

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th April, 1951.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Messrs M. E. COX, O. T. ALLDER, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPPE, T. O. BRYAN, F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., F. C. GODDARD, J. H. WILKINSON O.B.E., and E. L. WARD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready for confirmation.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report of the Directors and Statement of Account of the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation for the year ended the 30th June, 1950.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

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

Report of the Comptroller of Customs on the Customs Revenue, Trade and Shipping of the island for the year 1949.

Report and Statement of Accounts on the Barbados General Hospital for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$350 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive

Committee to Supplement the Estimates 1951—52, Part I—Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1951—52, No. 1 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Resolution to approve the rate payable to the producer and the rate of tax payable to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board on Fancy Molasses produced during the crop year 1950—51, fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Regulations 1938.

Mr. COX: Resolution to fix with effect from the 1st June, 1951 the air mail postage on air letter forms to any destination set out in column 1 of the Schedule hereto at the rate set out immediately opposite such destination in column 2 of the said Schedule.

Mr. COX: Resolution to fix with effect from the 1st June 1951, the postage on any postal packet set out in column 1 of the Schedule hereto when transmitted from this island to a place abroad otherwise than by air mail shall be at the rate set out immediately opposite such packet in column 2 of the said Schedule.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$9,716 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951—52, Part I—Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1951—52, No. 2, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: A Bill intituled an Act to provide for the notification of accidents and occupational diseases.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal later in the day with the Resolution for \$350. This sum of money is required to meet the transportation and other expenses relative to the meetings of the Caribbean Commission which will take place here in a few weeks' time. I hope that hon. members will not object to my dealing with the Resolution to-day.

Notice was given by Mr. ALLDER of the following Resolution:—

Be it Resolved that this House place on record its profound regret at the passing of the Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.;

Be it further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Bevin through His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. ALLDER: Of my intention to move the passing of this Resolution later in the day.

Mr. DOWDING entered the House and took his seat.

QUESTIONS

Mr. MAPP: To enquire of the Appropriate Member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House:—

1. Is the Government aware that the increase in the cost of living has placed a severe financial strain on the majority in the community?

2. What steps, if any, is the Government taking to increase wages and emoluments of lower paid Government employees in order that they may cope with the cost of living?

3. What other steps will the Government take to offset the rise in the cost of living and its effect on the living standards of the people?

Mr. MAPP: To enquire of the Appropriate Member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House:—

1. Is the Government aware that in some parishes there is dissatisfaction at the manner in which Parochial Medical Officers perform their duties?

2. Does the Government intend to give effect to the recommendation in paragraph 59 of Major T. J. Hallinan's Report on the Barbados General Hospital to the effect that the Government take over the maintenance of all Parochial Dispensaries and take over the present Parochial Medical Officers in the country parishes into Government service as Medical Officers?

3. If not, will the Government say why?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill intituled an Act to provide for the notification of accidents and occupational diseases was read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

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

ADDRESS *RE* DEATH OF RIGHT HONOURABLE ERNEST BEVIN

Mr. ADAMS: Before the business of the House was begun I had intended, as Leader of the House, to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor and ask him to forward our sentiments to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in order that he might pass on our sympathy to the widow of the late Foreign Secretary and to place on record our great sorrow at his death. It is very fitting that a Labour Government such as we are in Barbados—a Labour Government which has had such contact with the British Labour Government and with Ministers of that Government—should place on record our regret at the passing of the Foreign Secretary and our expression of sympathy for his widow. If I may be forgiven for making a personal reference, it is even more fitting that I should not let an opportunity of this sort pass because I had the privilege—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member moving the passing of the Resolution of which notice has been given? I think it would be in proper form to allow the honourable senior member for St. John to proceed with his Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—If you will permit me to say this, I have appealed to the honourable senior member for St. John that it would be fitting for the Leader of the House to move the passing of an Address in connection with the death of the Foreign Secretary. While the Leader of the Opposition will associate himself with the Address, we did not make any motion because we felt that the Leader of the Government should move the passing of such an Address.

Mr. SPEAKER: While I agree with what has been expressed by the honourable senior member for the City, the Rules of this House must be observed; and it is right for me to remind the honourable member that he was speaking at the time when the honourable senior member for St. John should be speaking.

