

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th October, 1950.

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

Present:

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

Prayers are read:

Messrs. REECE, MOTTLEY, and WARD enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings which were held on the 19th September, 1950, and the 3rd October, 1950, respectively, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. GARNER enters the House and takes his seat.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure to the 30th September, 1950, from the Commissioners of Highways of the Parish of St. James.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

MESSAGE 26/1950.

*His Excellency the Governor
to*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that

the Fourth Session of the West Indian Conference will be held in Curacao from the 27th of November to the 8th of December, 1950.

2. In conformity with the procedure governing that Conference Barbados will be represented by two delegates. At the previous conferences Barbados was represented by one delegate nominated by the Honourable the House of Assembly and one delegate nominated by His Excellency the Governor, but on the advice of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies it has been decided that both of the delegates should be nominated by the Legislature.

3. His Excellency will be glad to learn of the nominations of the Legislature as soon as possible.

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,

28th. September, 1950.

MESSAGE No. 27/1950.

*His Excellency the Governor
to*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the Government of Antigua has requested that an expression of its appreciation and grateful thanks for the contribution made and the sympathy expressed on the occasion of the recent hurricane be conveyed to the Legislature of Barbados on behalf of the people of Antigua.

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,

9th. October, 1950.

MESSAGE No. 28/1950.

*His Excellency the Governor
To*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the Government of Trinidad has asked that the Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly in the absence of His Honour the Speaker be invited to the opening

ceremony on Friday, the 20th. of October, of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago appointed under the new Trinidad and Tobago Constitution.

2. The Government of Trinidad will be pleased to pay all hotel expenses but regret that it cannot meet the cost of passages. Supplementary Estimates to meet the cost of the latter will be submitted to the Legislature at an early date.

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.

10th. October, 1950.

NOTICE

A Government Notice is given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Natural Gas Corporation, for the functions and duties of the Corporation, for the acquisition by or transfer to it of undertakings, rights and property and to make compensation therefor and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

QUESTIONS

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

Whether the Committee set up to review price control referred to in Message No. 34/1949 has yet presented a Report?

2. If the answer to Question above is "Yes"
(a) When was such Report presented to Government?

(b) Does Government propose to publish such Report?

3. Does Government contemplate taking any action in respect of the abovementioned Report?

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

Is Government aware of the high percentage of unemployment existing among the employees of the Highways Department in the parish of St. Andrew owing to the fact that labourers in the general gangs are laid off weekly?

2. That no work has been done on the Tenantry Roads which have been submitted to Government by the Vestry for the year 1950.

3. Will Government take immediate steps to remedy same?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Natural Gas Corporation, for the acquisition by or transfer to it of undertakings, rights, and property and to make compensation therefor and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid is read a first time.

Mr. ALLDER enters the House and takes his seat.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MR. BETHELL

Mr. BETHELL asks for and is granted four months' leave of absence from his duties as a member of the House as from the next meeting of the House.

EXCUSE FOR ABENT MEMBER

Mr. WILKINSON offers an excuse for the absence of Mr. E. K. WALCOTT who is unfortunately ill.

Mr. GILL enters the House and takes his seat.

HOUSE BIDS MR. SPEAKER FAREWELL

Mr. ADAMS: Before the business of the House is begun, Your Honour, I am not sure — I regret to say—whether and, if so, to what extent any expression of opinion of the House has been made made to Your Honour in respect of your pending visit to the United Kingdom. Inasmuch as I understand that this is probably Your Honour's last sitting before leaving for the United Kingdom I would like, on behalf of the Members of the House, to wish you and your wife a safe voyage to, and an interesting time in, England. It is bound to be interesting from a historical and ceremonial point of view but I hope that in other respects both you and Mrs. Husbands will find it interesting, that you will come back to us refreshed as you were on the last occasion and that you will be spared for many years to preside over the destinies of this ancient Assembly. I am sure that among the pleasures you will have of attending this ceremony of the opening of a reconstructed House of Commons will be a justifiable pride of presiding over an Assembly that is second to only one other in the British Empire apart from the House of Commons. It is something for the West Indies to be proud of at any stage of their existence, more especially now that we are hoping that we shall go forward in future as a single entity. I think that we in this House should be extremely glad to remember that ours is a long and honourable parliamentary tradition. I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that you will uphold the dignity of the Speakership of this Assembly in your present visit. Again I wish you God's speed and a safe return to your labours here (Cheers).

Mr. WILKINSON: I have great pleasure in supporting the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. We, Sir, are proud, as I have said before in this House, that you and your wife have been asked to represent this ancient Assembly on such a historic occasion—the opening of the new House of Commons. We sincerely hope that you and Mrs. Husbands will have a pleasant time and a safe return to Barbados. We know, Sir, that when you come back you will give us the benefit of the knowledge and experience that you gained and we most sincerely hope that you will preside over this Chamber for many, many years to come. (Cheers).

Mr. SPEAKER: Gentlemen,—I am very glad to receive your hearty wishes which, I feel and know, are sincere. I leave this island shortly to represent one of the oldest parliaments in the British Empire. I am deeply conscious of the honour that has been done to me. I can only hope that when I go to England I shall be truly representative of the honourable past in Barbados and especially of this most ancient and historic Chamber. Gentlemen, I shall remember it and I hope to return to it and be with you as long as you will have me (Cheers).

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER takes the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER leaves the Chair

and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR DEPARTMENTS

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman.—The first Resolution is for the sum of \$153,829 to supplement the amounts provided under certain Heads in the Estimates for 1950-51. I propose to deal with the Heads serially.

Head VI—Customs

Item 20a. Drawbacks — Seawell Contract, \$45,000; item 23. (New) Ex-gratia refund of Customs Duty and Package Tax, \$5,437.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head VI stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: With respect to item 20a, there is just one observation I should like to make. We are spending over one and a half million dollars at Seawell and from the information which has come to me, very little of that money is being expended on local labour. I recall that when we did some extension work at Seawell a few years ago, there was only a small sum of money in circulation but the businessmen in Christ Church and St. Philip could see the result of that expenditure in their business; of course an appreciable amount of it also found its way into Bridgetown. Now that we are spending this comparatively huge sum, so much mechanical equipment is being used and so many of the highest paid employees are imported from abroad that the portion of the money circulated here is almost infinitesimal in the first place and in the second place its circulation makes hardly any impact on local trade. It is, Sir, not improbable that similar work may be done in this colony in the near future under almost similar conditions, that is to say, we may use an imported engineering firm to do a certain amount of work. We may, for instance, in the case of the Deep Water Harbour Scheme—if and when it eventuates—or in the case of the Drainage of the Constitution Swamp, engage the services of an engineering firm which has the equipment to undertake jobs of that sort and I want to make the suggestion that in future attention should be paid to the possibility of inserting, in any contract under which the work is done, a clause which would ensure that the minimum amount of machinery is used and the maximum amount of local labour—compatible of course with economy—is employed. After all, Sir, for this colony this expenditure is by no means small and with our large unemployment problem and what not, it is certainly to be expected that the utmost advantage should accrue to the workingclasses from the actual undertaking and the project. This, I repeat, Sir, is definitely not the case in this instance and it is a matter for considerable regret that provision has not been already made to ensure that more of this expenditure is circulated in this colony. Figures, of course, are not available to me or, I suppose, to any of us as yet but I shall not be at all surprised, when this job is finished, if more than three-fourths of the actual cost is sent abroad and the remainder is spent in this colony. That is not good enough, Sir, and while we want these things done with the utmost economy yet, Sir, I feel that the few points I have mentioned should be given some consideration.

Mr. WILKINSON: I really want some information as to when this work will be completed. I always understood that September was the month in

which the work would be completed but I happened to pass there about two weeks ago and it seems a long way from completion. I would be glad if the honourable member would give us some information on that point because I understand that the runway now is in such a condition that the large planes—I am speaking, of course, of the T.C.A., planes—will not be able to come here for some weeks. That is a pity, Sir, because we are close to what is known here as the tourist season. People from the North pay us visits during the winter months and I think that it is most important that the runway should be completed by the end of this month or else we shall lose a great deal of the tourist trade. Our visitors always like to feel that in the case of emergency they can get back home by plane even if they have to come by boat. I would like the honourable member to give me some information as to when this work will be completed.

