

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th February, 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*),
His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*),
Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr.
H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Messrs. R. G. MAPPE,
M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, T. O. BRYAN, J. E. T.
BRANCKER, F. L. WALCOTT, D. D. GARNER, F. C. GOD-
DARD and J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E.

Prayers were read.

Mr. ADAMS entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 30th January, 1951, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

LEAVE TO THE DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— I am informed that the Deputy Clerk cannot attend the sitting of the House to-day, and I beg to move that he be granted leave of absence for to-day.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Mr. D. A. Banfield, Solicitor, be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk for to-day's sitting.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. MILLER entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

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

Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1948-49.

Annual Report on the Local Forces for the year 1949-50.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$10,334 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. 43, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill intituled an Act to consolidate and amend the Acts of the Island relating to the Colonial Treasurer.

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

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill intituled an Act to consolidate and amend the Acts of the Island relating to the Colonial Treasurer was read a first time.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

SELECT COMMITTEES DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to discharge the following Select Committees:—

The Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech delivered at the re-opening of the Legislature on the 25th April, 1950.

The Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 21/1950 relating to the Relief Goods Agreement.

The Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day 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 Colony.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE *re* LABOUR AT DODDS PLANTATION

Dr. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$6,000 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. 39, which form the Schedule to this Resolution. This sum of money is required to meet certain contingencies at Dodds Plantation. The matter was ventilated here last Tuesday by the honourable senior member for St. Philip, but a little earlier in the day the introduction of this Resolution was made in the House. This Resolution deals partly with the bonus which is payable to estate labourers at Dodds, and to which the honourable member made reference last Tuesday. This is a matter which is in keeping with certain agreements made between the Sugar Producers' Federation and the Barbados Workers' Union, and it applies, I understand, to almost all the estates in this Island. Dodds Estate which is being worked by agricultural labourers, and which is the property of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, must fall in line with other estates. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate if the honourable senior member for St. Thomas would tell us, if he knows, what is the amount of bonus the labourers are expected to get under paragraph (c) of the addendum to this Resolution. The addendum says: "Extraordinary expenditure during the year included the payment of:—

- (a) 12½% increase in wages arising out of the Ministry of Food Price for Sugar in 1950; and
- (b) 7% Crop bonus arising out of an agreement between the Sugar Producers' Federation and the Barbados Workers' Union; for every 5,000 tons over 120,000 (which is considered an average crop) a bonus of 1% is paid—the 1950 sugar crop amounted to 165,000 tons.
- (c) The usual bonus paid to labourers on the same basis as is paid by owners of private estates.

I wonder if the honourable member knows what is the usual bonus paid to labourers on private estates or rather, to put it in another way, can the honourable member tell us what is the amount of the bonus which has been included in this Resolution?

Dr. CUMMINS: In answering that question I will say that these figures were worked out by the Attorney of the Plantation following the same lines adopted by sugar estates. The amount set out here is \$400 which is required to pay this bonus to the labourers.

Mr. BETHELL came into the Committee and took his seat.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It would probably surprise the honourable member to learn that in so far as the majority of labourers on other estates are concerned the only increase in wages they got last year, was the 12½% mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of the addendum to this Resolution, and the 7% mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) over a limited period. The bonus which is referred to in sub-paragraph (c) has not been paid to quite a large number of labourers on sugar estates. Of course it is surprising to see that

with regard to the 12½% increase in wages and the 7% crop bonus, the Government is so far behind privately-owned estates; but if there is an agreement which really calls for the payment of this additional bonus, it has not been honoured by the majority of sugar plantations.