Mr. ALLDER: I was motivated into bringing forward this Resolution because I admired the late Right Honourable Ernest Bevin deeply as a man who has done much for the underprivileged people in the British Empire. In this connection, I regret very much that notice of an Address had not been given by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph when he made the suggestion that he should be the first person to deal with it. However, for the purpose of regularity, I will concede to the honourable member the opportunity of moving the passing of his Address. (Cheers)

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Joseph may proceed.

Mr. ADAMS: As I said, Mr. Speaker, the Government of this colony is a Labour Government and it has had direct contact with the British Labour Government and with many of its Ministers. It is inconceivable that this Government, on the occasion of the death of so outstanding a world figure as the late Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, would let pass an opportunity of this sort to place on record the sorrow of the Government, of this Legislature and of the people of this colony. I was about to say a few moments ago that I feel it is fitting that it has fallen to my lot as Leader of the Government to move the passing of this Address, because I had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Bevin both officially and privately on one of the few occasions when he found it possible to unbend from his official duties and be, so to speak, once again a mere human being. I had that opportunity more than two years ago and, in addition to expressing my sorrow and that of those who admired Mr. Bevin as a man, I also express my regret that his death should have taken place before he had an opportunity of displaying what he assured me was close to his heart. Mr. Bevin told me that for many years he was profoundly interested in the Colonies and he was sorry that he had been unable personally to do more to raise the standard of living in the Colonies than he found it possible to do, with his duties as a Trade Union Leader and later as Foreign Secretary. He gave me the impression that he was profoundly concerned with the underprivileged of this world, and more especially as a British Minister, with the underprivileged in the Colonies. Mr. Bevin was a great man, a great idealist, and yet at the same time one felt that his feet were so much on the earth. I do not wish to say much which would appear to be personal, but I shall ever remember the way in which Mr. Bevin went about his business as Foreign Secretary. Too often Ministers of the Crown are said to be, or in fact, they are controlled by the Permanent Civil Service Officials, and it was to me often amusing to watch the anxiety with which Permanent Officials listened to Mr. Bevin when he was

making a speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations. One could never tell when Mr. Bevin would burst out unofficially and even in undiplomatic language and speak from his heart what he felt to be the crying needs and desires of common humanity. It is that among other things, apart from his gift of organisation, that will always stand out in the minds of those who had a chance of seeing, knowing or even reading of Bevin. I think it is extremely fitting that a Labour Government in an ancient colony like Barbados should place on record their sorrow at the death of Mr. Bevin and to take steps to see that this expression of our sorrow is conveyed to his widow. This Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House desire to place on record their great sorrow at the death of the Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, late Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and request Your Excellency to approach the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to having an expression of this their sorrow tendered to his widow.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think it is very fitting for me to second the motion for the passing of this Address, a motion which has been made by the Leader of the Labour Party in Barbados. Unlike the honourable senior member for St. Joseph I did not have the honour of meeting Mr. Bevin, but I have followed his career with great interest and it is an example for people of all Parties to follow. Mr. Bevin started life in very humble circumstances and rose to one of the highest and most important positions in the British Empire; he has always shown unity and co-operation which are so much needed in this sad world today. We on this side of the House associate ourselves fully with everything which has been said by the senior member for St. Joseph; we think that the death of such a great man, such an able statesman is a great loss to the British Empire. He was indeed a brilliant man who was admired by everybody. During the last war, Mr. Bevin co-operated to the greatest extent with Mr. Winston Churchill; indeed the speeches which I have read showed that he was one of the greatest supporters of Mr. Churchill. Although they did not think along the same lines, each appreciated the other. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that we are sincere in supporting this Address.

Mr. ALLDER: I should like to endorse all the remarks made by the previous speakers, and to add that occasionally some part of the world produces certain personalities which people of various countries would have to import. The late Mr. Bevin has certainly done much to establish himself as one of the beacons of the world, one of whom people should try to take pattern. He had to pass through difficulties and I was deeply impressed when I noticed that he started from the humble position of a farm hand, working for pittance week, and rose, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, to one of the highest positions in the British Empire. It is a fact that wherever Mr. Bevin went, he left his mark which was very admirable. I would like to add my deep regret at his passing, and I take it that I am expressing the regret of the underprivileged people not only in Barbados and the British Empire but of the underprivileged people all over the world. May he rest in peace and may the spirit which he has displayed be continued by those who are left behind!

