

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 31st October, 1950

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS, (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT, F. E. MILLER, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., J. E. T. BRANCKER, F. C. GODDARD, W. W. REECE, K.C., J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., E. L. WARD, O. T. ALLDER, and R. G. MAPP.

MINUTES.

Prayers were read.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 17th October, 1950, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

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

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended the 30th September, 1950, from the Commissioners of Highways of the Parish of St. George in respect of tenantry roads.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended the 30th September, 1950, from the Highway Commissioners of the Parish of St. George.

Financial Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the month of September, 1950.

PAPERS LAID

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

Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Market for the year 1949-50.

Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders to the 30th September, 1950.

Quarterly transactions in Rum to the 30th September, 1950.

PETITIONS.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— I beg to present a petition for the Barbados Mutual Aid and Assessment Assurance Society praying the House to pass a Bill to authorize the Society to cease carrying on business and to wind up its affairs. The petition is respectively worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— I beg to present a petition from the Vestry of the Parish of St. Thomas praying the House to pass a Bill to authorize them to sell "Glendale", the Parochial Medical Officer's residence. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$34,540 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950-51, No. 30, which form the schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move, later in the day, the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the abovementioned Resolution in all its stages today.

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. REECE: Bill to provide for the winding up and dissolution of the Barbados Mutual Aid and Assessment Assurance Society.

Dr. CUMMINS: Bill to authorize the Vestry of the Parish of St. Thomas to sell "Glendale", the Parochial Medical Officer's residence.

Mr. DOWDING enters the House and takes his seat.

QUESTIONS.

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

1. Is the Government aware that inconvenience and hardship are still being endured by the travelling

public on bus routes in the parish of St. Thomas, especially on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays?

2. Will the Government cause the service, especially that on Routes 2 and 3, to be increased to accommodate the greater numbers of people travelling on these days?

3. Will the Government cause separate and additional buses to be placed on such routes for hawkers, more especially during the Xmas season, in order that the situation may be relieved.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On the motion of Mr. REECE, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, a Bill to provide for the winding up and dissolution of the Barbados Mutual Aid and Assessment Assurance Society is read a first time.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill to authorize the Vestry of the Parish of St. Thomas to sell "Glendale", the Parochial Medical Officer's residence, is read a first time.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I regret that I forgot to present a Message from His Excellency the Governor at the proper time and I am asking leave to do so now.

There being no objection, the honourable member is granted leave to present the Message.

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

*His Excellency the Governor
To
The Honourable the House of Assembly*

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Address dated the 19th of September from the Honourable House of Assembly, and to inform the Honourable House that, in accordance with their request, the following telegram was sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Following for Speaker of the House of Commons begins. The Barbados House of Assembly desire, on the eve of the opening of the new House of Commons, to express its appreciation of the historic occasion and to convey a message of the goodwill of the people of this ancient and loyal Colony to the people of the United Kingdom."

2. The following reply has been received:—

"Your message was conveyed to the Speaker who was delighted to receive it and will read it to the House at the first convenient opportunity".

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,
31st October, 1950.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Rules 88 and 89 are suspended.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Rule 60 is suspended.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Before the honourable member makes his motion I should like to ask him to be good enough, either in moving the House into Committee of Supply or in Committee of Supply, to explain why the Resolution for the sum of \$14,400 is being dealt with as Capital Expenditure and not under Head, Subsidies and Grants.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and that it be an instruction to the Committee of Supply, when the House is in Committee of Supply to consider the Resolution of which I gave notice today.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and that it be an instruction to the Committee of Supply to consider the Resolution for \$34,540, of which notice is given to-day, is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Messrs. MOTTLEY and GARNER enter the House and take their seats.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I propose to deal with the Resolution for \$34,540 first. As honourable members will see from the schedule, the greater part of this money is for the General Hospital. The addendum sets out at some length the reasons for the several sums of money and I do not think that honourable members need very much more information but if there is any information that is not set out in the addendum in respect of matters which honourable members may have forgotten I feel sure that the senior member for St. Thomas who is more particularly concerned with the Hospital than myself will give the necessary information. I do not think, however, that honourable members need more information than is given, if they remember that this is, in effect, merely providing for sums of money to meet the requirements of the additional staff of the Hospital, the appointment of whom the Legislature has already approved of. For instance, the Order which provided for the appointment of 66 additional Nurses necessitates, naturally, the provision of additional dining tables, crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils, an additional assistant cook and two additional maids for the Nurses' Home. As far as the Surgery and Dispensary is concerned, the provision in the Estimates for 1950-51 has proved insufficient owing to the increased number of in-patients and out-patients being treated, the increased use of expensive preparations such as penicillin and streptomycin, and the increased prices of surgical dressings, X-ray films, and surgeons' gloves. The addendum explains, in respect of the additional amount for the Maternity Hospital, that it is to meet the replacement of pupil midwives' uniforms. As regards the additional amounts for Clerical Assistance and Conferences under Head, Miscellaneous, many Departments, in the course of the year, have asked for extra assistance on the clerical side and the amount which was provided in the Estimates has proved insufficient. Similarly with Con-

ferences. The Grenada Conference took place when we did not expect it and the Sugar Delegation naturally necessitated the spending of more money than would have been spent in a normal year. The Government is asking for a sum of money to be voted now, in effect, to cover the Sugar Conferences so that the normal provision of \$4,800 would still be available. If honourable members would look at the explanatory note 7, they will see the explanation there. It states: "Of the provision of \$4,800 included in the 1950-51 Estimates under this item, an amount of \$4,296 has already been expended to meet the expenses of the delegates to the Commonwealth Sugar Conference held in London and the Sugar Conference held in Grenada during the year; further expenditure estimated at \$1,782 is outstanding on account of these Conferences. Supplementary provision is now required and it is requested that the amount of \$6,078 be provided to meet expenditure for the remainder of the financial year." In anticipation of any questions I would just remind honourable members that this Conference vote was put in the Estimates about two years ago in order that there may be money available at any time if we had to send anybody off to a Conference; it has never been enough to cover all possibilities. On the question of Emigration we voted a lump sum which would include the cost of sending a person or persons to explore avenues for some of our workers instead of having to come to the House with a Resolution on each occasion because we would never know exactly when it suits the United States of America or some other Country to receive a delegation. Although this some of money is provided, it does not cover all the cost of sending persons to Conferences. As has happened in this case, it did not cover the expenses of the delegates to the Grenada Sugar Conference and the delegates to the Commonwealth Sugar Conference in London, neither of which was foreseen, and it does not cover the expenses of the forthcoming Conference at which the senior member for St. Peter is likely to represent the Eastern Caribbean Colonies. He is probably leaving on Saturday this week to go to Washington and those expenses are not covered by this Resolution. I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$34,540 do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— I think we should deal with the Heads separately. The first item on which I want to speak is item B, Surgery and Dispensary, \$25,000 under Head XXIII, Medical (2) General Hospital. This, we are told, is necessary because the provision in the Estimates has proved insufficient owing to the increased number of in-patients and out-patients being treated, the increased use of expensive preparations such as penicillin and streptomycin, and the increased prices of surgical dressings, X-ray films, and surgeon's gloves. I quite agree that we must have a properly trained staff at the Hospital and the necessary equipment as well and my main object in speaking on this item is to enquire from the senior member for St. Thomas whether he can assure us that there has been general improvement at the Hospital. We have had a great deal of talk in this House about the lack of nurses and the lack of doctors and the lack of discipline at the Hospital and I do hope that the honourable member will be able to assure us that conditions are much better now. I would like to know whether a Medical Superintendent has been appointed yet and, if so, for what period. I think that the honourable member on that last occasion said that it might be necessary to obtain the services of some of these medical men on special contract. I am told, Sir, that the discipline