Mr. MAPP: While it is not practicable, Mr. Chairman, to write into a contract such as this, a proposal that the minimum of machinery should be used, especially in works of this nature, yet it is apparent, from the questions which have been asked in this House and the complaints which have been received by members of this House and from replies which were tabled to certain questions I asked recently, that there are many loopholes in the contract between this Government and the firm of Harriman which will teach us and the Government a lesson and open the Government's eyes to certain necessities in future when giving out contracts of this kind. If there is one such loophole it is that which allows the firm of Harriman to bring in as many as forty odd Trinidad workmen or technicians without safeguarding that such workmen and such technical labour should be obtained here before going outside for it. Trinidad is the very colony that has recently imposed a very strict ban on our workers entering it to seek employment and compete with labour in that colony. In our present state of unemployment and in view of the few prospects of our people finding jobs here in the very near future I think that the safeguard which the Government should impose, when doing work as it is at present doing at Seawell, should be to make it impossible from any contractor to bring in foreign labour when that labour could be obtained locally. I hope that the Government, as has been already said, will learn from this the hard lesson that these foreign companies will drive hard bargains and that we, on the other hand, must drive hard bargains too in the interest of our people. I cannot help agreeing that this money has not been spent entirely in the interest of this colony. I am going to say this now: If this money was not being spent for the purpose for which it is being spent, namely, to help the tourist trade, there would be no end of opposition to having obtained a loan or grant from Colonial Development and Welfare for the purpose and to the work being given priority. Be that as it may, this is not the time to speak along such lines because we have already agreed to it. Whether it should be given priority or whether we should receive the grant or not, we cannot go into now; but I can only express the hope that in future the interests of local labour would always come first in the drawing up of these contracts and that there will be no opportunity for contractors to bring in any number of employees from outside.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman.—In answer to the junior member for St. James as to the time when the work at Seawell will be completed, we are not in a position to tell the time when the job is expected to be finished but this House was told that when the new runway cuts the old one, the heavy planes would not

be able to come here for a time but the light ones will be able to land. That was envisaged from the beginning, as far as I remember.

The question that Head VI, Customs, stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XIII—Legislature

20. Reporting and printing debates of the Legislature, \$460.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XIII, Legislature, stands part of the schedule.

Head XIV—Legal Departments

52. Probation Services, \$823.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XIV, Legal Departments, stands part of the schedule.

Head XV—Police

6. Rent allowance for two Inspectors, \$274.

15. Medical Attendants, \$400.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XV stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—I see that the note to item 15, Medical Attendants, says:—"The Office of Police Medical Officer of District 'A' became vacant on the 1st September; the post has been advertised but no applications have been received. In order to obtain the services of a medical officer in an acting capacity it is necessary to pay a salary of \$2,160 per annum. . . ." I do not have my copy of the Estimates with me but I think that the salary attached to this post is in the neighbourhood of £200 per annum; now you are proposing to give an acting man over more than double that salary. I wonder if the honourable member can tell me what salary they propose to pay for this post in the future.

Mr. BETHELL: Mr. Chairman,—The junior member for St. James spoke as if he is against this salary of \$2,160 per annum for an acting Police Medical Officer. I am wondering what is going to happen in the case of the Surgeon of the Prisons. I am only trying to stop a noise before it comes.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If you are paying £200 a year as the salary for this post and you now propose to pay an acting man \$2,160 a year, surely we should be given some further information. It is true that the note says that "it is proposed to review the terms of appointment of part time posts of Medical Attendants to Government Institutions," but what I would like to know is if you are paying £200 a year now, how you arrive at actually £450 for an acting man. I know that it is rather difficult in these days of prosperous doctors in the island to get any medical practitioner at all to come out—"after 6 p.m." says the senior member for St. Joseph. I know it is difficult to get medical practitioners but I would still like to know how you arrive at more than double the salary for this acting appointment. Is this the salary agreed upon for a medical attendant? You advertised for applicants for the post at a salary of \$80 a month and got no applications. I hope that you have not fixed this salary of \$2,160 per annum for any one man to come in and act; that is all I would like to know.

Dr. CUMMINS: Well, Sir, the former holder of this post of Police Medical Officer of District "A" resigned. The Government advertised for doctors on the basis of a salary of £200 a year and there were no applications. Subsequently the doctor who is now

acting came in and said that he would act in the job for this figure. There was also another applicant who asked for £600 a year and the Government accepted the lower figure. As regards the future, there is a proposal to amalgamate all these part-time Medical posts — Police Medical Officer of District A, Police Medical Officer of the Prisons, Assistant Port Health Officer, and the Medical Officer of the Lazaretto — and get one whole-time medical man to do the work; that is why the note says that "It is proposed to review the terms of appointment of part-time posts of Medical Attendants to Government Institutions."

The question that Head XV, Police, stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XVI — Prisons

28. Fodder, \$720.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XVI stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—This \$720 is being asked for to purchase additional fodder for the Stock Farm, at the Prisons. Now, Sir, I notice that in last year's Estimates \$1,440 was provided for the outlay of the farm, \$360 for stock for the farm and \$480 for fodder. This Resolution asks for \$720 more this year for the same item, fodder. The note says:—"The progress of the young Stock Farm at the Prison has been sufficiently good as to warrant the increase of the stock by more than 100%; this will entail the purchase of additional fodder etc. It is expected that the revenue to be derived from sales of young stock, eggs etc. will more than cover the amount expended on the purchase of fodder." I have tried but I found it difficult to obtain a visit to this farm at the Prison. (A Voice: That is not true). An honourable member says that that is not true but I repeat that I found it very difficult to gain entry where-by I could see what this farm looks like because I could not support the carrying on of a stock farm which would produce food of a good quality and at the same time the food which is supplied to the prison population is of the same type as that of the last fifty years or more. For the past couple of months many reports have been brought to me by people leaving the Prison; they complain that the treatment up there is very bad and that there has not been any improvement in the diet which is given. Now, Sir, from what I have read, it shows clearly that this stock farm is entering trade, that is to say, they produce eggs, cabbages, beets, carrots, and soon up there and these items are sold to hotels or to certain homes. Prison labour is used in the running of this farm and I am told that it is difficult for the prisoners to get any part of the food which they produce; that it is sold outside the Prison. I feel, Sir, that this Department should not be permitted to enter commerce. If you must find work for the prisoners and you build up a farm there, the food which they produce should be consumed in the Prisons and not be permitted to be sold in the outside market. There have been numerous Committees which have discussed and reported on the various methods of prison reform and yet you get prisoners leaving that institution and continuing to complain about the kind of diet which is given to prisoners. I can tell honourable members that prisoners are still getting 2 lbs of sweet potatoes in the skin with a piece of raw salt fish each and they should not be given that diet when they are growing lettuce, turnips, beets etc. These vegetables that are grown in the Prisons are sold outside to