There is one point I want to make with regard to the operation of Dodds Plantation; this is a fairly big plantation, and, as far as I remember, the Government expects to make some money on last year's operation. I want to suggest that it would be an excellent idea if the Government would set an example at Dodds by providing a canteen from which the labourers who work at this plantation daily could purchase a hot meal in the middle of the day. Especially, of course, during the crop season would it be an excellent idea if all the big plantations were to take such a step. Mr. CHAIRMAN, you live in a country district and you know that many of the labourers live good distances from their homes, and, consequently, find it impossible to get a hot meal during the day because of the inconvenience of cooking for themselves during the hour which they have for breakfast. If, therefore these big plantations and factories could find it possible during the crop season to operate a canteen at which meals could be supplied to the labourers at cost, that would be of tremendous assistance to the labourers themselves; and I think the employers would benefit in the long run, since the ability of the labourers to obtain a hot meal during the day, must reflect in the amount and quality of the work which they can do after enjoying such a meal. On most of the plantations now the workers, with the short space of time at their disposal during the mid-day hour, can only get a cold drink or bread and what not from a nearby shop; but I think it is correct to say that there are very few workers who really get a hot meal at mid-day. I believe, Sir, that it is quite practicable for my suggestion to be acted upon with great advantage to the workers in the sugar industry throughout the island and the Government might well consider the idea of setting the example on the plantation which it owns and operates. The project is bound to be a success because the workers are going to appreciate it very much indeed; it will be of very great help to them and I am so sure of the success of the project that I feel safe in saying that it would serve as an example for private estate owners to follow suit and make such facilities available to the people whom they employ. Cooking in bulk would mean that the actual cost of a meal per head would be reasonably cheap and the average worker could afford it. I go so far as to say that if my suggestion were put into effect, there must be an improvement in the general standard of health of the majority of workers in the rural districts, because nutrition plays a very important part in our health standards, and while these people have accustomed themselves for years to making out with one hot meal after they have finished working in the evening, yet, Sir, if the principle contained in my suggestion were put into practice, those of us who pay some attention to this matter would readily admit that it must be of general benefit to the average working capacity of the worker and also to his general health standard. It might be found that out of crop you could practically cease to run the canteen along the lines suggested. There should not be any question of making a profit on the running of the canteen; as a matter of fact, if at the end of a specified period any revenue did accrue as a result of running the canteen, the stipulation should be made that the profits should go back to the people who patronized the canteen. I am thinking merely of the service which could be rendered to the workers by embarking on the

project; I know that the workers would appreciate it very much, and, as I said, such a service would reflect in the improvement of the capacity of the workers as well as their health standard. I do hope, Sir, that if the Government fails to give a lead in this respect, some private factory owner will be pleased to start the ball rolling.

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

Mr. ALLDER came into the Committee and took his seat.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$337,735 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. 40, which form the Schedule to the Resolution. I am asking leave to increase that amount by \$4,800, making a total of \$342,535; this additional amount is required in respect of Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, Item 33, "Payment of Passages to Public Officers." This item was approved of by the Executive Committee along with these other items, but it was inadvertently omitted from the Resolution submitted to the House for the sum of \$337,735. The amount of \$4,800 which was voted in respect of this item has been exhausted and this additional provision will be required to meet the payment of passages for five recently-appointed Officers—two Medical Officers for the General Hospital, one assistant Medical Superintendent for the Mental Hospital, one Assistant Colonial Secretary and one Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax. I therefore ask leave to add the sum of \$4,800 to the amount of this Resolution, to cover the cost of passages for these five Officers.

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon. member to add the sum of \$4,800 to the amount of the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Resolution, as amended, for the sum of \$342,535 do now pass. I think that the notes to the items in this Resolution are rather full, but if hon. members desire to ask any questions with regard to any of the items under any Head, I, or the hon. member who is responsible for the particular portfolio under which any of these Heads fall, will be pleased to answer those questions.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think, Mr. Chairman, that the various Heads of the Schedule to this Resolution should be taken one by one. We, on this side of the Table, do not know the financial position of the colony as well as members of the Government, and it is getting very alarming that we are asked to pass Resolutions for very large sums of money from time to time. We, on this side of the Table, certainly do not know whence the money is coming to meet this expenditure; we are more in the dark than ever and we are getting very anxious to know how we are going to get along with this heavy expenditure. I do think that the Government should take great care before they authorise any expenditure whatsoever. I quite agree that you cannot go on spending unless you have money to spend; and you cannot go on borrowing unless you have the means of paying back what you borrow. Apart from having federation, it seems to me that if we are not very careful, we might become a Crown Colony. Perhaps I am wrong. The members of the Government seem to be very happy about the position and they are more acquainted with it than I am; but I know that the continuous expenditure of large sums of money is causing much alarm when it is not known how the

expenditure is going to be met. I am only throwing out the warning to the Government that they should take great care in future before they send down Resolutions for the expenditure of money, to see that they have the means of meeting that expenditure.