—I am speaking mainly of the nurses and the porters—is far from what it should be, although there has been some slight improvement. I myself visited the Hospital last Sunday to see a friend and I was struck, when walking through the yard, to hear the noise that was going on, not only by visitors but also by attendants of the Hospital. After all, when one visits the hospital one should restrain oneself until one gets away from the precincts of the institution, because there are many people there who are seriously ill. The next item on which I want to speak is item 38, Conferences, under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous. We are asked to vote this sum of money and I think I heard the senior member for St. Joseph say that it would not include the cost of sending a delegation to Washington in connection with emigration because that is provided for in the Estimates and I think I also heard him say that the senior member for St. Peter would be leaving in a week's time to go up and discuss the possibilities of emigration with the proper Authorities in the U.S.A. Well, Sir, I do hope that we are not too late again in that respect. We have read in the newspapers that Jamaica has been very active in the matter and that her delegates are, as far as I read, already in Washington and I do hope, Sir, that the senior member for St. Peter will not find when he arrives there, that arrangements have been made for the importation of West Indian labourers to help in the canning and other industries and on the farms and that Barbados, as in the past, is only going to obtain a small quota. From this side of the table we have frequently emphasized that we are not satisfied that Barbados is properly represented in Washington. The representative of the West Indies is a Jamaican and after all, if you are born and bred in Jamaica and you are thinking of the West Indies you will have Jamaica uppermost in your mind and the other islands are apt to be left out; so I do hope that the senior member for St. Peter will not find that he arrived too late. Perhaps the senior member for St. Thomas will answer my questions about the Hospital before we go any further in this debate.

Mr. GODDARD: This large expenditure under Head, Hospital, is due to the increased cost of these expensive drugs, penicillin and other such modern drugs. I am reliably informed that if these drugs were obtained from the United States of America, they would cost less than half what we have to pay to-day for them from the United Kingdom. I wonder if the Government which has the power to do so would seek from the Controller the necessary dollars, to buy these expensive drugs from the United States of America and so save money for the colony. Only this morning I read in the *Advocate* that an Agreement has been made between the United Kingdom and Canada and America whereby we would get from the 1st January next year a certain increased quantity of goods from those countries. I do feel that the parties concerned should be able to get an allocation of dollars in respect of these expensive drugs which they are now importing from the United Kingdom and if they can be obtained cheaper from the United States of America, taking of course into consideration the quality, they should buy them 100 per cent. from that source. Probably the drugs would come down to this island through the United Kingdom, but I do hope that attention would be paid to my suggestion because it is a very large sum we are paying for these drugs, and if we can get them from the United States of America cheaper we would be saving an amount in the vicinity of \$12,500.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Chairman,—I would be glad if the honourable member would give us some information as to the amount of money which has already been expended out of the vote for the Surgery and Dispensary of the General Hospital, in respect of which the sum of \$6,072 was "fixed by law" and the sum of \$83,095 was "voted" in the Estimates for 1950-51. The increased cost of these drugs cannot be avoided nor can we prevent people from going to the Hospital to seek medical aid—indeed, that is exactly what the Hospital has been provided for and I do not think that honourable members would scruple over the cost. But what we are entitled to know is exactly how much of this money has been already expended. The Resolution calls for \$25,000 more and, as has already been pointed out, we have about six more months to go, so the senior member for St. Thomas ought to be able to tell us how much of the money which was provided in the Estimates is in hand. In respect of the items under Head, Miscellaneous—Clerical Assistance and Conferences—the addendum most clearly sets out how much of the respective sums for these purposes has been expended. The honourable member is able to tell us that \$4,296 of the money voted for Conferences is already expended, how it has been expended, how much is left, and why is it necessary to have additional money to send delegates to conferences from time to time. But when it comes to that part of the Resolution which deals with the Hospital, we have no information as to how much of the money has already been expended and I hope that the senior member for St. Thomas, with his intimate knowledge of the Hospital, will be able to give this Committee that information. After all, we are entitled to know how much of the money has been spent and we want to know it. Not only should we be told why this additional money is necessary but we should also be told how much of the amount which was provided has been spent; that is all I am asking and I think that it is a very legitimate question. With regard to Conferences, I agree *in toto* with what has been said by the junior member for St. James. It is essential that we should have a representative in the United States of America to put the case for our workers. It is only too true that the representative from Jamaica, who is at the same time the representative of the entire Caribbean area, would at all times have Jamaicans uppermost in his mind. Jamaica is nearer to the United States of America than Barbados is and it is cheaper to get Jamaican workers to that country than it is to get Barbadian workers there, but it must be emphasized that the Jamaican workers are not as good workers as we have in Barbados. We have workers in this island who are second to none, so we should see to it that we have a representative on the spot who would have the interest of the workers in the Eastern Caribbean at heart. Do not have a federal outlook in respect of matters pertaining to Emigration. The neighbouring colony of Trinidad and Tobago has recently increased the amount of money which an emigrant must deposit—\$250 I think it is—before he can enter and that makes it absolutely prohibitive for persons from neighbouring islands to go to Trinidad. With all that in mind, with the knowledge that emigration to the big countries is being restricted because of their unemployment problems, it is essential that the person who represents the Caribbean area should be able to lay the case for the Eastern Caribbean, especially Barbados which, I repeat, has the finest workers in the Caribbean area.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When we on this side of the House pressed for the postponement of these matters on the last occasion we did so because we wanted to

digest all the items in this Resolution and thereby be able to contribute some small quota to the debate by way of our criticisms. Now I will begin with the Hospital. I believe that I have gained the reputation for offering very severe criticisms of the Hospital on more than one occasion in this House but I further believe that those criticisms have done some good because the Hospital Authorities have begun to put their house in order. I remember reading that a member of the Government in the Other Place pleaded that the Hospital should be given a chance to put their house in order, although the opportunity was taken to make out that some of the statements that were made in this House were not statements of facts; nevertheless, he still pleaded that we should give the Hospital a chance to put their house in order. That is what I propose to do because I think it is the right thing to do. But I still would like to state that all is not well at the Hospital. While I think that we should give the Hospital a chance to put their house in order yet I feel that if, in the meantime, we see anything wrong we should offer criticism. The junior member for Christ Church really anticipated me when he remarked about the little information that is given in these notes. The note in respect of the Surgery and Dispensary states:—"The provision in the Estimates for 1950-51 has proved insufficient owing to the increased number of in-patients and out-patients being treated, the increased use of expensive preparations such as penicillin and streptomycin, and the increased prices of surgical dressings, X-ray films, and surgeons' gloves". You still have about six months to go and if you tell this honourable Chamber that the money which was provided has proved insufficient and that you want \$25,000 more, you should be able to give some further explanation. Surely we should be told how much of the money that was provided has been spent. Only half of the financial year is gone and you have come back for \$25,000 more; surely we are entitled to know something about the money which has already been spent. Unlike other honourable members I am going to strike another note. The senior member for St. Thomas has always been inclined to listen and is always ready to investigate any matter that is drawn to his attention as Minister in charge of the particular Department. I am referring now to Head, Maternity Hospital, and the note to the item under that Head says this:—"The provision in the Estimates 1950-51 has proved insufficient to meet the replacement of pupil midwives' uniforms". I just want to say this without attempting to air it on the floor of the House because sometimes when you do such things it may re-act—in this case on the patients or the employees. But I want to sound a warning. There are those of us in public life to whom people cannot help coming because we are easily accessible and I would like to throw out the hint that at this Maternity Hospital all is not well. I have taken the matter up with the senior member for St. Thomas. I have taken it up with the Director of Medical Services. I have got certain information about the treatment to patients by the Matron of this institution but I am not going to say much more on the subject. I just throw it out because I want this institution to be put in order. When people come here as Heads of Departments they must understand that they must treat West Indian employees as they treat European employees. I repeat that the treatment to patients and employees at that institution leaves very much to be desired. I am not going to say very much more, except that the senior member for St. Thomas should keep his ears to the ground,