people who have their free choice of eating whatever their means can afford and it is time that this should be stopped. I felt at the time when money was first voted for the purpose that this was a means of training some of the prisoners in husbandry, but since I have found out that they are scarcely given any of this food I feel that it would be wrong for us to continue to vote money for that Department for this purpose. It is very bad that you should compel prisoners to grow that food and then let it find its way outside on the tables of the Rich and others. The prisoners should be given an improved diet, especially in these days when everybody is suggesting what, in their opinion, are the best means of reforming the criminal. It has been proved that punitive measures alone will not reform him; you will have to treat him as a human being, not to tell him, "you must rear fowls here but you cannot get any of the eggs in your diet; you must plant carrots, turnips, and cabbages but you cannot get any in your diet. You must go on eating gruel, pap, stewed potatoes, and unwashed salt fish." You are sending out these men, more embittered against society than they were when they went in prison. It is not sense. If the prisoners produce food, let them use it inside the Prison, and see if you cannot cut down the amount voted for provisions. I notice that we voted \$24,000 in this year's Estimates for provisions. It is considered high, taking into consideration the kind of food which is served and in addition you are voting this amount to assist in producing a better kind of food, not to be used in the Prison but to be used outside it and in that way enter the commercial channel and compete with similar items that are produced by peasant proprietors. It is wrong. I do not know if other honourable members have been approached but I have had a lot of statements made to me and the complaints about this Department certainly call for some investigation. I am told, Sir, of the case of one of the prisoners cutting stones at Codrington who got a block dropped on his foot. He was treated for nine months. They stopped the treatment and according to his statement, the foot has not got better and when he complained he was told that a certain diet—which was flour pap—would relieve his pain. I have seen the man since he came out; he has rallied at home and he is still limping; he has been sent out without any assistance of any recognized value and every year we continue to vote a certain amount in the Estimates for the rehabilitation of prisoners. But even that amount, I notice, will be very small, after taking into consideration the number of prisoners who leave the Prisons within the period of a year. We must realize that those prisoners have come from a walk of life, which, when they are taken away from it and put in prison, leaves them without anyone outside to take care of what little possessions they may have had before they went to prison. Many of them on several occasions have come out of prison and found it difficult to make that connection which one with a family would have been able to make and as such many of them are thrown upon the streets to start off where they left off before they went into prison. It is compulsory for every prisoner to put in a certain amount of work a day. He cannot get away from it unless he can prove that he is unable to go out that day, hence the doctor is called in. I have only raised that point to show that every member of the Prison contributes as much as he should be given the opportunity to at least get a reasonable meal out of the taxpayers of this colony.

It is nothing that is being given to him; it is something that he earns in there and although he may have committed himself and there is a cause for his being sent to jail, yet you must consider that he is a human being and that he must not be treated less than such. If these things continue to go on, you will find that in the end instead of trying to decrease your prison population you are going to increase it. I do not think that any normal man would try to go to prison. A normal man values his freedom and, therefore, it should not be considered illogical to say that if you improve the conditions up there more people would want to go there. It is sufficient punishment to deprive a man of his freedom, plus the compulsion to produce what is considered an adequate day's work by a prisoner. And if he is called upon to do those things, Sir, at least you should say "Well, the things he has produced inside the prison must be consumed in the prison by the prison population and not to find its way outside on the tables of the Rich." In this twentieth century when everybody is trying to get away from laborious work you still see prisoners pulling carts with stones in the broiling sun after cutting them at Codrington and carting them to the various places where they are ordered to carry them and there is no attempt to relieve them of that unnecessary task. It is time, Sir, that you do to that Department what you have done to other Departments, that is, to stop those men from being forced to haul carts laden with stones from Codrington. And it is also extremely embarrassing, Mr. Chairman, for these men to be carried around Bridgetown on display,—embarrassing not only to themselves but also to those who have to accompany them; it is also embarrassing to all well-intentioned people who feel that we should not allow things of that antiquated type to continue in this day. It seems, Sir, that there are some who, if it were possible to bring back the days of the galleys, would do so, feeling that it is the best treatment for certain people. It is going to get us nowhere. We may as well face facts. If those things are in truth and in fact horrible, do not be ashamed to have them removed. What is the sense of compelling those people up there to do those things which have been done away with outside, just because you want to say that you are punishing them? The question is whether your punishment, although punitive, has prevented people from still going there. And what is the sense of walking a prisoner from Glendairy to the Hospital in Bay Street in the hot sun with bad eyes and no protection, when we are still asked to vote travelling allowance for Heads of Departments who have several cars at their disposal, some of whom were not expecting any additional travelling allowance? There is still time, Sir, for us to realize that first things come first and that many people up there in the Prisons are not solely to be blamed for being there. Many of them, it has been proved, go up there very innocently and many of them, due to ignorance, have committed acts that do not mean that we should not be a little more generous towards them than previous Governments have been. There is still time to extend our sympathy although the men may be wrong and I am hoping, Sir, that the suggestions which I am making will have some effect on the future decisions of the Executive Committee whenever they come to deal with this Department. No argument could be put up to justify compelling a body of men to produce commodities which their bodies need and at the same time deprive them of the right to enjoy any of those commodities.

The question that Head XVI stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XVII — Government Industrial Schools

16. Provisions \$8,672.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XVII stand part of the schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I am very glad that at long last the Government has granted this moiety to the Overseers, Hospital Matrons and Matrons at the Government Industrial Schools, but there is one point that has not been covered and it is in connection with the teaching staff. Perhaps honourable members are not aware that the teachers at those schools have to do extra work; they not only have to teach but they also have to do extra work and they are not considered in this arrangement at all. I want to know what the Government intends to do in that matter. I think it is unfair to these teachers. I repeat that they are not only schoolmasters but they have other work to do at the institution and it would be unfair to exclude them from the benefits which others on the staff now enjoy. I would like to hear something about that. I intended asking a question but I understood that something was being done along these lines, so I bided my time until now. I do not want this question to go unanswered because I want to be in a position to explain to these teachers why they are not included. They are responsible men and most of them have given long years of service. I do not see how you can make chalk of some and cheese of others and bring about this disparity. I should really like the honourable introducer of this Resolution to tell me why these particular people are not included in this scheme.

Dr. CUMMINS: Under the new arrangements, the teachers at the Government Industrial Schools will be paid as schoolteachers, plus 25 per cent. on their rates of pay for these extra duties.

Mr. GARNER: I am can well understand that; but on the other hand you have the storekeeper who at least is entitled to some backpay. You are giving the others backpay from the 1st April, 1948, to the 31st March, 1950. Under the old set-up he got what the others got and now you are giving the others backpay I do not see why he should not be included.

Dr. CUMMINS: That point is being considered at the moment.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question, Sir, I would like to say that it is indeed gratifying to see that this matter is at long last being attended to—the placing of ration allowance on the same basis as that paid to other employees of similar institutions. Several things have been done within recent years to improve the conditions obtaining at the Government Industrial Schools as far as the employment of the staffs is concerned, and to improve the general policy under which the institution is conducted. But one outstanding grievance which remains to be redressed is the provision of adequately trained people to take care of this institution. Juvenile delinquency is supposed now to be a problem of scientific proportions and one in which specialized training is required if it is to be handled effectively and I think that the time has come when an attempt should be made to provide one or more members on the staff with training which would enable them to perform their duties more effectively. There is a similar institution in Jamaica—a place called “The Hope” and some years ago the Jamaican

Government sent over to England certain members of the Staff to be trained in work of a similar nature and since their return to Jamaica, persons who knew “The Hope” before claim that it has been completely transformed. People who did not know it before but saw it for the first time comment very favourably on the very high standard at which it is conducted. As a matter of fact employees of the Government Industrial Schools would benefit considerably even from training at “The Hope” without being sent to England. After all, Jamaica is a West Indian colony and certainly conditions which apply to a West Indian colony would be more than likely paralleled in other West Indian colonies; so that if in the West Indies we have an institution which is at the moment run on tolerably efficient lines, perhaps it would be advantageous to send staff members from similar institutions to that institution for special training. I do hope that sooner or later—I have put forward this suggestion before in this Chamber in reference to the same institution called “The Hope”—some of the staffs of the Government Industrial Schools will be given the opportunity to study abroad, either in the West Indies or elsewhere, at approved institutions in order that benefits, apart from placing delinquents under specialized care, may soon be in evidence at the local institution.

The question that Head XVII stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XVIII — Commissioners of Currency

8. (New) Printing Signatures and dates on Currency Notes, \$400,216.

9. (New) Office equipment, \$216

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XVIII stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. MAPP: I would like to ask the members of the Government if they are aware of a certain Department where there are two electric fans apparently standing sentinel and almost of no use at all.

The CHAIRMAN: On what item is the honourable member speaking.

Mr. MAPP: I am speaking on item 9. Office equipment, the note to which states *inter alia*: “New electric fan for the vault in which is stored stocks of cancelled notes which await sorting and subsequent destruction—\$35.” I am just throwing out a hint and am hoping that the Government will bear in mind that there are some electric fans which are not being used.

The question that Head XVIII stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

XX — Education

45. Island Scholarships at Codrington College, \$864

48. West Indian University, \$53,280.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XX stands part of the schedule.

Head XXI — Department of Science and Agriculture

85. (a) (New). Expenses of Co-operative Officer, \$657.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXI stands part of the schedule.