Mr. ADAMS: It is seldom that I can agree almost 100% with the opinions of the Opposition, but I do agree with the hon. member that we have to be very careful in watching our expenditure, and we have to be very careful in seeing that these applications for supplementary votes are really deserving. It is very difficult, it is true, for any Government at any time in making estimates of expenditure for a current year, to be ever accurate. It might be that some Heads of Departments being very careful not to ask for too much, make very conservative estimates, and therefore come to us in the course of the year for supplementary votes. However, I do agree with the hon. member that sometimes it really looks a bit alarming when comparatively great sums of money are asked for by the various Departments of the Government to make up for deficits in the running of these Departments during the year. As regards the first item in this Resolution—Stamp Act Expenses—a comparatively small amount of \$150 has been asked for, and the explanation is that the number of cheques and dividend warrants submitted for embossing has steadily increased and the provision of \$360 for the current year has now been expended. The sum of \$150 is being asked for as against which \$120 is going to be refunded to revenue. I not only agree with the hon. junior member for St. James, but I assure the House that the Government—I do not wish to use the language of hyperbole, but I would say that at the present moment we are watching anxiously the estimates that are made in respect of Government Departments. We are very concerned as to what estimates are made for the current year—and what I am going to say now will please the three hon. members who are now facing me—inasmuch as the Government realises that although the incidence of income tax is not as high as it should be, yet if we can possibly make our expenditure equate with our revenue, we will endeavour to do so. I do wish to assure the hon. junior member for St. James that we, on this side of the House, are just as anxious as hon. members on the other side of the House to see that expenditure is kept within reasonable bounds and that as far as possible, we may be able to run the Government of this colony without any undue burdens being placed on the people of the colony by way of taxation. If it is the wish of the Committee that we should take each of these items separately, I am quite willing for that to be done.

HEAD III—COLONIAL TREASURER

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head III, Colonial Treasurer, stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD VI — CUSTOMS

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head VI, Customs, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I see, Mr. Chairman, that an amount of \$254 is being asked for as an *ex-gratia* refund of Customs Duty paid by the Barbados Brewery Company on machinery and plant imported for use in the production of beer. I agree that new industries require encouragement; I know that we have

passed a Bill authorising the brewing of beer and I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to make sure that the beer which is being brewed will not do any harm. I do hope that this brewery will be more successful than it has been at the start. I have heard some people say that the beer which is being brewed is not very encouraging and I hope the Government will take care to see that this beer will not do any harm.

Mr. MOTTLEY came into the Committee and took his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: I think it is wrong for us in this House to give free advertisement to any private concern, and I am afraid that both the honourable member and myself will be breaking the rule that we should not give free advertisement to this concern. I have heard it stated that this brewery is the smallest brewery in the world, and it is the only brewery which produces something which is not beer by any stretch of the imagination. I am told that what is produced at this brewery is, in complexion, much nearer to stout than it is to beer, and in taste it is completely indescribable. Having given it that free advertisement, perhaps I should not say anything more. I have not tried more than a teaspoonful of it, but I would say that it is a new venture. The proprietors of this venture are two adventurous people; this is a pioneer industry and the Government would say: "Try your best until you produce something which is first class." There is no reason to suppose that if we encourage these two adventurous people to continue with their venture, they would not produce good beer. The Government is telling them: "Try your best and we will help you in this pioneer industry."