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is said that coming events cast a shadow, and it is fitting that the honourable senior member for St. John has made his first speech from this side of the Table. In connection with this Address, I would like to say that when Mr. Winston Churchill went around during the hectic days of the War to find somebody to keep the people together, the lot fell upon Mr. Ernest Bevin. He shouldered that responsibility in a statesmanlike manner and history is bound to record him among the great statesmen of the world. To those of us in this part of the Empire, more especially those of us who started off life in a humble way, Mr. Bevin has left an incentive to be followed, coming whence he came. Mr. Bevin's rise from farm hand to Foreign Secretary is indeed something of which we who live where the Union Jack flies should be proud. Now that he has been gathered to his fathers, now that he has laid down the reins of office, I say: May he rest in peace! May the blow which has been caused to his wife and other relatives rest lightly upon them! I beg to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers; we must respect the honesty of purpose with which this statesman went about the business of the State when the Empire was in its greatest difficulty.

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

Mr. ADAMS: As Your Honour pleases.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to postpone the consideration of Orders Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order 1951," made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 5th day of April, 1951, under the provisions of Section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

Mr. ADAMS: As hon. members will see from the addendum to this Resolution, the Order covers eight heads. This Order was laid on the Table of the House last Tuesday and the objects of the Amendments are set out as follows:—

- (i) The Accountant General's Act, 1951, abolished the post of Colonial Treasurer and transferred the duties formerly performed by this officer to the Accountant General. The Civil Establishment (General) Order is therefore amended to provide for the inclusion of this Officer, on the permanent Establishment.
- (ii) To provide for the services of an Attendant at the Law Library at a salary of \$720 per annum. This Officer will be responsible for maintaining a record of the books borrowed from the Law Library and ensuring that all such volumes are returned on the same day as that on which they were removed from the Library; in addition this officer will function in the

capacity of Messenger to the Chief Justice.

- (iii) Two steps were necessary to implement the decision to transfer the responsibility for the teaching of science at Harrison College from the Department of Science and Agriculture to the Governing Body of that School.

The first requiring the repeal of those sections in the Department of Science and Agriculture Act, 1925, which placed the responsibility for Science teaching on the Department, was accomplished on the passing of an amending Act by the Legislature in 1950.

The second step relates to the deletion of the offices of Senior Lecturer and Lecturer in Natural Sciences, Department of Science and Agriculture, which were created under the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1949. At the moment there is only one officer who holds appointment as Lecturer in Natural Sciences under the Order. As the pensionable rights of this officer would be adversely affected if his office were abolished and he were appointed a Secondary Teacher—thereby becoming subject to the provisions of the Teachers Pension Act, 1925—it is proposed that one of the offices of Lecturer should be retained for the time being and that the present holder should be seconded to the Teaching Staff of Harrison College.

The amendment to the Civil Establishment Order accordingly provides for the abolition of the office of Senior Lecturer and of two of the three offices of Lecturer in Natural Sciences.

- (iv) The existing salary scale of the Caretaker of Pelican Island is \$384 x 48—672. The holder of the office is required to be a Trained Nurse and the object of the amendment is to place the emoluments of the Caretaker on the same basis as that fixed for a Charge Nurse of the General Hospital, that is, \$720 x 48—960.
- (v) To increase the number of Female Clerks on the permanent Establishment of the General Hospital from two to four. The services of two Female Clerical Assistants have been employed for a number of years on a temporary basis for the performance of duties which it is now clear will be of a permanent nature. No increase in expenditure is involved.
- (vi) Under the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 7 Order, 1950, the offices of attendants at the Mental Hospital were reorganised as under:—
 Charge Attendant—(Male) \$624 x 48—960 and free quarters—8.
 Charge Attendant—(Female) \$528 x 48—816 and free quarters—8.
 Male Attendant \$480 x 48—816 and free quarters—38.
 Female Attendant—\$384 x 48—672 and free quarters—48.

As there are actually 7 Male and 9 Female Wards at the Mental Hospital a re-adjustment of the present allocation is necessary. In addition a further amendment fixing the minimum of the Charge Attendant Scale at a point above the maximum of the Attendant's Scale is required in order that Attendants who are called upon to act as Charge Attendants

may be eligible for Acting Allowance. Prior to the passing of the abovementioned Establishment Order creating the office of Charge Attendant an allowance at the rate of \$144 per annum was paid to Attendants who were placed in charge of Wards.

The provision under the new Amendment Order is as follows:—

Charge Attendant (Male) \$864 x 48—960 and free quarters—7.
 Charge Attendant—(Female) \$720 x 48—816 and free quarters—9.
 Male Attendant—\$480 x 48—816 and free quarters—39.
 Female Attendant—\$384 x 48—672 and free quarters—47.