have a chat with the Director of Medical Services and warn him that if this kind of treatment continues there will be a full dress debate on the matter in this House. I come now to the most important item—in my opinion—in this Resolution, namely, Conferences. I do not think, Sir, that the Government could, within reason, come to the House for too much money as far as I am concerned, not for Conferences but to send representatives to Washington in respect of Emigration. I say that there is no honourable member of this Chamber who would not vote for any reasonable amount to be spent in assisting to get some of our workers away to other Countries. I still maintain that in this question of Emigration more should be done. I feel that if you keep on persisting in your efforts you will discover that it is not only in the United States of America but in other fields not far distant we can possibly make investigations even if they do not prove to be successful. Nothing beats a trial and if you come here for money to send people abroad for that purpose—whether it be Canada, America or wherever else it may be—it will be money well spent. But this is what I want to know, although you cannot take everything you read in a newspaper: On this point I do not speak as a West Indian at all. Do not let us fool ourselves. The people in this Country do not expect us to speak on Emigration from the West Indian point of view. I would be dishonest to vote one cent to have anybody from Barbados represent any other island but Barbados. I cannot blame the representative from Jamaica in Washington for having uppermost in his mind Jamaica first and Jamaica last and I hope that whomever we send would see to it that Barbados comes first. The unemployment problem in Barbados is unlike the unemployment problem in other parts of the West Indies—perhaps of the world. When I read in the newspaper this morning that the senior member for St. Peter who is versed in labour matters in Barbados would be going to Washington to represent the Eastern Caribbean I registered my disapproval because I honestly feel that the other islands in the Eastern Caribbean should send somebody to represent them. This problem is so acute in Barbados that we dare not take any chance. If there is a likelihood of getting a quota of 1000, why suggest that that 1,000 be divided between Barbados, St. Lucia and so on? I hope the honourable member in charge of the Resolution would be able to tell this House that the newspaper misrepresented the facts. There are other honourable members like myself who think the same way but may not get up and say so. We know how acute the unemployment problem is in Barbados and there are thousands who would be glad to get out. It is rumoured that the senior member for St. Peter will be going to Washington to represent the Eastern Caribbean at this conference on Emigration. Well, there are fewer members of this Chamber for whom I have a fonder feeling than I have for the senior member for St. Peter. He may be a good man at being able to give statistics in connection with labour matters in these parts but I have never minced matters. When you are in Rome you are expected to act like a Roman. In the United States of America the Race problem is so acute that it is rather difficult for a black man to be heard; that is a fact. I do not grudge the honourable member going to the United States of America. Having turned the matter over in my mind I feel that he would be able to give certain information about Labour in the West Indies which some of the people with whom he will be associated would not be able to give. But just to take the senior member for St. Peter and send him as a delegate purely to represent Barbados on the question of Emigration

would, I should say on the floor of this House, serve no useful purpose. I am throwing that out because some people are saying "What is the use of sending the senior member for St. Peter? He is a man of colour and will not be heard." I am saying this in all good faith: If it comes to the question of Barbados having to enter into an Agreement with the United States, because of the argument that it is so much cheaper to get labourers from Jamaica owing to its geographical position in relation to the southern States, I do not think that even the back benchers, least of all the Members of the Opposition, would hesitate to enter into any Agreement by which we would have to contribute a portion of the transportation cost because it means so much to Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I want to assure this House that I have made up my mind to give the Hospital a chance to put its house in order. I have always endeavoured to discuss matters pertaining to the administration of that institution with the Minister in charge of that Department and I have always found him ready and willing to co-operate. But I hope that he will be able to give us the information which the junior member for Christ Church has asked for and that he would take heed to my remarks about the Maternity Hospital.

Mr. ADAMS: As far as the Hospital is concerned, the provision in the Estimates is \$89,767, the \$6,672 being in respect of salaries. The sum of \$48,000 is provided for drugs, chemicals, disinfectants, etc.; that has been spent and they are now asking for \$12,000 more in respect of those items. \$16,800 is provided for dressings, bandages, etc. and they are asking for \$8,500 more in respect of those items. \$16,000 is provided for instruments and appliances and they are asking for \$4,000 in respect of those items. Finally, \$1,400 is provided for sundries. Last year \$1,000 was provided in respect of this item and the explanatory note in this year's Estimates is to the effect that the provision for the previous year was low because of the large stock of surgeons' gloves in hand. They are now asking for \$500 more in respect of Sundries. These additional amounts show how the \$25,000 which is being asked for is made up. As regards the surgeons' gloves I understand that a year ago there was a fairly big stock but the new stock which has since been exported has cost considerably much more and they find it necessary to ask for an additional \$500 in this connection. So much for the General Hospital. With regard to the Maternity Hospital, the senior member for St. Thomas has informed me that he too has heard some vague rumours, that he is investigating the matter and that he hopes that if these rumours are well founded he would be able to make his influence felt in such a way as to be in a position later on to assure the House that any treatment of West Indians as though they were an inferior race of people would be ended. As regards the Conferences, I am sorry if I did not make it sufficiently plain that the money we are asking for to-day does not affect the Emigration question. I think it would be a matter of interest to honourable members to know that we are as active as Jamaica. There was a conference of Labour Officers at which the whole question of Labour in the West Indies and Emigration to the United States of America was discussed and it was decided that only two delegates would go, one to represent the Northern Caribbean area and the other to represent the Eastern Caribbean area. Jamaica has felt it necessary to send not only one delegate in the person of Mr. Bustamante but also another delegate in the person of Mr. Lyon, another representative of the House of Representatives in Jamaica, and Mr. Bustamante is accompanied by his private secretary; that is why it appears that Jamaica is doing more. As regards the Eastern Caribbean it is regarded that Barbados would be the most con-