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not personally acquainted with the proprietors of this brewery, but even if the product which they are turning out is not as good as it should be, I do not think that the remarks which have been made here to-day are entirely fair. After all, this is a local industry and it must help people locally with employment and what not; it must provide revenue for the colony, it must save us from importing a commodity on which hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent yearly and certainly I do not think we should do or say anything which might adversely affect the future prospects of this industry. We ought to encourage every single local industry we can; if the proprietors of this brewery are now starting operations, allowance has to be made for the fact that they are importing the raw materials and they are working under very disadvantageous conditions. In the long run they may turn out a very good product. We ought to do everything we can to support the establishment in this colony of as many new industries as possible. I hardly think that these two manufacturers would go into a business of which they know nothing, and there might be some legitimate excuse for their failure to supply a proper quality product in these experimental stages. If the product is not up to standard, it is not the first locally-manufactured article which is not up to the standard of a similar imported product, and we did not put any obstacle in the way of another locally-manufactured article, nor did we say anything which might have interfered with its future prospects. The remarks which have been made here to-day, while it is claimed that they are an advertisement, they are certainly not an advertisement in such a way as would merit the support of the public for this product.

Mr. ADAMS: I entirely agree with the honourable member. Nobody wants to discourage any pioneer industry, we want to encourage it; but a combination of stale mauby with something else is not beer. Anybody who is making a beginning may make

mistakes, and in time he may produce a first-class article. That is all we are saying; we are perfectly prepared to let all the machinery relative to this concern come in free and give the proprietors income tax concessions. I can see that this brewery is in a very elementary stage at present.

Mr. ALLDER: I wanted to make the same point which the honourable junior member for St. Philip has made; we have to be very careful in making statements of the sort which have been made here to-day. Not only do such statements tend to discourage the manufacturers of the industry but they might tend to turn people's mind against using what is manufactured locally. There is a general feeling that as long as an article is manufactured in Barbados, it does not live up to the reputation of the imported product. That is a wrong feeling. I have tasted the beer which this concern manufactures and it compares favourably with some of the brands which are now imported and which are sold at a higher price than that at which this local product is being sold. I am interested in the advancement of this concern and I want to stress the point that if remarks of the kind that have been made here to-day are continued, then the public would be prevented from using this product and from assisting local industries, and we might be causing much harm in the long run. Further, I am hoping that the Government will give all encouragement to all concerns such as the present one, as long as the products have been tested and put on the market, and so put up a barrier against the imported products. I have seen that this industry employs a couple of people from the immediate vicinity in which it is being carried on, and if these people are paid a reasonable wage according to local standards, I think that we should do everything that lies in our power to encourage the industry. We do not encourage these manufacturers by suggesting that their product is not of the best taste; there are some people who like the ordinary porter which we know is not of much value, but, in spite of that, people still get a livelihood by producing it. I hope that honourable members will be discreet enough to realize that certain remarks which they might make whether intentionally or otherwise, might have a damaging effect on this product in future. I prefer to use locally-produced beer even if its standard were a certain percentage below that of the imported product, because I know that in so doing I will be helping the resources of the colony and helping the population in the end. Hon. members might be making sport, but I am trying to suggest to them that they should approach this matter from a more serious angle. If we have passed legislation to help these local industries, do not let us by accident or otherwise make any remarks which will prevent them from obtaining the success which they deserve to obtain.

Mr. GODDARD: I understand that the Brewery which has been started in Trinidad is doing exceedingly well, so much so that within four weeks the entire production was sold out. We want to allow new industries income tax exemption for a few years until they have made back their capital, and that will encourage these industries. It is not every pioneer industry that will require that concession; when it comes to an industry where capital is put into it and cannot be easily taken out, that is where we need to grant concessions. I am particularly mindful of the tourist industry; that is unlike other industries where machinery is brought in and if the industries do not succeed in Barbados the machinery is taken elsewhere. I repeat; that is not the case with the tourist industry and encouragement should be given to pioneer industries. I think that the concession I have just mentioned should be given to the tourist industry and I