- (vii) To change the title of the office of Biochemist to that of Chemical Pathologist.
 (viii) The amendment relating to the General Service does not involve any increase in expenditure and provides for the establishment of the temporary post of Stenographer Typist in the Attorney General's Office.

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.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. MOTTLEY: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 51, standing in my name on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business as the next Order of the Day.

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

PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for the City:— Second reading of a Bill to amend the Parochial Employees Pension Act, 1944 (1944—14) and the Parochial Employees Pension (Amendment) Act 1950 (1950—13) as amended by the Parochial Employees Pension (Amendment) Act, 1947 (1947—5), and by the Parochial Employees Pension (Amendment) Act, 1948 (1948—19), and by the Parochial Employees Pension (Amendment) Act 1949 (1949—20).

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is a Bill which comes before the House annually, and it was thought that it should be included in the Schedule of the Bill to continue the various expiring laws. The object of the Bill is to enable the Vestry for each of the several parishes to continue to pay all the parochial employees who have retired or who may hereafter retire from the service of the Vestry, an allowance at the rates and on the terms and conditions set out in the Principal Act as amended by the Amendment Act, 1948. 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. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, Mr. 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 were read and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

REVERSION TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to revert to Government Business in order to consider the first Resolution of which I gave notice earlier today.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the Committee when the House is in Committee of Supply, to deal with the first Resolution of which notice was given earlier in the day.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

EXPENSES OF MEETING OF CARIBBEAN COMMISSION

Mr. ADAMS: I apologize to hon. members for not having cyclo-styled copies of this Resolution to put before them; I did have copies of the Resolution which I first intended to put before hon members but the Government has reviewed its decision and it is now proposed to ask for only \$350. Hon. members may remember that the first session of the Caribbean Commission took place in Barbados in 1944 and it was held at Harrison College. It has come our turn again for sessions of the Commission to be held in British territory and Barbados has been chosen for these sessions. The Commissioners will be here for five days and it will be necessary to furnish motor cars to transport them from their hotel to the meeting place. It is proposed to have an opening session of the Commission on the 7th May, His Excellency the Governor opening the proceedings in the Legislative Council's Chamber. After the opening, sessions of the Commission will be held at the office of the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation, and it will be necessary to rent chairs and tables for the opening session and otherwise. The rental of chairs and tables is computed at \$170, transportation at \$160, rental of typewriters at \$20, the total amount being \$350. It is my fault that I have not got any cyclo-styled copies of the Resolution available for hon. members, but in view of the fact that the explanation is simple and the time is very short, I ask hon. members not to raise any objection to passing this Resolution straightway. 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.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SMITH: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 45, standing in my name under Private Members' Business, as the next Order of the Day.

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

ADDRESS *RE* LATRINE FACILITIES IN HOUSING PROGRAMME CARRIED OUT UNDER THE LABOUR WELFARE FUND

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to proper latrine accommodation in housing programme carried out under the Labour Welfare Fund.

Mr. SMITH: This Address reads as follows:—

*The House Of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly begs to draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor the fact that, in certain instances, labourers who are in receipt of assistance from the Labour Welfare Fund have built, or are building, houses which lack proper sanitary conveniences.

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that Government should also include proper latrine facilities in its housing programme carried out under the Labour Welfare Fund.

This is an Address which is definitely for the preservation of the health of this island. As honourable members know, every householder in the City and surrounding areas has to construct a latrine so as to prevent flies from entering excreta and carrying it all around. In the country districts you will find that 75% of the homes, especially those of poor people, carry no proper latrine accommodation and, as a result, disease might spread very rapidly all over the island. What is the use of our trying to safeguard one particular parish when the others are left exposed to the carriers of disease? How are we going to prevent disease from spreading all over the country? We know that under the law if the occurrence of a notifiable disease is reported, the clothing of the person who is suffering from the disease is to be destroyed and excreta is to be covered; if that is the case, what about disease which is not reported? And such conditions are existing all over the country! In the canefields and culverts you will find very deplorable conditions; people expose excreta all over the districts. There are some labourers who are afraid of cutting certain spots of canes because of the inconvenience I have mentioned, and I feel that we should try and formulate ways and means of alleviating such conditions. I think that we have a golden opportunity of doing something now that assistance is being given to people from the Labour Welfare Fund to repair their houses; I feel that people should also be assisted in erecting latrines and they could repay the money at the same time that they are repaying for the repairs to their homes. If it is illegal for the Government to provide the latrines, I feel that if "X" can apply for a loan for repairing his home, the amount required for the erection of a latrine should be added to that amount, and you will thereby be improving the sanitary conditions of the people in the country districts. In the country dis-