Head XXIII — Medical Departments

- (2) General Hospital
D. Salaries and Wages
 1. (23) Dental Out-patient Service, \$960.
E. Miscellaneous.
 6. (New). Medical Treatment for Nurse D. Welch \$787.
 (3) Lunatic Asylum.
 48. (New). Spares and Replacements for Cinema Machine, \$600.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXIII stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. AILDER: With regards to the Dental Out-patient Service, I must express to the Government my appreciation of its extending this Service to accommodate more patients but what I still feel, and what is felt by many other persons, is that an Assistant should be given to the holder of this office. Personally I am of the opinion that a whole-time dentist should be attached to the Department, so that those persons who cannot afford to pay a dentist could go there and have their teeth extracted. I hope that some consideration will be given to my suggestions inasmuch as the dentist has private duties to perform.

The question that Head XXIII stands part of the Schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIV — Barbados Regiment

18. Uniform Allowance For Staff Officer, \$294
 41. (New) Purchase of Efficiency Decorations and Medals, \$200.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXIV stands part of the Schedule.

Head XXV—Public Works Department

27. Unforeseen Minor Works, \$600.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXV stands part of the Schedule.

Head XXVIII—Subsidies and Grants

21. Trade Commissioner in Canada, \$300.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXVIII stands part of the Schedule.

Head XXIX—Miscellaneous Services

13. Telephone rentals, transfers and installations, \$450.
 58. (New) Disability Pensions to Ex-Servicemen, \$2,400.
 59. (New) Ex-gratia gratuity to estate of Wilbert Pinkett, \$437.
 60. (New) Ex-gratia gratuity to estate of Bowman Padmore, \$601.
 61. (New). Ex-gratia gratuity to Alexander Collymore, \$321.
 62. (New). Ex-gratia gratuity to Samuel Griffith, \$609.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXIX stands part of the Schedule.

Head XXX—Income Tax and Death Duties

11. (New). Office Rent, \$350.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXX stands part of the Schedule.

Head XXXIII — Airport

9. Incidentals, \$150
 14. Fire Protection, \$700.
 15. Lighting of Airport, \$1,500.
 16. Travelling Expenses, \$600.
 17. (a) (New) Telephones, \$1,452.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXXIII stands part of the Schedule.

Head XXXV—Housing Board

10. (New) Erection of pavilion and improvements to playing field at Deacon's Housing Estate, \$700.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Head XXXV stands part of the Schedule.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

1 Post office

14. Overseas (Surface) Mails, \$27,500.
 23. Office and Land Rents and Rates, \$85.
 29. Telephones, \$30.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT Annexed Estimates stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$153,829 do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question, Sir, I beg to move that Head XXIII, Medical Departments, be re-committed in order that I may make an observation on that unfortunate case of the nurse of the Barbados General Hospital who is said to have contracted a disease in the execution of her duties at the Hospital.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second the honourable member's motion.

The question that Head XXIII, Medical Departments, be re-committed is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir—The case of Nurse Welch, as I have said, is a very unfortunate one and while it is true that we are paying for her maintenance and treatment in a sanatorium in Trinidad I think we should also be sure in our minds, if she has any dependents, that they will not suffer any financial loss because the breadwinner is incapacitated. I want to know if her salary is still being paid her in these regrettable circumstances.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am told that she being a Civil Servant, the normal regulations apply to her, but for the benefit of the honourable member I will make the necessary enquiry.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That illness of hers may take some time before she recovers completely. I do not remember the Regulations that apply to Civil Servants but I am prepared to say that she would not be entitled to the full period if she does recover. I am suggesting that provision be made to pay her her full salary during her entire illness. This is a case which we have to view on its particular merits. The position is this: This young lady was working at the

Hospital. She contracted this serious disease in the execution of her duties. The Government is undertaking to pay for her treatment at a sanatorium in Trinidad. Now they want to say that she comes under the Civil Service Regulations but I am submitting that in my opinion the circumstances of this case merit special consideration and that in addition to paying for her treatment and maintenance in Trinidad, her full salary should be given to her during the entire period of the illness until recovery. People who work in institutions like these are open to the contraction of all sorts of diseases and I think that when an unfortunate incident like this does occur every single thing should be done to ensure that the utmost consideration, financial and otherwise, is given to the unfortunate victim of the circumstances.

The question that Head XXIII stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

RESOLUTION TO MEET EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPAIR OF WESLEY HALL JUNIOR SCHOOL.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution is for the sum of \$15,000 to meet expenses in connection with the repair of the roof of Wesley Hall Junior School.

In 1949-50 the sum of \$95,000 was provided in the Estimates for building and equipping the Wesley Hall Junior School. It was then proposed to pull down the present building and construct a new one capable of accommodating 439 children. Since then, the Colonial Engineer thinks that the building, except for the roof, is in good condition and should not be pulled down. This \$15,000 is to repair the roof which is in very bad condition. As a matter of fact, Sir, only a few Saturdays ago, when it rained, some of the ceiling fell in and it was fortunate that there were no children in the school at the time. I mention that in order to let honourable members see the urgency of voting this money in order that the roof could be repaired. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is refreshing, now that the air is cleared, to see that we can again start on capital works and relieve these children of some of their suffering at these elementary schools. I would like to know, from the honourable member, who is really going to do this work, (A VOICE: The Colonial Engineer) and whether it is going to be done departmentally. I know myself that this school is in a very bad condition and it is very necessary to have it repaired quickly. I hope that if and when it is done departmentally it will be a better job than at least some of the monstrosities which were started and as to which we have been able to see only quite recently why they are monstrosities.

Mr. GARNER: Now that the honourable member has spoken about capital works I am inclined to ask that something be done too. If you are really going to re-embark on capital works I am going to ask that a new school be erected in the central part of St. Philip so that it can accommodate not only children in St. Philip but in St. George, St. John and Christ Church. If you are going to do any capital works we do want a secondary school in St. Philip. The people have been told that they should spare no pains in giving their children a secondary education and I am sure that the parishioners of St. Philip would welcome the construction of a secondary

school in their parish. While I am on my feet I want to compliment the Government on the improvement of the bus service. The Government acted with commendable speed in that respect and I hope that they would act similarly in respect of my request that a secondary school be erected in the parish of St. Philip.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—The Government never seems to forget anything that is necessary in the parish of St. Michael. On this question of Capital Expenditure and the construction of schools, if you were to take a drive along Haymans Road you will see a building which is a memorial to Mr. Crowe and as far as Barbados is concerned I hope that he will reap the fruits of his labour in the future. Persons who pass there ask in reference to that building, questions such as these: "Whose paddock is that?" "Who keeps race horses there?" "Is that the Bethell Stables?" (Laughter). I commend the Government to consider schools and other works outside the St. Michael area. That building in St. Peter has been remaining unfinished for a long time; it looks badly and nothing has been done about it. Again, there is the Half Moon Fort School. A site has been selected for the removal of that school and nothing has been done to remove it from its most insanitary location. I hope that a word to the wise is sufficient and I trust that the Executive Committee has some wise men on it.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman,—What I get up to say is this: The Government has promised for quite a long while to build a school in the Half Moon Fort area which is a populous area. As far as I can remember, money has been voted to build a school in that area. The schools around there are overcrowded and I feel that the Government should make the effort as soon as possible to build that school. The Government will be killing two birds with one stone, so to speak, because while it would be erecting a bigger school to accommodate more children it would, at the same time, be providing employment for people in that district. At present construction work has slowed down about the island, and since the Government has undertaken to do this work departmentally I feel that it should start capital works in more than one parish.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to inform honourable members that this is not done on a parochial basis as the junior member for St. Lucy suggested. This Resolution would not have been before the House if it were otherwise. This is not capital works in the sense of capital works; this is not the case of building a new school; this is a matter of repairing the Wesley Hall Junior School. Honourable members will remember that not so long ago, we passed a Resolution to repair the Providence Boys' School and that school does not happen to be in the parish of St. Michael. The construction and the repair of all these schools have been placed under the control of the Colonial Engineer and you cannot ask a new man to pick up the threads without making investigations. Personally I would not agree with the Colonial Engineer if he did not make investigations on the spot. I have complete confidence in the ability of the Colonial Engineer to carry out the work for which provision has already been made in the Estimates. I need hardly remind honourable members that the Parry and Coleridge School is located in the constituency which I represent. It is going to cost a sum of money to complete it that is going to stagger honourable members but they have to vote it.