commend that suggestion to the Government. Everybody knows that at the present moment every hotel is full to capacity and we are losing valuable dollars. When we have to stand on our own feet and pay for foodstuffs from Canada or the United States of America, we should see the wisdom of getting American dollars here at all costs. Other colonies are benefiting from the passing of legislation to encourage the tourist industry, and I suggest to the Government that they should get the tourist industry put on a proper basis. Unless that is done—unless we have proper hotel accommodation here—we cannot attract tourists from Venezuela; we have the answer here for the dollars we need and I commend the suggestion I have made to the Government for their consideration. I am interested in hotels being erected here and I am also interested in the expansion of the tourist industry.

Mr. GARNER: I have not tasted the beer which is being produced by these manufacturers, but I have seen it, and, judging from what I have seen of the product I do want to taste it. Unlike my colleague, I want to say that as soon as adventurous people want to make money, they want to come to Barbados; this is the spot they have chosen. We have not sent to call them, but they have chosen this spot. I think we had better safeguard the health of the community; because people come to this colony and pose as manufacturers, that is no reason why we should sit here and endanger the health of the community. In every big country you have to abide by the laws governing the production of food, otherwise you cannot sell your product, and it is the duty of the Government to see that every product which is manufactured here for consumption meets the requirements of the imported product. I consider that we should encourage anybody who has any money and feels like coming here and carrying on business, to do so. It is not just a question of getting molasses and mixing it up and calling it beer. I am not saying that these manufacturers are doing that, but I do say that if anybody wants to carry on business here, he must give us a pure article that will not contaminate our health. I do not care if it is my sister, brother, or anybody else, my health or the health of the community must not be contaminated; the products must be fool-proof and according to proper health standards. I am not going to say anything more. If these people are not capable of manufacturing beer we cannot encourage them because somebody else can come in and give us a better product. We cannot have any kind of product because somebody is going to give employment to people. During the War we had a certain manufacturer—I am not going to call any name because he and I became very friendly afterwards; but I placed an order with that manufacturer who delivered me some goods one Saturday afternoon and by Sunday morning he was there to collect some of the goods because he had an overdose in them and was afraid that somebody might get poisoned. We are not going to tolerate everybody who comes here; we get quacks who want to get rich quickly, coming to this colony. I do not know whence they come; they might have heard that the people in Barbados are gullible and they come to suck us. If they want to sell their products here, it is our duty to see that those products are up to the standard which we require. I am a businessman and I say that the motive behind every business is to make money. These people are here to make money and if they want to make money they must come straight; they are here to make money, therefore let them give us a *quid pro quo*.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Nobody in his right senses would be so silly as to suggest that we should sit here and allow any adventurer to foist any harmful or obnoxious goods on the community. A position of

that sort is already provided for in the local Food and Drugs Adulteration Act. If the Government feels, or if anybody, for that matter, feels that the sale of this or of that commodity is injurious to the public, the remedy for putting an immediate stop to that state of affairs is there. As regards the quality of the beer which comes into this colony, one of the most popular brands in the local market could not pass the food laws in England; you could not sell a gill of it a day there, but it enjoys popularity in this island. The quality of the product should be of the highest possible standard. All I am saying is that, in so far as this local industry is concerned, even if in the beginning the product which is turned out is not entirely satisfactory, let us give it every possible support and encouragement because the operation of the industry here must benefit the community. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that we import a lot of articles in this community, which are of doubtful value to the health of the community; a lot of things are put in patent medicine bottles and what not. While I agree, of course, that we must insist on the quality of the product being pure and that there is nothing dangerous in it, I only rose in the beginning in order to protest against what I think would be disadvantageous publicity given to this product by the remarks of previous speakers. If by protecting the local industry we are going to increase the cost of living to the colony, or if we had before us a proposal to tax all imported beer at so high a figure that these local manufacturers would enjoy a monopoly in the local market, then I should be the first person to raise the points which have been raised by other speakers; but if we are only asked for a refund of customs duty I see no reason at all for entering upon any lengthy discussion of that sort in respect of this firm. It would hardly be the policy of these people to come here and invest money not knowing what they are doing, but merely relying on the gullibility of the local market in order to make money out of a product which has nothing at all to commend it. Let us give these manufacturers a fair trial to compete with the various brands of beer in the local market, which, in many cases, if they are not injurious to health, they are not of any advantage to the community by their consumption.