tricts sometimes the pit holes are filled with water which washes all over garden herbs which are there to be eaten. I feel that there is a very bad state of affairs in existence and I am sure that with the help of the Labour Welfare Fund, the position can be remedied easily. I have spoken to many people and they have said that if the Manager of the Labour Welfare Fund would increase the amount of the loans, they would be able to erect latrines; they have said that when they apply for loans, the Inspector comes around and they are not allowed any more money than is felt necessary for repairing their houses. I feel that we should try in some way to alleviate the conditions of these people; there are many sick people who are unable to go any distance when Nature calls upon them. On account of the bad conditions, some of these people have to go out into the cold to help themselves when Nature calls upon them. I have been informed that this Address is not as strongly worded as it should be and I am quite willing to accept any amendment which will not destroy the Address. This is an Address which needs to be helped since it is for the promotion of the health of the entire island; we should try to stop the nuisances which I have mentioned. I have much pleasure in moving that this Address do now pass.

Mr. MOTTLEY: While I do not agree with the actual wording of this Address, the argument of the hon. member is very sound. In raising the standard of living of the people and giving them a better type of house to live in and giving them loans to repair their houses, the hon. member feels that one of the first essentials is that people should learn to appreciate sanitation. If you give people in any part of the world everything they want to eat and drink and they are not taught to appreciate cleanliness, you would not have given them much. It has been brought home forcibly to the hon. member who comes into contact with the people by virtue of the fact that he is a vestryman and an undertaker, that there is the lack of sanitary accommodation of any sort in some cases. Under the Public Health Act, the Government has been doing everything to eliminate the use of the bucket or hole system; but even in the parish of St. Michael, you will still find people who occupy homes and no provision at all is made for the disposal of sewage. In recent years, I think it was brought about by a Chief Medical Officer, money was voted in the Estimates for the provision of the necessary latrine accommodation. A Chief Medical Officer told me that the indiscriminate disposal of faeces, more especially when the weather is not so favourable, causes the spread of typhoid; and in one area there was an outbreak of typhoid as a result of the greater number of the inhabitants of the area not having any use at all for any latrine. While the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has not overstated his case, I would appeal to him that as the Address is worded it cannot be passed; because if loans are made to people for repairing houses, nothing could prevent them from using some of the money for erecting latrines. A latrine is just as much a part of your house as the bedroom is; that is my opinion and it is the opinion of the local authorities. I am wondering if the hon. member would word his Address somewhat differently; the hon. member knows that the loans have to be repaid, and if it is within his knowledge that poor people can barely find the wherewithal to get their shelters but cannot find the wherewithal to make provision for sanitary accommodation, I may remind him that in the Public Health Act there is a section where the provision of latrines will be the responsibility of the Commissioners of Health if they find that the occupants of houses cannot provide them.

What the hon. member should do is to see that the Commissioners of Health make a survey as to the necessity for latrines and make a report to the Board of Health. I am sure that the Board of Health provides monthly several of these latrines which are built in the City and sent out to the various parishes to be distributed according to the recommendations which are made. If in St. Joseph it is found that several people have not got any sanitary accommodation, the poorest are picked out and given that accommodation. The debate on this Address must do some good even if the Address is not passed as it is. There are a number of people in this colony who have no means of sewage disposal, not even the bucket system, and in our trying to improve the health conditions, we do not want to have people using canefields. I should like the Government to take notice of this Address and give people further assistance. I was going to offer an amendment to this Address, but whatever amendment you offer to this Address as it stands, it would not be very sound. I suggest to the hon. member that he should get the necessary statistics showing the number of people who use the pit and bucket system, the number of people who have no accommodation at all, send the information to the Board of Health and he would have done much better than having brought forward this Address. I am in sympathy with the Address, but there is a more practical way of achieving the object which it seeks to achieve.

Mr. BRANCKER entered the House and took his seat while Mr. MOTTLEY was speaking.