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 two Resolutions in Committee of Supply

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded in each case by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the Resolutions are read a first and a second time and are agreed to.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the House is adjourned until 5.40 p.m.

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to lay the Replies to Question No. 22, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Andrew, the Reply to Question No. 27, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip, and the Replies to Question No. 31 also standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 60 in order that Order No. 8 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

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

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Order No. 8 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the consideration of the amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill to amend the law relating to the Representation of the People.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to take charge of this Order.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to take charge of the Order.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—The amendments of the Other Place to this Bill are simple. The first amendment is in respect of the Schedule where Section 4 appears instead of Section 5, and then Section 66 was put in the Schedule as one of the provisions which are to be repealed. By an oversight we did not notice that that provision has already been repealed by a previous Act, so that it was unnecessary to put it in the Schedule to be repealed. I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

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

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

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

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT TO THE WILD NATIVE COTTON (ERADICATION) BILL, 1950

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 7 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the consideration of the amendment of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill to provide for the eradication of wild native cotton.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—The amendment of the Other Place to this Bill is merely a mistake in the spelling of a word; in Clause 2 the word "left" appears instead of the word "let". I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

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

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT in each case, the amendment was read a second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALLOCATION OF BALANCE OF STABILISATION FUND

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 9 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY 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 allocation of the balance of the stabilisation fund fixed on the 21st of September, 1950, by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board under the provisions of section 10 of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act, 1937.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This is one of those annual, simple, routine matters with which the House has to deal; we have to approve the allocation of the balance of the Stabilisation Fund among producers of fancy molasses and among producers of sugar other than muscovado sugar. This year the allocation has been made as follows:—

- (a) among producers of fancy molasses at the rate of .2022 cents a gallon on every wine gallon produced; and
- (b) among producers of sugar other than muscovado sugar at the rate of 45.2027 cents per ton of sugar made;

I do not think I need say anything more in connection with this matter; the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board goes into this question in the first place, then the allocation is fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Board and finally the House has to approve the allocation. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

WEST INDIAN SEA ISLAND COTTON (EXEMPTION FROM DUTY) BILL, 1950

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 10 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael:— Second reading of a Bill intituled An Act to provide for the importation into this Island free of duty for a period of one year of goods made from Sea Island Cotton.

Mr. COX: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This Bill seeks to extend the provisions of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton (Exemption from Duty) Act for a period of one year. As is explained in the "Objects and Reasons", "the Bill seeks to re-enact for a further period of one year provisions similar to those contained in the West Indian Sea Island Cotton (Exemption from duty) Act 1947.

It provides for the importation into this Island free of duty for a period of one year of articles made of Sea Island Cotton, and is put forward with a view to fostering the development of the Sea Island Cotton Industry.

In order to afford proof that articles are made of Sea Island Cotton a declaration to that effect endorsed as provided in Clause 3 of the Bill would be made a condition precedent to their duty free admission".

Honourable members will remember that in 1939 the House passed a Bill to exempt from duty goods made of Sea Island Cotton with a view to encouraging the Sea Island Cotton Industry. A similar Bill was passed in 1947 and the law expired in May this year with the result that it has been found necessary to extend it for a year, although the persons interested in this matter would like an extension for three years. Inasmuch as the Customs Union Commission has not yet reported it was felt advisable for the time being to extend the law for a further period of a year. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more in connection with this matter; if honourable members want any further explanation I shall try to offer it in so far as it lies within my power to do so. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. ALLDER: I would like to know if those other small industries which have been recently set up in our midst are also being considered in respect of relief from Customs Duty on their raw materials. To take the hat industry, for example, I have seen that the finished article is up to the standard of the imported article and the people engaged in this industry experience some difficulty inasmuch as no assistance has been granted to them similar to that which is granted to West Indian Knitting Mills Ltd. Those persons who carry on the hat factory employ many young people in this City and I do feel that any assistance which would help them to extend their industry should be given to them. If one industry can be assisted I do not see why others should not also be assisted.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Lest it be thought that the honourable member is singing a solo, I am joining in the comment which he has made. It has been represented to me that the people who carry on the hat factory and who employ a large number of people, have not been given treatment similar to that which is meted out to people who are carrying on other industries. I welcome the treatment which is meted out to other industries, but I would like to know if it is true that application for relief has been made by the people who carry on the hat factory and no consideration has been given to them.

Mr. GARNER: I have heard a similar complaint myself and I am wondering what is being done about the matter. We cannot help foreigners and then when our local people start an industry we do not give them the same exemption which we

give to foreigners. I think we should practice giving charity at home. We are not making laws to help foreigners and leave out our people at home; the local firms must receive the same exemption as foreigners who come here. We will not sit here and countenance help being given to foreigners and not to our own people; if a clear case is made out that local people are not being helped, I would counsel the Government to see about it at once, because we are not going to boycott our local people. It is all very well and good to encourage foreign capital to be brought in here, but I repeat that if the capital can be found here, the local people must have the same exemption as foreigners. We have to encourage our people to pool together and start business; we do not want foreigners to come here and carry on business if we can find the capital locally to do that. It has been brought to my attention that the people who carry on the hat factory have not been treated in the same manner as other people have been treated. I say; let us pool together and pool rightly and at least we can keep out foreign people from monopolizing the position. The foreigners come in to give people work, it is true, but the bulk of the profits goes out side the island.

Mr. ADAMS: I hate to say this to the honourable senior member for the City. Sometimes the honourable member's information is accurate, but if he heard that the people who are carrying on the hat factory were going to be treated differently from other people, although the honourable member is not a member of the Labour Party he should have that confidence in the Labour Party to be able to tell his informant that that is not true. I have no information that the people who are carrying on the hat factory have ever applied for assistance, and if they apply for assistance they can rest assured that any concession that is granted to any new industry will also be granted to them. It is not the policy of the Government to discriminate, to grant concessions to some people and not to others. There may be other matters coming before the Government which may have to be considered differently from industries; I am told that there is a considerable sum of money to be spent in building hotels without Government aid, but that is a different matter. As far as the hat factory is concerned, dollars were released so as to allow this industry to be carried on; therefore it cannot be said that any obstacle is put in the way of the industry. It is inconceivable that any member of the Government would agree to a policy which would hurt the admirable initiative shown by the persons who have started this industry, while at the same time he is helping people from outside. I assure the honourable senior member for the City that it is not a question of the Government discriminating between this particular firm and other firms; it may be that the wheels of the administrative machinery move slowly, but now that the matter has been brought to the notice of the legislative side of the machinery, the wheels will move far more quickly.

Mr. COX: I would like to remind the honourable senior member for St. Philip that this is the case of a West Indian Company which has its headquarters in Grenada, and therefore this Company cannot be regarded as a foreign company. (Mr. GARNER: I spoke about the hat factory). The honourable senior member for St. John will remember that not so long ago we passed an amendment to the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, which had the effect of reducing the amount of duty payable on imported cotton yarn, and so on, and allowing the duty free importations of machinery and apparatus to be used in the manufacture of cloth from cotton yarn. That was in respect of the West Indian Knitting Mills Ltd.

We reduced the British Preferential Tariff from 10% to 5%, and the General Tariff from 20% to 10% and the same thing would apply to the hat factory. This Bill is just to provide for an extension for a year of the law which expired in May this year until the Report of the Customs Union Commission has been presented.