Mr. ALLDER: I would like to suggest to honourable members that before they express their sentiments they should really visit this brewery and see things for themselves. If honourable members were to visit the spot they would be able to see the elaborate and expensive set up. If these gentlemen were not qualified to brew beer, they would not put themselves to the expense of bringing down the machinery which I saw up there. It is not true to say that the beer which they manufacture is bad; even if honourable members feel that this beer does not suit their individual taste, I do not think that they should get up here and express themselves as they have done, because if their remarks appear in the Press tomorrow, it means that this industry is going to be killed. If this industry is killed, it will mean that the molasses which these people are using will fall back in the hands of the same people who sold it; not only will harm be done to the dealers in molasses, but the people who are employed at this brewery might be discharged. Those are the dangers which I see. We are a responsible body and we should not pass legislation to help an industry and then criticize that industry; we should see that the product is put on the market. It is my opinion that this industry is in the wrong people's hands; during the War the local manufacturers of soap had a virtual monopoly and the housewives had to grin and bear conditions. Similarly with margarine which was produced locally; that product should be a little better now, but scarcely any of the local house-

wives made use of it. The product was not up to standard, but if today you find that housewives are satisfied to use it because of its improvement, then I do not see why the manufacturers of this beer should not be given a similar trial. For many years a biscuit factory was here in this colony and just a few weeks or months ago a shopkeeper brought several biscuits right in the lobby of this Chamber to show honourable members the difference in size of biscuits made at the same factory and sold at the same price. That is the case with respect to a biscuit factory which was operating here before many of us were born and no criticism was made of it. Some of our parents are accustomed to the fineries of life, but the population can still find appreciation of the product which is now being manufactured. I have been informed by the people who are running this brewery that they cannot turn out as many bottles of beer as the public want; and if this product was as bad as some honourable members are making it to be, the demand for it would not be so great as it is. I am still asking the Government for a chance for these manufacturers and I hope that we will give encouragement for other industries to be brought into this colony.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman—I feel that all honourable members of this House are in agreement with refunding this money to these people, but we must be particularly careful that this House does not become the chief advertising medium against this firm. We must understand that it is the public who must come to a decision as to this beer, not the House of Assembly. If these people do not produce a proper standard of beer they will have to go out of business; but we must encourage local industry and not make certain statements on the floor of the House. Locally-produced beer must lessen the importation of this product; the idea of having local industries set up is the very reason why we talk about supporting industrialisation in the West Indies. I feel that certain remarks which have been made here today are dangerous where these people's business is concerned, we may be destroying this industry. I feel that these people might find themselves in a position to produce beer of a very good quality. I repeat that if these people are producing a wishy-washy article it is the public who will close them down; it is not for the House of Assembly to do that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—In a debate of this sort honourable members must have a sense of humour, then they must have a sense of proportion and then they must have a sense of propriety. I think that when industrialists come to this island and ask for Government support, honourable members should be at liberty to express their opinion about it. Sir, the expressions of opinion might not have come from people who know something about beer, yet you must remember that while the nutritive content of food is to be desired, in addition to that, there are such things as colour and taste. It seems to me that no other manufacturers of beer have gone to other islands in the experimental stage; they have gone to other islands because they can make beer, and I am surprised to hear that people who are applying for a licence to brew beer are still in the experimental stage. The word "experimental" has been used here today by an honourable member; the honourable junior member for St. Philip is the person who used it. (A MEMBER: Not in that sense). Well, he used it in nonsense. I feel, Sir, that the expressions of opinion here today will make people aware of the fact that Barbados is demanding the highest standard, and those who are seeking to come here and get duty-free privileges must be made to understand that we expect the best from them. I am not saying that there are not on the market products which probably should

not be on the market; we have laws on the Statute Book to deal with that matter. I am not expressing any opinion in respect of this particular product; I take it that the remarks which have been made by certain honourable members are warnings that industrialists who know their business must come in. By these warnings people who come here to carry on business will know the standard of production which we require especially when they are getting the people's taxes to do their own business. As long as people can put something in bottles and foist it on the public, they might not be as careful as they should be. If we subsidize the hotels, they might have some defects which have to be remedied too; and it would appear as if the people outside Barbados are getting better service than what we are getting.