cerned of these islands and that, therefore, the delegate should go from Barbados. The Government feels that the Labour Commissioner and the senior member for St. Peter, both of whom, the House will remember, went to Jamaica in connection with this very problem last year, should go. They are the most obvious choice, and I have no doubt that the other Governments—suppose it would be only a formal matter—will accept them. I do assure the senior member for the City that the Government is not at all behind him in his outlook on this particular problem. I do not think that Jamaica would feel that we are sending a representative who is going to Washington and acting just as if he were merely acting for a West Indian club. It is admitted on all sides, ever as far back as the Moyne Commission, that the claims of Jamaica and Barbados are outstanding, as far as Emigration is concerned, owing to their big populations; so that I think that it is well understood that it is not a case of fighting for Emigration in respect of every single colony in the Caribbean. I think that honourable members can rest assured that the senior member for St. Peter is not likely to let down Barbados in any respect; there is no doubt that the claims for Barbadian emigrants will be strongly pressed. I do not think that any honourable member need fear the results of this delegation. Its expenses are not coming out of the \$4,800 that is provided in the Estimates; that is the normal, routine vote for Conferences. I should just like to say, in passing, that if members of the new Trinidad Legislature are correctly reported, some of the statements made there on the question of Emigration to Trinidad are, to put it mildly, unfortunate. I make no further comment to-day. I think we in Barbados can be proud of the fact that although we have one of the worst population problems in these parts, we have not adopted the policy of keeping out "A" because a job must be given to a Barbadian first, and I also think that we are justified in pointing out at an early date to our friends in the West Indies that excessive insularity is the best means of killing Federation. I do think that on this question of Emigration we all have to be very careful, lest in pressing our own claims we forget that we are only part of the British Empire. I do not think there is any other point on which honourable members need additional information. If there is any and I have forgotten it I hope that before I sit down honourable members will remind me of it. But that is the position. This is the ordinary vote for Conferences and is not in respect of the proposed visit of the delegation to the U.S.A. on the question of Emigration.

Mr. MAPP: The addendum to the Resolution states that there is increased use of penicillin and streptomycin in the treatment of patients at the Hospital. I understood from reliable sources that there has recently been a big increase in the quantities of penicillin and alcoholic supplies ordered from the dispensary at the Hospital for Glendairy Prison. I do not expect the honourable member in charge of the Resolution or even the senior member for St. Thomas, my colleague, to have all the facts at their disposal and I, therefore, will take the proper procedure by asking questions about the matter. A hint, however, to the wise is sufficient and I am giving it now even before I ask questions. I hope that this will be taken as a warning because I also understand that there are very few prisoners and warders at the Prison being treated at all for such serious illnesses as would require the use of penicillin and alcoholic supplies; therefore it is surprising that there should be such a big increase in medical supplies at this institution. At the same time a very serious state of affairs exists up there. I do not

know the officer responsible for requisitioning the supplies but I hope that this would act as a warning as to what is going on. I will not ask anything further on it now but the House will certainly hear something more later on. I really do not want to venture down any by-ways as regards the last item, Conferences. I do not know how far the speech of the Leader of the House will lead us into such by-ways now but certainly he has made certain comments on the general situation with which I do not agree. I intend taking them up with some questions I have asked in connection with Emigration to Trinidad if I get the opportunity to do so later to-day. He has already told us that the proposed Conference in Washington has nothing to do with this item, so I do not want to comment on that. But so far as allowing everybody to enter our doors is concerned I quite agree that if it is the policy of other West Indian Islands to exclude Barbadians, then Barbados should exclude their people. I think that if they adopt such a policy towards us, it is our duty and in our interests to do likewise to them. I am very glad to see that Mr. Butler, of Trinidad, has expressed the view which he has expressed, that is, that Trinidad should be accessible to persons other than Trinidadians; it shows statesmanship of a high order. The Trinidad who can get up and tell the other Trinidadians that they should open their doors to everybody is in my opinion, no mere demagogue; it shows statesmanship. If Trinidad or Jamaica or Grenada—whatever island it is—adopt the policy of barring its doors to Barbadians, then Barbados should bar its doors also and only when they change their policy, should we change ours. I think that is the commonsense point of view to take with the situation being what it is. We get an increasing problem here, due to the influx of Indians, and when I asked certain questions in the House I had that in mind. However, I would not discuss that now. I realize, Sir, that you have given me a certain amount of latitude and I do not want to carry it any further.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I will deal with the first item, Surgery and Dispensary, under General Hospital, \$25,000. Now, Sir, I have on quite a few occasions before spoken about and regretted the lack of information which is given to honourable members of this House in connection with the expenditure of public money. The note to this item says this: "The provision in the Estimates for 1950-51 has proved insufficient owing to the increased number of in-patients and out-patients being treated, the increased use of expensive preparations such as penicillin and streptomycin, and the increased prices of surgical dressings, X-Ray films and surgeons' gloves." Now, Sir, just imagine a businessman who is building a house; he has made his estimate and his clerk comes and puts before him a note which reads:—"The provision of your estimate has proved insufficient owing to the increased number of masons employed and the increased use of expensive materials such as paint and wood." That is the way I look at this. The information given to me is absolutely useless and it is absolutely useless to every member of this House. I am going to be as strong as I can on this point because this island is rife with rumours of the mal-expenditure of the monies of the public. I hope that this House will have the opportunity shortly of seeing the cold facts of the latest escapades when we come to vote more money for the starting off from where we left off of the building of various schools. I feel sure that it is incumbent upon the members of this House to demand more clarification

of large sums and of small sums such as these. This only needed, in the space in which it is printed—probably in less space—a few headings of expenditure with a few totals that anyone at a glance could see what has been expended and how it is proposed to expend what is being asked for to-day. That is a simple matter which anyone with any capability of figures whatsoever is quite capable of putting in this paragraph here. Repeatedly in these addenda one is given no figures whatsoever or very few. The time has come for the members of the House to be more interested in how these figures are arrived at. It is our responsibility when money is illspent in this colony—the responsibility of everyone of us. The honourable member is suggesting that I am trying to make out that money spent on the poor people at the hospital would be money illspent. That, Sir, is far from me. He says, "Do not mix Crowe with anybody," but whether it is Crowe or the Hospital, the spending of the public's money is the responsibility of the members of this House. When these matters are put before us, we should be given figures from which any ordinary person could deduce the facts. "It is necessary to provide additional dining tables, crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils for the Nurses' Home for the 66 additional nurses authorised by the C. E. (Gen.) (Amendment) Order, 1950, No. 5." They could have stated the number of dining tables they want and information of that sort would give members the opportunity to carry out their representation in the correct manner. I, Sir, am in no way trying to say that the money is too much. Far from it; it may be too little. If some figures had been given us we might have been able to find out whether or not some of the patients are being stinted. I don't know. Why cannot we be provided with these figures? It is the duty of those responsible for them to provide us with them. I repeat, Sir, that rumours are rife throughout this country of the mal expenditure of public funds and whether it be in the Hospital Department or the Education Department or the Police Department or the Highways and Transport Department or any other Department, this House has the right to know more about the facts, that is, how money has been expended in the past and how money is to be expended in the future. If a few more accurate estimates were given, many of these ridiculous affairs that have happened in this colony from time to time could have been avoided and I repeat, Sir, that it would take no more paper than what we have before us and no more time—in fact, by a man with capability, less time—to give us the necessary facts. Now, Sir, I come to item, Conferences, under Head, Miscellaneous. You have given a certain amount of latitude to other honourable members and I hope that you will allow me the same latitude. Sir, there is one question which I feel every member of this House should realize is not a Party Question, that is, Emigration. Under this Head a certain amount has been voted for Conferences. I, in the past, Sir, have always held that when it comes to Emigration there should be a staff of observers permanently appointed for the purpose. We had here a short time ago certain facts which anyone could see would probably lead to the necessity for more labour in the United States of America. I refer to the Korean War. From that time onwards, had we had a staff appointed to do nothing else, I feel that instead of Jamaica being there first, probably Barbados would have been there first. As it stands now, we are not first in the field and, as the junior member for St. James has said, I hope that the senior member for St. Peter will not be late in his endeavour. Now, Sir, the senior member for the

