service. There are one or two other points which were raised by honourable members. The senior member for the City raised a point in connection with the two Sisters to be appointed. I know the great interest the senior member for the City takes in anything connected with the advancement of the underdog, the underprivileged. In this instance he has been forestalled by the Government. The Government decided long ago that these two appointments should be given to whom the Hospital Authorities consider the best Charge Nurses who could be properly trained. They will be appointed on probation to do the work of Sisters in the Wards and if they show any aptitude they will be sent abroad for further training. We regard to the Radiologist, any Radiologist is a specialist; radiology is a special study; so is the Specialist Physician who concentrates on medicine and gets the highest qualification in the British Empire—M.R.C.P. The title "Specialist Radiologist" has been used but they are all specialists in their respective lines. I think I have answered all the criticisms that have been levelled at the Government this afternoon. I am sure that honourable members have the smooth, harmonious working of the Hospital at heart; that they are anxious to see that it gives the best possible service to the community and that they will vote for this Resolution. Let us hope that with the putting into operation of these proposals all the unrest at the hospital will be settled for a long time to come.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: We waited for the honourable member's reply. It is proposed to pay the Specialist Surgeon a salary of \$4,800 x 480—\$6,240 a year plus free quarters and half fees. You did not give him free quarters before. You paid him a salary of \$4,800 a year and an amount equal to one half of the fees paid into the Treasury in respect of services rendered by him. Now you propose to substitute for that a salary of \$4,800 x 480—\$6,240 a year plus free quarters and an amount equal to half of the fees. You propose to give also the Specialist Radiologist and the Specialist Physician, which is a new post, free quarters. But you do not merely give them free quarters because as soon as you give them free quarters they pay no parochial taxes and they get free water and light, which are a tremendous increase to their salaries. Where you compel an officer to live in the quarters you provide by reason of his work you make him pay an amount equal to 5 per cent. of his salary for rent but not exceeding £150, and where you merely offer him a building in which he may or may not reside you make him pay an amount equal to 10 per cent. of his salary for rent; so there is no justification in talking about giving these medical officers free quarters. I agree that if you have a man come out here on contract for three years you must be prepared to offer him quarters. The Colonial Secretary has quarters but not free quarters. The reason for that is when they come they must not have to search for a house to live in but you do not give it free of rent. If you do what you propose to do by this Resolution you will be upsetting the whole scale of salaries. The principle of not giving free quarters

was settled with the Adams Report and you should have adhered to it in these particular cases. We have a Public Service and if you bring these officers out on contract and not as members of the Public Service, it is because the Government chooses to do that; so that when you compare the position with that in Trinidad or British Guiana you are not making any comparison that is worth while. These officers are in the Public Service and they have to be treated as public servants. In the case of Dr. Ashby a trial should have been held; these are Civil Servants and when they are accused of doing something wrong they are entitled to be heard at a trial. You cannot expect that the Civil Service is going to be satisfied if you do this sort of thing. I am not referring to the Nurses because they have to live on the premises and you have to give them free quarters. You do not merely propose to increase these salaries but you are saying that you are going to give also free quarters which would be worth between \$720 and \$1,000 a year. That means that the salary of these officers who receive \$6,240 a year and free quarters each is going to be \$7,000 a year plus half fees and you have already decided that free quarters should not be given. This is only the beginning of what is going to be. When it comes to the nurses, it is entirely different. You have to take free quarters into account in arriving at their salaries but in the case of the specialists you are just burdening the taxpayers unnecessarily when you give them free quarters. Now, you are going to have a Specialist Physician—the word "specialist" is only going to make you pay more and the senior member for St. Thomas will bear me out on that. The honourable member referred to the Medical Services in Trinidad and British Guiana and said that we could not pay a medical officer £572 a year and expect him to remain in the job very long. There is no necessity to make them contractual because they are civil servants. I hate to hear a comparison with Trinidad and British Guiana because no man in his senses would compare health conditions in Barbados with those in Trinidad or British Guiana; only those who like certain peculiar pleasures think of these places in the same way. But from the point of view of health, why do you think that we are overburdened with taxation? A gentleman once told me that the day Barbados becomes a resort for tourists they are going to push all of us, Barbadians, in the sea; that is because of our health conditions. We would work in Barbados for \$200 or \$300 a year less than in the other colonies because of the amenities of health and otherwise. I do not want to labour that too much. Do not let us say that we have to have contracts with these officers because one of the reasons for the changing over of the hospital to a government department was that these doctors would become civil servants and would be entitled to promotion in the Colonial Empire. But it is not working out that way by means of contract. I do not agree with free quarters for the highest officers at all. I agree with furnishing them with quarters but not free quarters. As regards the medical officers and the nurses I agree that they must be provided with free quarters. From time immemorial we have provided the House Surgeons with quarters on the spot. Do not do in the case of the hospital what has been done in the secretariat. If you manage to carry on the hospital with two House Surgeons—admittedly you are "killing" the two men; nobody is trying to defend that—and you find yourself in the position that you cannot get more medical men because they would not come, don't you think that the best thing to do is to try five men