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

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

The three Clauses of the Bill and the three Schedules were read and passed.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

MARRIED WOMAN'S (SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL, 1950.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that the House do now revert to Order No. 2.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to resume debate on the second reading of a Bill to amend the law relating to Separation and Maintenance. The honourable senior member for St. John is entitled to speak now, he having moved on the last occasion that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

Mr. ALLDER: On the last occasion when we were discussing this Bill I was trying my best to get honourable members to realise what serious consequences might result from the passing of this Bill as it stands. I am still of the same opinion. Honourable members will agree that the present set-up which we have in this island and the general outlook by the masses towards marriage would cause a law such as this to be misused by those who might have to use it. I think that honourable members should realise that there are certain things which, if they are left to themselves, will remedy any evils which might exist. I view this matter from several angles; no law should be such that one individual has a greater privilege than the other. What I mean is that no party should be put at a disadvantage under the law, and in this case I can only say that husbands are not going to have things very easy. I have studied Court records as I have been able to study them, I have listened to cases and I have found that in most cases husbands have been put at a disadvantage. Indiscretion on the part of wives has been very noticeable and that has caused me to feel that not only will this Bill work against the interest of the community generally but it will have the tendency to prevent an increase of marriages if it is passed as it is. I feel that anything which will prevent people from entering upon marriage with fear should be done.

As regards the allowance which it is proposed that the wives should be given, that has been considered to be somewhat high, especially when the allowance for children has been increased. I do feel that some caution should be exercised in respect of this Bill; I do not think that any section of the community should be given the opportunity

to exploit the other section of the community especially when it comes to a question of the home circle. I do not intend to continue any lengthy debate on this Bill this afternoon because I expressed my views on it on the last occasion, and I am only trying to get honourable members to consider whether any amendment can be made to this Bill so as to prevent things which might be more evil from taking place in this community. We have read about accidents taking place in homes on account of misunderstandings and most of those accidents are due to a low economic standard and the difficulty which husbands encounter when saddled with the responsibility of providing for their families. It is not always that wives understand the difficult position in which their husbands are placed and as a result disputes arise, accidents occur, sometimes somebody is killed and hanging or imprisonment takes place. Some time ago many wives and unmarried women looked forward to receiving greater amounts through the Courts from their husbands and from the fathers of their children respectively; these people had to be told that the law had not yet been amended and there was a certain amount of disappointment. I repeat that some things are better left to themselves than if you try to adjust them. No law can give that amount of society which you need; we have passed laws which have not remedied the evils which exist and to make those laws more rigorous would not be of any avail. There was a time when a wife was considered as an object owned by her husband, but the march of civilisation has changed that and has given her a greater status; she is now permitted to compete in the labour market in all branches of industry and she is not at present obliged to maintain the household as was the case in the past. These things should be taken into consideration. I do not want to give the feeling that I have something against womenfolk; I would like to see that they are not being put at a disadvantage by our passing a law which might appear to be in their interest, but which in truth and in fact might not be to their good. You must maintain your wife voluntarily or involuntarily and you are compelled to contribute 10/- per week for the maintenance of each of your children; that might appear to be a very good thing as a law being passed, but in the end you are preventing more young people from becoming united in marriage because of the fear that at some time or other the marriage vow may be broken and individuals may be penalised with a Bill of this sort following the breaking up of the home circle. Those are points which should be considered in dealing with this Bill. I notice that there is nothing to protect husbands——

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—If I may make an explanation, the honourable member has forgotten that from the beginning the consideration of this Bill was postponed because the honourable senior member for St. James made that particular point and I promised that I would get an amendment made by the Attorney General. The amendment has been made but I did not deal with it because the honourable senior member for St. James was not present. Since then the honourable member has seen the amendment and he agrees that it is in order, that a husband can bring a case against his wife. The only reason why I am going on with this Bill to-day in the absence of the honourable senior member for St. James is because he has seen the amendment and agrees that his point has been covered.

Mr. ALLDER: I will conclude my remarks now that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said what he has said. I am glad that there is an amendment to be made to this Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for the City, having seconded the motion for the postponement of the further consideration of this Bill on the last occasion, is entitled to continue his remarks now.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I seconded the motion for the postponement and spoke on the last occasion. I do not desire to say anything more on this occasion and I bow to Your Honour.

Mr. MAPP: There is a new departure in this Bill in that it is proposed to utilise the services of the Probation Officer to investigate the circumstances of the parties in these domestic cases. I wanted to enquire if those circumstances meant financial circumstances or if they had any bearing on the decision of the Court with regard to the cases in question. However, I notice that under Clause 4 of the Bill the Police Magistrate has to decide all issues arising in the proceedings other than the issue as to the amount to be directed to be paid by an order before the Probation Officer furnishes any statement. I am afraid of that provision because I think it is a dangerous thing in so far as financial circumstances are concerned, to have somebody other than the Court prying into people's private affairs. I know that in certain cases Magistrates summon employers to give evidence, but I do not like the feature of the Court sending somebody to enquire into people's private affairs. There are certain things which might appear to you as to a man's circumstances but you might be wrong; the Probation Officer may look at a matter in one way whereas it might be the other way. The Magistrate might make a decision as to the amount which a man should pay to his wife on the Probation Officer's report rather than on the man's salary; but the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has much experience in this matter and if he assures us that there is nothing dangerous in this provision, the House is entitled to take his opinion for what it is worth. As regards the question of publicity in these cases, in Great Britain there is no strict law and it is left to the good sense or decency of newspaper editors to avoid bringing into the open anything which should be suppressed; but here we have what should be published. I think that we should adopt the practice which is followed in big countries.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill, and that it be an instruction to the Committee that the Clerk should only call the numbers of the Clauses instead of reading through the Clauses.

Mr. ADAMS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Clause 1, the title Clause, was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 2 as by deleting all the words after the word "Act" occurring in line 19.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended together with the necessary consequential amendments do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 3, beginning with the words "Police Magistrate" deleted from Clause 2, was called and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the subsequent Clauses be renumbered to suit the number of the Clauses passed.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 4 was called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill, I would like to say in reply to the honourable junior member for St. Thomas that it is in the interest of a husband to say that he is working for 4s a week and it is in the interest of his wife to say that he is working for \$40 a month. It is useful to have the Probation Officer to enquire into the means of the parties and the Magistrate will ask the Probation Officer to give the result of his enquiry on oath. It is far better to have an independent person to make the enquiry rather than have a husband and wife giving two different accounts. You have an independent person who is an Officer of the Court to give evidence in the matter. I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 8 were called and passed.

Clause 9 was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that wherever the figures "1895" appear in the Bill that they be deleted and the figures "1896" be inserted in place thereof.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 9 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

Clauses 10 to 13 were called and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to delete Clause 14 and to substitute the following therefor:—

"A husband shall be entitled to apply to the Magistrate of the district in which either the husband or wife resides for an order on the ground that his wife has been guilty of persistent cruelty to his children, or has been guilty of adultery and the Court shall have power to make, upon any such application, either or both of the orders set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 3 of this Act, and the provisions of this Act shall apply to an application and order under this section as they apply to an application and order under section 3, except that for references to a married woman and her husband shall be substituted references to a married man and his wife."

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

Mr. ADAMS: It is true that this Bill seeks to bring our law into conformity with similar laws in Great Britain and other British Colonies by extending the grounds for making an application to include bodily harm, persistent cruelty, desertion, wilful neglect or refusal to provide reasonable maintenance, adultery and the communication of venereal disease knowingly. At the present moment, as some honourable members are aware, a wife is in a difficult position as regards applying for an order, and a husband has no means of applying for an order. At the present moment our law limits the right of a married woman to going into the Court and proving two things before she can get an order against her husband; (a) that her husband has deserted her and (b) that he has failed or neglected to maintain her. A husband

can desert his wife and continue to support her and she cannot obtain any order against him. A husband can turn away from his wife at the altar, but if he sends her a reasonable sum of money every month, she cannot obtain an order against him. In England and in Barbados the very fact that marriage has taken place, compels a husband and wife to live together. A wife is entitled to her husband's company and *vice versa*, but on the other hand there may be instances where one or the other party does not comply with the law's demands; nevertheless there is no statutory provision for getting a broken relationship put back where it should be. Until we passed the Divorce Act there was no question as to the custody of children, compelling a husband to go back with his wife or anything of the sort. There is the necessity for living together with your wife or husband as the case may be and with this proposed Clause put in this Bill an innocent person has the right to go to the Court and protect himself or herself. At present a husband can commit adultery every minute of the day and his wife does not have the right to obtain an order against him as long as he supports her; he can even insist that she must stay with him or he will not support her. But under Clause 2 of this Bill a wife can obtain an order against her husband on the ground of adultery or any of the grounds mentioned in that Clause, with the provision in Clause 3 that the legal custody of the children of the marriage be given to her. In this Bill the grounds on which a wife can obtain an order for maintenance are being extended and the Magistrate can make an order for the custody of the children of the marriage.