Mr. DOWDING: It is my intention to second the motion for the passing of this Address because while the wording of the Address is not quite right, I believe that the hon. member's motive is right. There is no getting away from the fact that in any housing scheme on which the Government is embarking, whether it is by way of loan or like that which one sees in St. Michael but not in other parishes regrettably, there should be some system whereby proper sanitary facilities can be provided. What the hon. mover has brought out in this Address before this House is that the people who are acquiring loans cannot acquire sufficient money to erect latrines. It appears to me that in amending this Address all it would be necessary to do would be to change the wording of the second paragraph setting out that the Government should ensure that all persons receiving loans from the Labour Welfare Fund should be assisted to such a degree that they can provide latrine facilities. I believe that if the wording were changed to that which I have proposed, the object which the hon. mover has in view would be attained. I am not satisfied that the fact is taken into consideration that latrine facilities should be provided when the loans are being granted. It is very expensive nowadays to repair a house; from what I have seen as a result of people coming to me, I am very much of the opinion that the authorities are overlooking the fact of the high cost of repairs and the necessity for providing latrine accommodation. I believe that in any housing scheme where assistance is being provided either from the Labour Welfare Fund or from any other Fund, it should be made abundantly clear to the authorities that proper sanitation is of the utmost importance to this island and that all possible facilities should be given to people. I hope that the hon. member will consider my suggestion and that hon. members will continue to debate this Address in which, in my opinion, the hon. member's motive is right, but the wording is not quite right.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry that the hon. mover should seem to have got annoyed at the question which I asked him a few moments ago. What is he driving at? I have not yet gathered from the mover and seconder of this Address what they are asking the Government to do. They have shown that they have not got clearly in their minds what they are driving at. If you want to see that disease does not spread from one parish to the other, that is a matter for the Sanitary Authorities; if the point is that the House would like to make it compulsory that everybody be made to dig a pit and that people be given facilities by allowing them to borrow money, then let hon. members say so, because, up to now, they have not said so. The hon. mover has forgotten that the Government is not engaged in carrying out any housing scheme from the Labour Welfare Fund; people are borrowing money from the Fund to enable repairs to be carried out to their houses, and if they spend all the money on their drawing-rooms or on the toilets, it is a matter for them. If people want to spend about \$400 on their toilets they can do so; in short, people are lent as much money as the Manager of the Fund, Mr. Douglas Haynes, loans, the number of people who are on the waiting list, whether you are more deserving than a bachelor who is living alone—all that is taken into consideration. It is a matter for people to expend the money which is loaned them in the way they want to repair their houses; it is completely wrong to make the suggestion that more money should be loaned so that latrine accommodation can be provided, because, I repeat, people can spend all the money on the toilet. I know of at least two instances in which people, before they knew about the Labour Welfare Fund, borrowed money and completely finished their houses, and then they borrowed very little from the Labour Welfare Fund so as to finish their kitchens and toilets. If hon. members are suggesting that whenever people borrow money you should try and persuade them to start with the toilet first, let them say so; if they are suggesting to the Government that it should be laid down that some of the money must be spent on toilets, that is a matter which will require some consideration, that is a horse of another colour. In short, hon. members must decide whether it is a question of persuasion or of compulsion, and if it is a question of compulsion, they must see the possible dangers of compulsion. I suggest to the hon. mover that he should clarify the position and say whether he wants it to be laid down as a condition of the loans that some of the money must be spent on toilets. I appeal to him to see that I am not objecting to any scheme for proper sanitation; but if you are asking the Government to do something you should tell the Government clearly what you want it to do. I am not putting any words in the hon. member's mouth, but I thought he was going to say that the Government should consider the possibility of giving people toilets out of the Labour Welfare Fund. It might be that he would see the tremendous expenditure involved. There are two things to be considered in respect of this question of toilet accommodation; people might have sufficient toilet accommodation and in that case it would be hard to compel them to build something more elaborate, and on the other hand, if the hon. member feels that the minimum standard should be a pit and that everybody should be made to dig a pit, then let him say so. But when it comes to talking about providing more funds for assisting with latrine accommodation, that is completely out of the question. I hate to see the hon. member send up to the Government an Address of which the Government can neither make heads or tails; what the hon. member means should not appear to be vague to the Government. I ask him to