City has said that he is convinced of the capability of the senior member for St. Peter in this matter. I, too, have no doubt that the senior member for St. Peter will do his utmost to make certain that whatever there is going Barbados will get its share. But I cannot agree that we should be in any way tied whatsoever to any other colonies in this matter of Emigration. It is, as I have always said, and will always be, until some miracle takes place, the first and most important question in this island of ours and we should, in no way, be tied nor should our representative be tied to other colonies, when bargaining for a quota of our workers to be sent to the United States of America. The fact that our representative has to bargain at the same time for some other colonies is in my opinion placing on him a load which he will find very heavy and very trying in his efforts; it would be like a millstone around his neck. I repeat, Sir, that every member of this House should realize that Emigration is not a Party Question. We all know the thousands by which the population is being increased yearly and the influx of other nationalities, though small in numbers, is still enough to displace a small number of our own people and if we go on adding 10 and 10 together, it would eventually come to millions. The senior member for the City also spoke of matters which will handicap the senior member for St. Peter. Sir, we must face the facts. Those facts exist in America to-day and the senior member for St. Peter has experienced and will experience them again. But I will implore the Government that if it thinks that the hands of the senior member for St. Peter can be strengthened in any way by a brother Barbadian regardless of his colour, to consider the inclusion of such a person in this effort. I say that, Sir, with the deepest sense of responsibility and respect and I sincerely hope that if assistance can be got by doing that, the Government will seriously contemplate doing it. As I said in the beginning I will say in the end. Emigration is the most important question which exists in this island owing to our overpopulation and this Government and this House, regardless of Party or individuality, should be combined in any effort whatever it may be, to find an outlet for our own workers in the United States of America or any other part of the world where they may be suitably employed and by that means help their relatives and dependants whom they leave behind.

Mr. BRYAN : Mr. Chairman,—Item I, Renewal and repairs to furniture, bedding, crockery, etc., \$400, under C. Domestic, of the Head, General Hospital. I think that it was on the 15th November, Sir, that I gave notice of some questions in this House in connection with the dilapidated bedsteads, insanitary mattresses and linens in the porters' dormitory. Unfortunately the prorogation of the House took place and those questions were not answered. We have had since then an enquiry by Dr. Hallinan into conditions at the Hospital and a memorandum was sent in by the hospital porters and domestic servants at the institution containing their grievances and suggestions by which their working conditions could be improved. Major Hallinan dealt with that memorandum after this fashion. He wrote:—"Their representations, such as a change of title of 'Porters' to 'Hospital Attendants', issue of badges, better sleeping accommodation in the porters' dormitory, supply of antiseptics, rubber shoes, and aprons for laundry staff etc., can be met at small expense to the Government, and are recommended as far as it is possible to implement them." I would like to enquire from the senior member for St. Thomas what has been done

on behalf of these porters and domestic servants and if nothing has been done as yet, how soon will steps be taken to implement the recommendation of Major Hallinan. Under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous, we read 'Clerical Assistance, \$2,400', and the note in the addendum states:—"Owing to the unusual number of requests which have been made by various departments during the year for extra clerical assistance, the amount provided in the 1950-51 Estimates has been expended and a supplementary amount of \$2,400 is required to meet estimated expenditure to the end of the financial year." We have been given no idea of the departments who made those requests but I hope that the Housing Board is included because I am convinced that that Board is understaffed. When you take into consideration the importance of housing to-day in Barbados, the machinery which has to deal with it should be kept up-to-date. It will pay the Government to give the Housing Board some consideration and bring its staff up-to-date. I throw out that suggestion to the Government for what it is worth.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Chairman,—I do not think that the United States Authorities would be interested in the political or social problems of the West Indies as is pointed out by the senior member for the City and supported by the junior member for St. George. In my view they would be more interested in the economics of the situation and if in their opinion it is necessary for the economic improvement of their Country that labourers be brought in from the West Indies, they will be brought in. It will make absolutely no difference to them what is the political or social status of the delegates representing the West Indies. I think that that is just drawing a red herring across the trail. The people of the United States are too realistic in matters of this sort. We all wish that the senior member for St. Peter will have a good time in the U.S.A., both socially as well as from the particularly point of view from which he is going. As representative of the Eastern Caribbean to endeavour to obtain employment for some of our workers he should have our full support. Emigration goes to the root of the welfare of the people of the Caribbean and I repeat that it is economics in which the United States Authorities are interested; if they want workers from the Caribbean, workers will be brought in; it is not a matter of what the delegation looks like. There is one thing on which the senior member for St. Joseph could enlighten us. He has told us that the senior member for St. Peter and the Labour Commissioner are going to Washington as the representatives of the Eastern Caribbean area. I think the honourable member should tell us whether Barbados is expected to pay all the expenses in connection with the visit of the senior member of St. Peter and the Labour Commissioner as members of this delegation. Now, if these two gentlemen are going to represent the entire Eastern Caribbean area I fancy that some of the expenses will be paid by the other islands in the Eastern Caribbean area. Certainly the senior member for St. Joseph should be able to give us—I don't know if he has the figures with him—the appropriate cost of the visit of each delegate from this area. Now, Sir, the junior member for St. Thomas—I am sorry that he is not in his place—made certain references to the expenditure and the requisitions of the Prison and he made some very stringent remarks about the officer who is responsible for that expenditure and those requisitions. It is perfectly true that he did not state who the officer is but I certainly feel that when an honourable member gets up in this Chamber and makes remarks

like those he should be able to substantiate them and not rely on Questions; he should be able to give this House and the people of Barbados all the facts on which he based his criticism. As a matter of fact, in the Resolution before us I see no reference to the Prison; the reference is to the General Hospital. Strictly speaking, the honourable member was not in order but he has made his criticism and I think that it is such a very important matter that he should give the information to this Committee in order that the Government may be able to investigate it and in order that the public may know the true facts; that is to say, whether the criticism is based upon substance or rumour which plays such an important part in this colony. I do hope that the senior member for St. Joseph would be able to give us some enlightenment upon the point as to whether the other members of the Eastern Caribbean Group will be paying an appropriate part of the expenses of the delegation to Washington. Mr. Chairman, it is most important that we, in Barbados, should know what is the appropriate cost to be borne by the other members of the Eastern Caribbean Group in respect of this delegation and I hope that the honourable member can help us in that respect.