As regards the point made by the honourable senior member for St. John, in this proposed Clause we have not said that a husband can apply for an order where his wife has been convicted of assaulting him. That provision has been left out because it is unusual for a wife to beat her husband; it was not thought necessary to put such a provision in this Clause. What has been put in is that for which the average husband would want a separation order, that is, if his wife has been guilty of persistent cruelty to his children or if she has been guilty of adultery. I may say that if a man marries a widow who has children he is responsible for the support of those children and under this Clause it may be that the children of a previous marriage are included. Under this Clause a husband can go to the Court and get an order that he is not bound to live with his wife and under Clause 3 (b) he gets the children. If a wife is guilty of cruelty to the children or of adultery the husband can get a separation order and he is entitled to the custody of every child. Some people have a belief that the boys belong to the father and the girls belong to the mother; but a husband is entitled to all the children born in wedlock. That costs a husband a lot of money, but in this case it will cost him practically nothing. I think I have made it sufficiently clear that under this Clause a husband can obtain a separation order on the ground that his wife has been guilty of persistent cruelty to his children or that she has been guilty of adultery and he no longer has to support her. If honourable members feel that the husband is still badly off I remind them that the law has been in existence for 60 years that a Churchwarden can support the husband and sue the wife in order to get back the money which he has spent on the husband. Honourable members can feel assured that if some of their constituents go to the Almshouse, the wives of such constituents have to pay what the Churchwarden spends on their husbands.

I hope that will satisfy the honourable senior member for St. John. I beg to move that Clause 14 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. MILLER: I feel that where a husband proves before the Court that his wife has committed adultery he should be free to get married again. (Laughter). I think it would be rather difficult for a husband to prove adultery on the part of his wife and that would be his only escape from paying this amount of £2 a week. Why should divorce be an instrument within the reach of certain classes? I am wondering if a husband can prove adultery on the part of his wife, whether the marriage should not be annulled.

Mr. MAPP: The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said a very amusing thing. I do not know if it has been accepted and if we are to live in hope or if we are to give up hope. The honourable member said that if a man marries a widow who has children he is responsible for the children. If that is the law we cannot do anything about it. The honourable senior member for St. George has made certain proposals with which I cannot agree and I am really sorry that we did not have more time to consider this amendment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not think that anybody could take seriously the suggestion which has been made by the honourable senior member for St. George. The honourable member will appreciate that while I am not speaking for the Church, divorce should not be made as easy as the honourable member has suggested. What would the honourable member think of putting in this Bill a provision where, if a wife could prove adultery on the part of a husband, he should be divorced? If that provision was made I wonder how many divorce cases would take place in the lifetime of some honourable members? Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you appreciate the point I am making; you cannot make the question of divorce so easy because we would be put in the Divorce Court every day.

Mr. MILLER: I am thinking of being married as the one and only complete way of living. I have had to use the Divorce Court and in talking along this line honourable members would understand what I mean. The truth of the matter is that going to the Divorce Court is an easy thing for those who have money, and I want to bring that Court within the reach of those to whom this particular Bill applies. In this case the first thing a wife will think of is this £2 a week which the husband will have to pay under an order. I do not think that the instrument of divorce should be placed within the reach of the people at the top and not within the reach of the people at the bottom. The question of divorce is nothing new; I used it some years ago and the only ground was adultery. I feel that any husband who can prove a case of adultery against his wife should be entitled to have his marriage annulled and that should apply either in respect of a husband or a wife.

The question that Clause 14 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 15 to 18 were called and passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee with amendments.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Mr. REECE: I beg to move that the House do now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business and that Orders Nos. 47 and 48 be taken as the first two Orders of the Day under this Head.

Mr. WILKINSON seconded the motion which was agreed to.

CHRIST CHURCH (HIGHWAYS INSPECTOR'S TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE) BILL, 1950

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business now stands in the name of the honourable junior member for Christ Church:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Highway Commissioners of Christ Church to increase the travelling allowance payable to their Inspector of Highways.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This Bill seeks to authorise the Highway Commissioners of the parish of Christ Church to increase the travelling allowance payable to the Inspector of Highways by a sum not exceeding £25 per annum over and above the sum not exceeding £50 per annum at present authorised to be paid to this Officer. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH: I feel that rather than pass this Bill merely to allow the Highway Commissioners of Christ Church to increase the travelling allowance paid to their Inspector of Highways, the honourable junior member for Christ Church should accept an amendment to include the other parishes. (Mr. REECE: Each parish must have a separate Bill). It is not that you are compelling the Highway Commissioners of any parish to increase the travelling allowance paid to their Inspector of Highways, but the provision would be there if any parish wanted to increase the travelling allowance of its Inspector without having to come back to the House for permission to do so.

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

On the motion of Mr. REECE, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

On a similar motion the Preamble was postponed.

The five Clauses of the Bill were read and passed. The Preamble was read and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. REECE, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

HART AND BECKLES GRATUITY BILL, 1950

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable junior member for Christ Church—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Highway Commissioners of

Christ Church to pay a gratuity to James Hart and Albert Beckles out of Highways funds.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—The object of this Bill is to give the Highway Commissioners of Christ Church permission to pay a gratuity to James Hart and Albert Beckles who had been employed by the Commissioners of Highways as Superintendents of labourers for a period of 12 years. These two former employees of the Board are not eligible for a pension and it is felt that they should be paid a gratuity in respect of their services to the Board. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Mr. REECE, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed.

Clause 1, the title Clause, was read and passed. Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2. The Commissioners of Highways of the parish of Christ Church are hereby authorised to pay out of the highway fund of the said parish to James Hart and Albert Beckles, former employees of the said Commissioners of Highways, the following gratuities, that is to say, to the said James Hart Two hundred and forty-four dollars and to the said Albert Beckles Two hundred and eleven dollars, and to provide for payment of the said gratuities and also for the payment of all expenses incidental to the passing of the said Act.

Mr. REECE: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I would just like to ask how are these gratuities computed.

Mr. REECE: These gratuities have been computed on the same lines as those on which the Government computes gratuities. The Auditor General has made the calculation with the Highway Commissioners.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 3 was read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. REECE, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ST. PHILIP PARISH LOAN BILL, 1950

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to move that Order No. 50 standing in my name be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. BRANCKER seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of the parish of Saint Philip to raise a loan not exceeding £5,000 to repair the Parish Church, Chapels and Parochial Buildings of the said parish.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Deputy Speaker.—At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip it was unanimously decided that the Parish Church and certain Chapels and Parochial Buildings should be repaired.

This Bill has been advertised, a petition in this respect has been presented to this House and everything is in order. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BRANCKER seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill and that it be an instruction to the Committee that the Clauses be taken as read on the numbers being called.

Mr. BRANCKER seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. BRANCKER, the Preamble was postponed.

The thirteen Clauses of the Bill were called and passed, the word "October" being inserted in the blank in Clause 4.

The two Schedules and the Preamble were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. BRANCKER, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and reported accordingly.

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

REVERSION TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the House do now revert to the consideration of Government Business and that Order No. 11 be taken as the next Order of the Day under this Head.