make clear to the Government exactly what he wants the Government to do.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I cannot see that we can make the matter of toilet accommodation a condition of granting loans which are made on existing houses. The Labour Welfare Fund was never created to conflict with Public Health laws; it was created to help people who want to repair their houses. When loans are made to people for repairing their houses, they are not prevented from building toilets, and I would appeal to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to see that in so far as this matter is concerned, it is not necessary to have an Address passed. It has become fashionable to bring forward an Address in connection with any matter, no matter how trivial it is. If people complain to the hon. member that they are unable to make the necessary sanitary arrangements, there is nothing to prevent him from asking Mr. Haynes, the Manager of the Fund, to see what can be loaned for this purpose. The Fund stands at a figure of over a million dollars and I am wondering if the hon. member is aware that there are very many people who are still waiting for loans to have their houses repaired under the existing arrangement; I feel sure that he is not aware of the fact that there are over 3,000 people who have applied for loans, that only about 1,000 have been dealt with and regard has to be paid to the rate at which the money is repaid. The Manager of the Fund has to be very cautious owing to the number of people who want loans to be made to them. The Fund is being well administered. I appeal to the hon. member to see that the matter in respect of which this Address has been brought forward is a trivial one.

Mr. MAPP: If it were possible to deal with this matter under the housing loan scheme I think it would be a good idea to do so, and it would serve people well. What I am aware of is that the financial implication of this Labour Welfare Fund is such that I do not see how the Manager could extend assistance relative to the provision of sanitary conveniences and at the same time consider the thousands of applications which have not yet been considered. I was very surprised to hear the hon. Leader of the House say that if a man wanted to spend all the money that was loaned him on latrine accommodation or any other convenience he could do so. I happen to know that there is some disappointment among labourers at the way in which they are received at the Department which deals with the Labour Welfare Fund. You cannot advise everybody; some of these people are reasonable and others are unreasonable, but I feel that it would be in the interest of everybody if some statement were made by the Government in this matter, because there are a lot of people who say that they are not properly received at this Department. They also complain that when the Inspector comes around he says that he does not think that houses are worth so much money and things of that sort; if the money is short I think that that should be told the workers in a most kindly way. After all, you do not merely set up a Department in order to have this scheme carried out; you have to satisfy people that you are actually doing something for them. If the 2,000 people who are waiting to have loans made to them cannot receive the money until a certain time, I think that some announcement should be made in the Press. I feel that the Government, when considering making loans to people from the Labour Welfare Fund under the scheme, should consider including amounts for sanitary accommodation; if they find it possible to set aside more to this scheme, I feel they should do so. I cannot see these 2,000 labourers being satisfied in two years; they will have to wait for a very long time and I think the Government should well

consider adding to the amount of the Fund so that these 2,000 applications for loans might be considered. There is a hint from the Government that I was exaggerating in saying that the workers were not well received at the Department, but I know of a case in which an agricultural labourer made application for a loan and produced a letter from the manager of the estate where he was working; the inspector went around about six months later and because the man was doing shoemaker's work, his loan was not considered and he was told that he was no longer working as a labourer but as a shoemaker. That letter should have been sufficient guarantee that this man was an agricultural worker. There is some justification for the feeling on the part of agricultural workers that they are not well received at the Department when they make application for loans. I am glad to hear the explanation given by the hon. senior member for St. Peter as to the limitations of this Fund; I can see that that is the **crux of the entire difficulty** in this matter. There is not sufficient money to go around but the workers do not know it; consequently they must feel that everything is not all right and they must feel dissatisfied. I think that reports should be made so as to let people know the conditions which exist. After all, these people have contributed to this Fund and it is in the interest of the Government that an explanation be made and more information given about the scheme. I feel that in parishes where you cannot get any playing fields the workers should be given loans in respect of their houses; it is not good enough that some parishes are not getting any playing fields and still the people cannot get any loans. So long as this Fund remains at the present figure, these difficulties will always exist; the amount of the Fund is not sufficient. The allocation should be increased and strong representations should be made to the British Government to have it increased. Everything is costing more, houses will cost more and unless we take strong measures to have this Fund increased, there will be even more difficulty in the future than there has been in the past in satisfying workers who make applications for assistance from the Fund.

Mr. BRYAN: I am appealing to the Government to give this matter the consideration which it deserves. I cannot understand how this matter could be termed as being trivial and the health of the colony is involved. For that reason if for nothing else, greater consideration should be given to this Address. I am offering an amendment to the Address and it is that Clause 2 be deleted and the following be substituted therefor:

"The House are of the opinion that steps be taken to remedy the above state of affairs." The onus would thereby be thrown on the Government to remedy the state of affairs. I hope that the hon. member will accept that amendment.