Mr. ADAMS: I expected the junior member for St. George to speak as he spoke but I certainly did not expect the junior member for Christ Church to speak as he did speak. We are not to-day voting anything in respect of sending people to the United States of America. I mentioned it casually because it was published in the Press that the senior member for St. Peter was going to the U.S.A. on emigration matters and I just wanted to point out to the Committee that the vote for Conferences has nothing to do with that proposal. Surely, Sir, the honourable member will agree with me—I am trying to let him down lightly—that his is the sort of question of which notice should be given. I am perfectly prepared to be ready at the next meeting of the House with the information for which he has just asked. I can only tell him now that this is a West Indian matter. The Comptroller of Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Sir George Seel, is going and the Secretary of that Organization will be going. As regards the amount for this or that colony I cannot give it now but I shall take care to see that I have the figures if the honourable member should raise the point on a subsequent occasion.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reports progress and asks leave to sit again.

The House resumes and on the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the House is adjourned until 5.45 p.m.

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table the Reply to Question No. 16 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to lay the Replies to Questions No. 21 standing in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church.

Mr. COX: I beg to lay the Replies to Questions No. 18 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Andrew.

PETITION AND BILL WITHDRAWN

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—Earlier this afternoon I presented a Petition from the Vestry of St. Thomas and I also gave notice of a Bill dealing with the sale of the residence of the Parochial Medical Officer. I have since understood that notice of the intention of the Vestry to have this Bill introduced in the Legislature has only been advertised in the *Official Gazette* for eleven days, and in view of that I ask leave to withdraw both the Petition and the Bill.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

GRANT TO THE Y.M.C.A.

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to grant the sum of \$14,400 from the Public Treasury (to be subsequently refunded as a free grant under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on the terms and conditions stated in the Message from the House of Assembly to His Excellency the Governor, dated the 14th of December, 1943) to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part II, Capital, as set out in the Supplementary Estimates 1950-51, No. 29, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

As honourable members will see, this amount is a grant to the Y.M.C.A. for the acquisition of a new site and playing fields. As far back as 1943 certain suggestions were made by Professor Simey and provision was made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 237 for a free grant to the Y.M.C.A. to assist in the acquisition of a new site for the Headquarters of the Association and for playing fields, but it was found impossible to acquire a suitable site. The present site which has now been acquired was thought of, but it was not possible to acquire it at a reasonable price then. Negotiations went on and, finally, the price of \$24,000 for the site has been agreed on. We are now asked to vote this \$14,400 in the usual way and it will be repaid by the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization. This is a simple matter and I have much pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had asked the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to explain why this matter has been dealt with in this way. I am aware that votes of this sort have come before the House very often, but they have never been put through the Estimates. We are now dealing with this C.D. & W. grant and putting it through the Capital Estimates; so far, these grants have been either made to the Government or they have been under Government control. This money is a grant to the Y.M.C.A. for the acquisition of a new site and playing fields and not to the Government of this colony, and to put it through the Supplementary Estimates of this colony gives a wrong impression. This property is not going to be vested in the Governor-in-Executive Committee; I have attempted

to discuss this matter—I am not saying in what quarter—and I feel that it might be more appropriate to deal with it under the Head "Subsidies and Grants." I am told that money from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization is put under this particular Head and that is why this one is dealt with in this way. This money is for the acquisition of property and it is not anything by way of the development of the colony. I ask the honourable member to explain the matter and prevent me from entering the debate. I should like to hear the reason why this vote has been dealt with as if it were for Capital expenditure of the Colony.

Mr. ALLDER: If this grant were being taken from the pockets of the taxpayers I would have raised objection to it; but since it is a free grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization I can only hope that the management of this Institution would cease its dependence on the support of the general public for its running, and that it would cease the discriminatory practice which takes place at the Institution. This Association is said to be a Christian Association yet everything is not well as regards the relationship between the management and the members. Many people have had to cease membership of this Association and the impression has been given that the Association is becoming more a commercial Institution than a cultural one. I feel that an Association like this should have at its head leaders who are not interested not so much in £ s. d., but in helping to maintain a good relationship among the members; they should not drive out people by rough treatment, but seek to encourage more people to come in. I hope that now assistance is being given for the extension of the Institution, that standard of leadership which is needed in an Institution of this sort in a community will be reached. It is definitely bad taste when the public are asked to assist this Association and then you find taking place practices which you might find in existence at the Aquatic Club or places in South America of which we have read. I can only hope that the management of this Association will change such a state of affairs.

Mr. ADAMS: It is difficult to reply to the honourable junior member for the City who is Deputy Speaker of this House. Not only is he likely to be the only honourable member in this House who would ask that question, but possibly, he is the only person in the island who would ask it. There is in the Estimates a Head for C.D. & W. grants, using that word generally; some of the money is granted and some of it is loaned. We take the trouble to make a separate Head in the Estimates so that it can be seen what is coming out of the pockets of the British taxpayers; when we take the trouble under that Head to show how much is loaned and how much is granted, does it matter if a grant to this or that Institution is put under this Head? I reply because the honourable member might say that I have not got any reply to give him. The Government has not got so much time on its hands that it can begin all over again to tell the honourable member what has been happening from the time that C.D. & W. funds came to this island.

Mr. BRANCKER: I was surprised to hear from the honourable senior member for St. John, who is one of the most level-headed legislators sitting around this Table, refer to the alleged discriminatory practice at the Y.M.C.A. I do not know when I have had the pleasure of seeing the honourable member there, but he would be well advised to continue his membership, keep up the payment of his subscrip-

tion and try and eliminate such discrimination as he sees there. Whatever one might feel about certain individuals who are the authorities responsible for running the Y.M.C.A., I do not think it can be fairly said that they carry such discrimination as they show in their private lives, into the running of that Institution. I have never observed any discrimination taking place, but if that is going on and the honourable member would draw my attention to it, the two of us together would be able to wipe it out. I would not like it to go forth from this House that there is discrimination being practised at this Institution without the honourable member amplifying what he was referring to and someone else refuting it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the benefit of the members of this House I will say that in connection with the question which I asked, I raised it with the Financial Secretary and he told me that he himself had been considering the matter. He said that this grant was put under this Head because other money from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization had been put under this Head; he told me that if the House said that this money should be put under the Head "Subsidies and Grants." that would be quite all right.

Mr. ADAMS: Some Heads of Government Departments do not realise in what danger they are when they talk freely things which they should keep to themselves. From the time that the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization began to operate, the question was raised as to how the funds should be dealt with. Finally, with the knowledge of the House, the way in which we are now dealing with these funds has been accepted and we are following it. I have heard for the first time that what the honourable member has said is the view of the Financial Secretary; I am sure that he would be sorry to think that he spoke freely to the honourable member, thinking that he was speaking confidentially, and the honourable member uses what he said as an argument to show that he is wrong. The honourable member has never mentioned this matter privately to me; I can only say that this matter was threshed out years ago, it was threshed out by Sir Frank Stockdale and the Government before one cent ever came into this colony. I am sorry for Mr. Petrie if he expresses a view which is tenable and he will have the misfortune of being quoted as if he is at loggerheads with the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not given any impression that any Officer is at loggerheads with the Government; the Financial Secretary told me that this is the first time that an item of this nature has been put into our Estimates, and that is why that opinion was expressed. Nobody can quote a precedent for what has now been done and that is my reason for asking why this money is treated in this manner. Perhaps the honourable member has several precedents, but he cannot quote one, and I do not see any secret in a responsible Officer saying that he was discussing this matter and he had come to the conclusion as to what should be done.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Resolutions passed in

Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADDRESS RE APPOINTMENT OF TWO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH SECTION OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMISSION

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—There is the Reply to a Message from His Excellency the Governor with which I am asking leave to deal. The Message is Message No. 23/1950 relating to the nomination for appointment to the British Section of the Caribbean Commission.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not know if His Excellency's Message is fresh in the minds of honourable members, but in any case I will read it. It is as follows:—

Message No. 23/1950.