at a proper salary? What the senior member for St. Thomas is telling us is that two medical men cannot do but it strikes me that before you are finished, it is going to be like the Secretariat—a Colonial Secretary, two Assistant Colonial Secretaries and an Assistant Secretary. Eventually the Colonial Secretary is put to act as Governor and the Assistant Secretary to act as Controller of Supplies and you have only the two Assistant Colonial Secretaries in that office. You could not carry on without three or four Secretaries in the Secretariat and you have never had the full complement in that office. It strikes me that the same thing is going to happen with these doctors. As regards Dr. Hallinan's Report I never had much respect for it and after what they did with Dr. Ashby I respect it less. Once you have increased a salary you do not easily decrease it. Once you put up the salaries of these doctors, the civil servants will be justified in coming to the Government and saying "you cannot make such a disparity between the medical officers and us." Do not bother about the word "specialist" because they are expert scientific officers, all of whom have had to specialize in their own subjects and many of them are able men too. We appreciate the troubles of the senior member for St. Thomas or the troubles of anybody else who has to try and get things at the hospital straight again but he knows that these proposals are far from being right.

Mr. LEWIS: The senior member for St. James is still a member of the Civil Service Association and anything he says in that respect we have to listen to. We are now amending a Civil Establishment Order that had in it free quarters for these officers—naturally, not the office you are creating now—but free quarters are provided for the Surgeon Specialist and when that was put in the Order the Civil Service Association did not object to it.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I particularly took care to say what the Government has done and you see from the Schedule to this Resolution that the proposed amendment *re* the Surgeon Specialist reads as follows:—"For the words and figures '\$4,800 and an amount equal to one half of the fees paid into the Public Treasury in respect of services rendered by the Surgeon Specialist' substitute the words, figures and symbols '\$4,800 x 480 — \$6,240 and free quarters and an amount equal to one half of the fees paid into the Public Treasury in respect of the services rendered by the Surgeon Specialist.' " I do not have the Civil Establishment Order before me but the Government itself says that "free quarters" was not there and it is putting it in now. I must presume that the draughtsman is not wrong.

Mr. LEWIS: I claim that free quarters have been given these officers under the Civil Establishment Order which we are now amending. That is all I am commenting on at the present moment and if the Civil Service Association did not object to it at the time it was inserted I do not see that they have any grounds for objecting to it now. Now Sir, I am taking this opportunity to mention something to which I want the senior member for St. Thomas to pay attention. He need not reply to it. During the war, when the Hospital Board was in existence, supplies were scarce and it was difficult to get things. There were people coming here to live on the hospital premises in free quarters. They were given a ration allowance and they had to buy their food from the groceries. A system was instituted by which rations from the hospital stores were given to them because those things were difficult to obtain. When I use the word "given" I mean that they bought the goods from the hospital where it was easy to get them. In other words, we gave the housekeeper of the hospital the difficult task of being a grocer's hand to see that parcels of food were put up for those people who paid for them. But things have changed and I understand that that system is still in vogue up there. Not only that. When the matron is about to give a party at her quarters she merely orders increased rations from the storekeeper,—something I do not think it was intended should take place. When these innovations are made to assist people, it seems that you cannot easily get away from them but I do not think that in view of the fact that one is able to obtain supplies much more easily now, such a system should continue. I was a member of the Hospital Board when that system was instituted but I believe that the time has come when it should be discontinued. It is a dangerous system and was only instituted to assist them over a difficult period.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Resolution in Committee of Supply.

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded in each case by Mr. Cox, the Resolution is read a first and a second time and is agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. WILKINSON, the House is adjourned to meet on Tuesday, 30th May, 1950, at 3 o'clock p.m.