Mr. SMITH: I accept that amendment and while I am on my feet I am going to reply to certain remarks made by hon. members. I am sorry that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph appears to be leaving the House because I would like him to listen to me. I said at the beginning that I was willing to accept any suitable amendment to the Address and if the hon. member cared anything about it he would have provided the necessary amendment; but he said that he could not understand the Address. I take it that the hon. member has some of the best brains in this colony, and imagine his saying that he cannot understand this Address! I am trying to point out to the Government that the sanitary conditions of this colony are very deplorable, and I would like them to formulate some ways and means to remedy them. I have suggested that assistance should be provided

from the Labour Welfare Fund, but if that cannot be done, the Government should try to remedy the insanitary conditions in this colony in some other way. If the government says that if people want to erect latrines with money from the Labour Welfare Fund the Manager will lend them the money to do so, that is what I want. I had to lend money to a woman so as to enable her to finish her house; the carpenter apparently made a wrong estimate and the Manager of the Labour Welfare Fund made the woman a loan but refused to lend her any more money. If this woman got the remainder of the money to finish her home, is she going to be loaned more money so as to provide a latrine? You cannot tell people that they must erect latrines and then you do not help them to erect them. In respect of every home where people are unable to erect latrines, they should be assisted in doing so. There are people who come here overnight and who go into the canefields so as to dispose of excreta, but people should have sanitary conveniences at their homes.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter says that this matter is a trivial one. Imagine the health of this colony—

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On a point of order. What I said was that in so far as passing this Address asking for assistance under the Labour Welfare Fund is concerned, that is a trivial matter, because it has no connection with the Labour Welfare Fund at all.

Mr. SMITH: This matter could not be a trivial one no matter where it applies. The health of the community could not be a trivial matter and the sanitary conditions in this colony should be improved no matter whence the money for improving them comes. I should like to say that I am a member of a Party and the Party cares so much about this Address that no member would even second the motion for its passing, so that the Address could be fully debated. This is the second time that the hon. junior member for St. George has had to come to my assistance and I hope the time will come when I will go to his assistance. I am not sure whether I am coming back as a member of this House or not; if I vote with the hon. junior member for St. George at any time I would be attacked, but even for the sake of debating the matter of this Address which is a very important matter, no member of my Party has seen fit to second the motion.

Mr. COX: I was not prepared to enter upon the discussion of this Address although I am in sympathy with the spirit of the Address; and when the hon. member says that no member of this Party saw fit to second the motion for the passing of the Address, I should like to make my position quite clear. I knew absolutely nothing about the Address; we have agreed among ourselves that when any matter is to be introduced in this House by a member of the Party, that matter has to be first submitted for consideration by members of the Party so that we might know it fully and be able to take a decision on it. That has not been done in this case, and for the first time this afternoon I am faced with an Address which I have not been able to study. I think it is fair that I should explain my position; I cannot see why the discussion of this Address should have taken such a turn. I felt from the outset that this question could have been settled quite easily if the hon. member had decided to allow us to interview the Manager of the Labour Welfare Fund with a view to seeing whether we could reach any agreement in the matter. I felt that it was not necessary to have the question dealt with in the House; it could have been decided without this publicity. When it comes to the hon. member suggesting that the existing sanitary conditions be remedied by granting money from the Labour Welfare Fund for the erection of latrines,

I cannot altogether agree with him; because, after all, money from this Fund is only distributed among a small number of people in this colony, namely, the agricultural workers; but there are many other workers who use pitholes rather than latrines and they are not qualified to have any money from this Fund. Even if one or two people in a district are given loans so that they can erect latrines, there are many others who cannot obtain loans and therefore the position remains almost the same. I have seen the hon. member's point; as a matter of fact I feel that even from the point of view of privacy, each and every individual should have a latrine, and therefore I am in sympathy with the hon. member's point of view. However, I am still suggesting to the hon. member even at this late hour, that instead of having this Address passed as it stands—an Address which does not explain fully what should be done—to let us go to the Manager of the Fund tomorrow, if the hon. member likes, in connection with this matter. I have always found the hon. member very co-operative and I

would be the last person to be unfriendly with him relative to any matter which he brings before the House. I suggest to the hon. member that we meet the Manager and inform him of the conditions which exist among the people and let us try and see whether we can get the matter settled instead of making it a question for the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address as amended do now pass. Hon. 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 hon. junior member for St. Joseph to present this Address.

Mr. SMITH: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

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

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