His Excellency the Governor
To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to His Message No. 19/1948 of the 24th of August, 1948, on the subject of the selection of two unofficial members of the British Section of the Caribbean Commission, and to the Address of the Honourable House of Assembly dated 5th October, 1948, in reply thereto.

2. At the last meeting of the Commission, one of the unofficial members was unable to be present, with the result that the British Section was under strength. To obviate this, the British Co-Chairman has proposed, and the Secretary of State has agreed, that the unofficial British delegates to the next West Indian Conference should be asked to elect not only two unofficial members for appointment to the Commission, but in addition an alternate for each, who should attend when the substantive member is unable to do so.

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,

13th July, 1950.

The proposed reply to that Message is as follows:—

The House of Assembly
To

His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 23/1950 relating to the appointment of two unofficial Members of the British Section of the Caribbean Commission.

2. The House wish to assure Your Excellency that they agree with the proposal of the British Co-Chairman and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and have asked the Barbados delegates to the next West Indian Conference to act accordingly, and also to nominate Mr. G. H. Adams.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes"

have it. I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to present this Address.

Dr. CUMMINS: As Your Honour pleases.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the House into Committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—None of the other items on the Order Paper under Government Business are ready for consideration.

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH LOAN BILL 1950.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume Committee on the Bill to authorise the Vestry of Christ Church to raise a loan of £1,950.

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

Mr. REECE: Mr. Chairman,—I am pleased to be able to inform the Committee that I have obtained all the information which was sought on the last occasion. When the further consideration of this Bill was postponed on the last occasion we were considering Clause 2 in respect of the alteration of the existing garage or the erection of a new one, and a debate took place as to the wording of this Clause. The figures which honourable members required are as follows: Price of motor refuse collector, \$4,650; alterations to existing garage, \$870; and erection of stone enclosures to certain public standpipes, \$3,840. I ask leave to delete the words "or erecting a new building" (Hear, hear) occurring in line 13 of this Clause and substituting therefor the words "at Oistins in the parish of Christ Church". I also ask leave to delete the word "an" occurring at the end of line 12 and to insert in place thereof the word "the". There is an existing garage and it is proposed to extend it and that extension is estimated to cost \$870. It is impossible to erect a modern building for anything near that amount.

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

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

The remaining eleven Clauses of the Bill and the two Schedules were called and passed.

The Preamble was called and agreed to.

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

DISCUSSION OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. MAPP: I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to discuss the Replies given to my Questions—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would prefer if the honourable member would make a motion that the House do now proceed with the discussion of Replies to Questions.

Mr. MAPP: I can move the adjournment of the House for five minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a procedure laid down whereby there is a time for the consideration of Government Business, there is a time for the discussion of Replies to Questions and there is a time for the consideration of Private Members' Business. A motion for the adjournment of the House is made in order to discuss something which has not been asked about. If the honourable member wishes to discuss the Replies which have been given to his Questions, I think he should, for the sake of regularity, make a motion that the House do now proceed with the discussion of Replies to Questions.

Mr. MAPP: I beg to move that the House do now proceed with the discussion of Replies to Questions.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

BAN IMPOSED BY TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT ON PERSONS ENTERING THE COLONY

Mr. MAPP: I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to discuss the Replies given to my Questions No. 13. Those Questions were:—

In view of the ban put by the Government of Trinidad on persons entering that colony and seeking employment, and in view of the unemployment situation locally.

Will the Government take steps to impose a similar ban on Trinidad born entrants into this colony?

The Replies were given as follows:

The only ban placed by the Government of Trinidad on persons entering that Colony in search of employment consists of measures authorised by the laws of that Colony for the control of immigration, e.g., Regulations requiring either cash deposits or security bonds in respect of the intending immigrant. These measures are not directed against the natives of any particular Colony.

2. Some provision already exists under the Immigration of Paupers (Prevention) Act, 1909, for controlling the entry into Barbados of persons in search of employment, since the Immigration Officer has to be satisfied concerning the immigrant's financial position and, if not so satisfied, has power to require a Bond on his or her behalf from some approved person.

3. For the above reasons the Government does not at present contemplate imposing any ban, other than the rigid application of existing Immigration Laws, on Trinidad born entrants.

The first of these answers which the Government has given to my questions is in the nature of an explanation of the position in Trinidad. Whatever be the nature of the ban placed on intending immigrants to that colony, there can be no doubt that the Government of Trinidad has restricted the entry of persons into that colony. At the first meeting of the new Legislative Council the first matter considered by that Body and which drew forth an enervating debate, was this matter of banning West Indians from entering Trinidad. This is a very serious matter and, in my opinion, the replies given by the Government to my questions are a little too half-hearted for my liking. These Replies were given on the 12th September and since then the Immigration Ordinance of Trinidad has been amended; the amendment was debated in the

Legislative Council on the 27th October and far from being loosened, the restrictions were tightened by the Trinidad Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that all of us in the West Indies should deplore this action which has been taken by the Government of Trinidad; now that federation is not only preached but is actively being sought after rather than placing restrictions on free travel in this area, every opportunity should be put in the way of persons entering the various colonies to do so. As the honourable Leader of the House stated earlier today, Barbados has not got to the position of Trinidad where we are restricting the movement of population; other places are not doing it, but, Sir, although that is a very idealistic view, although we have people like Mr. Butler who was far-seeing enough to oppose this latest move in Trinidad, yet we have to be realists. We have to face realities, and it is a reality that at present Barbadians cannot enter Trinidad as freely as they like. I cannot see why retaliatory measures should not be taken against Trinidad by this colony or any other colony. The reply of the Government is to the effect that the Trinidad Government has not banned the entry into that colony of people coming from Barbados; the Trinidad Government has not said that it is preventing Barbadians from entering the colony, but it has banned all West Indians. Under the latest Regulations, Barbadians cannot enter Trinidad as they used to do before; they cannot enter that colony in search of employment and I cannot see why that should be so. The ideal point of view is the point of view to be striving after, but I feel that there are few people who will disagree with me that we have a serious population problem to solve. In considering this measure which she took recently, Trinidad said that she had a serious population difficulty to solve; but surely even the most patriotic Trinidadian would hardly say that Trinidad's difficulties in this respect are greater than those of Barbados. Trinidad has more industries and more avenues of employment than we have here. If the point of view held by persons like Mr. Butler had gained sway in Trinidad I would have been the last person to suggest that any Trinidadian should be banned from entering this colony or any other colony; but that point of view was not agreed with, and it was made even more difficult for persons to enter that colony from other places. Until Trinidad has been brought to her senses, until she changes her point of view that she cannot have people coming in from other colonies to compete with her workers, until she sees that it is not a question of self-interest, we should retaliate and ban Trinidadians from coming here. When I asked these questions I had especially in mind the increasing Indian problem in this island; if the members of the Government do not know about this situation, they should go about the City and ask about it and they would know how many people there are who see that this Indian problem is getting bigger and creating grave difficulties in so far as this colony is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member's questions are in relation to the ban on persons entering Trinidad. Would he say that the Indians come here from Trinidad?