Mr. BRYAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

SEAWELL AIRPORT BILL, 1950

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter:—Second reading of a Bill intitled An Act to provide for the Management, Control and Supervision of the Seawell Airport.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This Bill seeks to grant to the Governor-in-Executive Committee the power to make Regulations for the Management, Control and Supervision of Seawell Airport. I think that honourable members are aware that it is necessary to have some better control at the Airport than what there is at present. As the position is now, you have animals and even people walking across the runway which is a very dangerous thing in respect of planes arriving here; and the Government has received complaints from pilots that in approaching the Airport they have seen people walking across the runway. That, I repeat, is a very dangerous state of affairs, and when an accident takes place there will be an international affair and then it will be said that we had not taken the necessary precautions. It is for that reason that the Government has agreed that Regulations should be made for the Management, Control and Supervision of the Airport just as we have Regulations in respect of the Harbour. I am convinced that it is necessary to have a measure of control at the Airport from the point of view of people's safety and even from public appearance. The Airport is no rendezvous as some people seem to think and I doubt very much that any honourable member would object to the principle of this Bill. The Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive

Committee will be laid on the Table of the House. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BRYAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I congratulate the honourable mover on the careful omissions of which he was guilty in explaining that the purpose of this Bill is to ensure that people may not be killed by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. The honourable member had his eyes on paragraphs (a) and (b) of Sub-Clause 2 of Clause 3 of the Bill. In paragraph (a) of this Sub-clause the regulations will provide for declaring any building or part of a building or any area of land at Seawell Airport to be a prohibited or restricted place or area; and in paragraph (b) they will provide for regulating and restricting the admission of persons whether as passengers or otherwise to any part of Seawell Airport. The honourable member has failed to refer to paragraphs (c) regulating the use of motor vehicles of any class or description on any part of Seawell Airport; (d) appointing parking places for motor vehicles at necessarily commend a Bill to anyone by pointing out Seawell Airport; and (e) the issue of permits and conditions of issue of such permits and conditions to be observed by the holders of such permits. This Bill naturally has to be taken as a whole and you do not necessarily commend a Bill to anyone by pointing out its less objectionable features. I am not going so far as to say that this Bill should be refused its second reading, but I must remind the House of conditions as they have been existing for a long time—and they still are existing—at Seawell Airport in connection with the use of motor vehicles and the use of parking places in that area. We had a very interesting and provocative discussion some time ago as to how the Airport was being run and on the question of facilities which the owners of certain motor vehicles seemed to enjoy and the lack of facilities from which owners of other vehicles suffered. I would like the Government to appreciate that certain cars are still permitted to go in certain places—it may be argued that with the new Regulations that state of affairs will cease to exist—but I would like to let the Government know that at the present time certain taxis, the property of the capitalistic concerns in this island, which have a multiplicity of cars, are allowed privileged positions at the Airport. I saw only a few Sundays ago, a sign posted up that no persons are allowed beyond a certain place; but I saw one of the cars belonging to Dear's garage there with a chauffeur in it. It may be said that there are Regulations in respect of the Airport but it is a question as to how they are enforced. It may also be said that this Bill gives any Police Constable the power to arrest any person who infringes any of the Regulations and there may be an improved state of affairs in the future; but you would have to instil into the minds of members of the Police Force that, despite what they feel the Officers in the Force might want, they must be impartial. They must ensure that the Regulations are carried out irrespective of whoever is the person or the owner of the particular vehicle in respect of which it is their duty to see that the vehicle is regulated and restricted in so far as its use at the Airport is concerned. At present we find that the taxis of the small owners are restricted while those of Dear's garage can do more or less what they like. I speak from personal experience having visited the Airport and seen what actually goes on up there.

Another point is this; this Bill stipulates that the Governor-in-Executive Committee may make Regulations for the management, control and supervision of

the Airport and that would also include the people inside the Airport. I would urge that the Governor-in-Executive Committee make Regulations debarring any person from soliciting fares from within the building for any garage, even although the person be in the guise of the uniform of the Airways Company for which he is paid only a nominal sum. when in truth and in fact he is an employee of the big garage, and he solicits the use of the cars of the big garage for which he draws his pay cheque as soon as he leaves Seawell and no more planes are expected for the day. I urge that Regulations be made to regulate that state of affairs, there is this freedom which a particular employee of a big garage now enjoys because his employers have had the acumen or the cunning to put him in uniform and let him do their dirty work for them. I urge that when these Regulations are being made due consideration be given to these very important factors in the hope that the state of affairs at the Airport may be better in the future than it has been in the past, and better than it happens to be now.

Mr. SMITH : In support of what the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has said, I can say that at Seawell Airport there are various stands for taxis. I have been shown the stand for the contract cars and that is situated practically adjoining the building and there is another stand for the ordinary cars which is practically at the back of the building. I would be glad if the Government would instruct the Supervisor or the Manager of the Airport to have the stands arranged in such a way that passengers will also be able to see the ordinary cars; because if you have a contract for transporting passengers you can very nearly park your cars on the Garrison pasture and you will be called up. The cars which are awaiting hire should be allowed to be parked in such a place that they can be seen. I feel that the stand for the ordinary cars should be placed at the front and that for the contract cars should be placed at the back.

Mr. MILLER: I am wondering if the Government is considering the question of arranging a small office at the Airport for travelling agents as is the case in other places. As regards the question of transportation up there, a year ago many prosecutions took place as a result of disputes on the part of taxi owners because priority seems to be given to one taxi company; and I am sure that the Government is aware of the necessity for peace and quiet at the Airport. I would suggest to the Government that such attention be paid to the question of transport up there as will prevent people from rushing for transport.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not think that the honourable member went to the Airport recently, or if he went up there he did not use his eyes. I was up there yesterday and there is an information booth and the travelling agents can make use of many other facilities at the Airport. The facilities up there are not as elaborate as they are in London or the United States of America because our resources do not allow us to provide any such elaborate facilities. As far as the question of transportation is concerned, I can assure honourable members that the Government has taken so much care of the transportation at the Airport that I believe it has done something which has not been done in any other part of the world. We have regulated the way in which things should work, who should be given priority in this matter of transport and things have been so rigid that we have been criti-

cized for doing something which is not done anywhere else, therefore there need not be any fear about the Government not taking its true stand in this matter. There has been some unpleasantness at Seawell, there has been criticism about one influential garage owner getting a greater share of work than other taxi owners and the Government went into that matter and made regulations in respect of it. Nobody can say that the Government has not done its duty; I can assure honourable members that as far as parking regulations are concerned, everything has been done to make it easy for every taxi owner to trade on an equitable basis. On the question of making regulations for other vehicles such as bicycles and donkey-carts, it might be necessary to make an amendment to the Bill but there will not be any harm done if we pass this Bill now.

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

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

The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION BILL

Mr. ADAMS: I should like to inform honourable members that I propose to deal with the Natural Gas Corporation Bill of which I gave notice earlier this afternoon as the first Order of the Day next Tuesday. I am taking steps to have cyclo-styled copies of this Bill made so that honourable members might have copies in their hands in a day or two, instead of having to wait on the printing of the Bill. I am hoping that it will be possible to have copies of the Bill posted tomorrow in time for the country mail. The position in respect of natural gas is such that the Government has to take over not only the natural gas wells but also the equipment. This matter is one of great urgency; negotiations have been going on between the Government and the B.U.O.C. for months but they have not been successful and so it has become necessary for the Government to own the gas wells and the equipment. I hope that honourable members will come prepared to deal with this Bill.

EXPRESSION OF GOOD WISHES TO MR. BETHELL.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—The honourable junior member for St. John will not be present with us next Tuesday; by that time he will have left the island on his way to New Zealand. I am sure that honourable members will wish him *bon voyage* in more ways than one. I understand that the honourable member is not a good sailor and to have more than two weeks' sailing in the Pacific is not a pleasant experience. I feel sure that the honourable member will fully enjoy the hospitality which is going to be shown to him in New Zealand;

the Conference which the honourable member is going to attend will last for eight days and for another three weeks he will be able to see in that country a scenery which is the loveliest in the whole world. He will vicariously enjoy that scenery, and to show the spirit of friendliness of Barbadians, there could hardly be a more fitted member of this Assembly than the honourable junior member for St. John. We all feel that the honourable member is a very fitted person for a festive occasion of this sort and we look forward to his coming back to us refreshed in more senses than one, and continuing to be not only silent but to be a valuable member on the left.

Mr. WILKINSON: The honourable junior member for St. John has unfortunately left the House; I think he has gone to try to obtain suitable garments to get ready for going to New Zealand. I wish on the honourable member's behalf to express his appreciation of the remarks which have been made by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. I am convinced that the honourable junior

member for St. John will uphold the traditions of this House when in New Zealand. On his behalf I beg to thank the honourable senior member for St. Joseph for the remarks which he has made.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should like to associate myself with honourable members in the good wishes which have been extended to the honourable junior member for St. John in respect of the journey on which he is about to set out.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 17th day of October, 1950, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 17th day of October, 1950, at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.