MR. MAPP: Yes, Sir; many of the Indians come from Trinidad. The problem of the Indians is that they hold to the traditions and customs of India and they do not fit into the West Indian nation: it is difficult for them to fit into the West Indian nation and that causes increasing difficulties. I am not even

looking at the fact that these Indians move like creepers and they slowly occupy every inch of space for selling and for everything else; I am looking at the greater fact that they are creating not only a social problem in this island, but also a racial, religious and every other kind of problem at this time. Let us give credit to a man who, by his steadfastness and his business ability, makes his way from his home and does well for himself and his family; that is all very well, but let us not fool ourselves that the position in the West Indies to-day is the same as that of Great Britain opening her doors to emigrants from America. Africans live in America, Chinese live in America and they become better Americans; they enrich the community as a whole. Great Britain is already industrially developed and the immigrants put their brains at the disposal of the country; but these Indians feel that the West Indians are culturally below them and they present a great problem which can only be obviated by having them out of the colony as fast as they come in. I am not now preaching any racial hatred, I am not saying that we should set up a little state here by itself which would deny any body any entry herein; but I say that if people who are coming into the West Indies are willing to contribute to the West Indian economy and view themselves as part and parcel of the West Indian nation and do as immigrants in Great Britain have done, that is, help to build up the prestige of the nation, that is all very well. If these people feel that they are separate and distinct and, may be, superior to us, then I say they are only presenting greater problems to our already socially complex community; and the sooner we try to place greater restrictions on their freedom of movement in these parts, the better it will be for us. I know that many of these people are of excellent character, but the fewer of them we have, the better it is for us. There may be those who do no harm to our way of life and outlook, but if they are stretching their tentacles out and creating a separate racial entity, then, Sir, I think we will have a disease to contend with in the future whenever West Indian Federation comes about. I can only express the hope that the answer to question No. 2 does not imply that the Government will take this matter lying down, or that they will not place much emphasis on the question which I have raised and take strong action in connection with it. The Government say that they do not at present contemplate imposing any ban, other than the rigid application of existing Immigration Laws, on Trinidad born entrants. I am not *au fait* with those Immigration Laws; but it looks to me that with the rigid application of these Laws, many more people come in than those who should come in. I hope that a more rigid application of these Laws will be applied than is being applied at present.

Your Honour asked a very pertinent question just now. I would say that some of these Indians may not be Trinidad born, but there are many of them who are Trinidad born and they would come into the category of those to whom I am referring. It is Trinidad and not other Colonies, which has imposed these restrictions on immigrants, and therefore I feel that this Government would be doing the right thing to impose a similar ban on Trinidad born entrants. While it is true that Trinidad has not picked out natives of Barbados or of Jamaica and banned them and it may be argued that we should not pick out natives of Trinidad and ban them from entering this colony, yet the fact is that Trinidad should be brought to her senses and made to realise that her point of view is a very jaundiced one, and that if other Colonies did the same thing federation would be very far away, although

Trinidad passed an Address in connection with federation some time ago. I think that by the force of other Governments in the Caribbean area this particular Ordinance in Trinidad should be further amended; but if we agree to this action which has been taken by Trinidad and say that it is all right, then nothing will be done. Our people will not be able to go to Trinidad but people will be able to come in here and increase our problem. It is not only a question of the rigid application of the Immigration Laws; I think that further steps should be taken in respect of natives of Trinidad and people like Indians entering into this colony. We cannot get a lot of things here because of the Indian problem in our midst. If Trinidad has imposed this ban on persons entering that colony, then it is in our interest to impose a ban in the same way as Trinidad has done. In view of the situation with which we are faced and until federation has been brought about, that is the only point of view that we can take in this matter. I hope that this Government will do more than say they will rigidly apply the existing Immigration Laws, but that they will go as far as Trinidad has gone.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second the motion for the purpose of discussion. I have listened very attentively to the honourable introducer of this motion and I am sorry to inform him that I cannot support his views. I should state here and now the position which we enjoy in this colony to-day—I speak of the economic position—is due to the fact that doors in other countries were opened to Barbadians who were well received in those countries, and they had an opportunity of making a living. I hope I will be the last person to curtail the activities of people in travelling from one place to the other. I feel that the honourable junior member for St. Thomas has some cause for raising this question, but too far east is always west. I shall state here and now that as much as I would like to call myself a citizen of the world, the mentalities of the people in the world have not yet reached that civilized stage. I am hoping for that day when all barriers will be removed and people will be able to have free intercourse. To-day you have barriers everywhere; you have economic, social, racial and all sorts of barriers because of man's selfishness and of his breaking away from God's precepts.

The honourable introducer of this motion has said some things in connection with which, perhaps in lighter vein, I would be able to take sides with him; but when you get down to the fundamentals of this question, you cannot agree with the honourable member at all. The honourable member talked about federation; well, Sir, knowing the leaders of these West Indian Islands as I do, I say that federation is just as far off as when we first thought of it. The situation as regards federation is zigzagging in these Colonies with the leaders scrambling for position; and if one sees something which one side has got and he wants it, he will throw his weight on that side. I sit by and see these leaders making plans and they will not get down to business. In this island the leaders suffer from a sort of complex; the more I study the problem,

the more I see the weakness. The leaders cannot get together in connection with any problem without breaking up; they cannot drop their petty differences. I am forgetting the word "federation", I thought that by now some sort of discussion would have taken place as to what we really want. You cannot do things in mid air; you cannot deal with a big issue like federation in mid air. Up to now this House has not discussed what has been recommended to us; if there has been any discussion in this respect I have not seen it reported. I am still waiting to see the outcome of this matter; but judging from the attitude and mentality of our West Indian leaders, I know that federation will be shelved for a long time to come.

I am not saying that the honourable introducer of this motion is small-minded; he is trying to protect the workers in Barbados and you have to give him some credit for that, but we want an inter-change of persons coming here and going there. I say that since the West Indian Negro has had a wrong education and we seem not to be able to do anything for this generation and we have to work on the little boys and girls in the schools, I say: give them an object in life to which to look forward and do not let them feel that they are only West Indians. That is not the goal. You say that we are all West Indians together; the wealthy people and the poor people say that we are all West Indians. But who controls the wealth of the West Indies? What has the British Government ever done to rehabilitate these Islands? What have they done to set up the standard of mankind? Have they led us to the pathway where we can become proper citizens? We preach things and as soon as half a dozen leaders get together there is jealousy and zigzagging taking place and the masses get no where. All that will happen since we have a wrong education. At this point I say that I am looking forward to the day when India will be of some use to the world generally. India will give to the world what some other nation has refused to give because her culture is of a long and ancient standing. India cannot play her part in world affairs because of British Imperialism; her culture runs far beyond British Imperialism and I would not say that the Indians should be kept out of this island. I wish I could find half a million of these Indians in Barbados and let people know that we have a problem. I want all the land that we have in Africa. The British people have vast territories and people in the West Indies are situated in every nook and cranny; they cannot get housespots sometimes and you talk about British Imperialism! That is killing thousands of people daily.

At this stage, there not being a quorum present, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER asked the honourable member to take his seat for five minutes and directed that the Bell be rung.

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