Mr. MAPP: I feel that certain honourable members are trying to make a mountain out of a mole-hill; certain criticisms have been made in regard to this industry and because of those criticisms I think that the people who are carrying on the industry will decide whether it can succeed or fail. The industry depends on the quality of the product for its success; if the quality of the product is not good, the people are not going to buy it; but if the product is of a good quality, no matter what anybody says, the people will buy it. I cannot see anything in the statement that what honourable members say in this House is going to destroy this industry; this debate was started in a sense of humour without any intention to destroy this industry, and how can any honourable member say that what is said in this House will destroy this industry? We should have a sense of balance in this House and we should realise that we can carry things too far. Let these manufacturers improve the standard of their product and bring it up to what the public want; the product will then be sold. No industry which is being established here and is assisted by this Government through remittance of taxation or otherwise, will be criticized if a product of the best quality is being turned out.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Every right-thinking member of this House or of this community will realise that industries in this colony should be encouraged, having regard to the density of the population, the unemployment question and the difficulty which is experienced in making two ends meet. I will begin by saying that I disagree with anybody who says that this debate will harm or destroy this small industry; we are really advertising it. We ought to encourage every industry as much as we possibly can and I agree with the honourable senior member for St. Philip who says that we owe a duty to the population of Barbados to see that products are up to standard; we cannot simply encourage industries at the expense of the health of the community. I hear honourable members say that if the beer is not good, the people themselves will drive the manufacturers out of business, but that is not absolutely correct. Honourable members may recall that when the Amendment to the Food and Drugs Act came about, there was on the market the famous "Man on horse butter"; it was proved at the time by the Agricultural Department that this product was not fit for human consumption, but it was carried on the market. This product did not contain the necessary food value. If you are encouraging local industries whether by local or foreign people—I repeat here what I said in 1942, I think, when it was discovered that food for human consumption was being produced locally; there is a big difference between manufacturing board from megass or if you are producing shirts or hats, and producing food for human consumption. It would be something scandalous for any Government to sit down and allow anybody to produce in this colony something which is unfit for human consumption. Like the

honourable senior member for St. Philip, I feel that everybody should be given a chance; if these people are manufacturers of beer, they should be given a chance. Those of us who are accustomed to smoking "Trumpeter" cigarettes, will go anywhere in order to get that brand of cigarettes in preference to the best brand; it is not that "Trumpeter" cigarettes are the best but it is a question of your taste. People say that this beer is dark in colour and I have heard many people say that black beer is the best. Some people say that the beer is too strong; that is not worrying me, but from what I have been hearing, this is not a product in which the food value is up to standard. You might manufacture soap which might cut up your hands or your clothing, which you would be able to get over, but if you are manufacturing something for human consumption, I say that the Administration, even at the risk of being criticized in regard to interfering with local industry, should be able to see to it that that manufacture has a certain amount of food value in it. If there is the absence of a certain amount of food value in what you manufacture, what are you doing but cheating people out of their money? Of course, rackets take place and I remember asking at the Commissioners of Health in 1942 that steps be taken to have the Government Analyst discover the food value in stuff which is sold on every shelf in this island. I maintain that stout or any other article for human consumption must have a certain amount of food value in it; I remember well that discussion in connection with "Man on horse butter," and I say that, even at the risk of being accused of not having local industries, when people come here and manufacture articles of food for human consumption, the Government of this colony should see to it that those articles of food have a certain amount of food value in them. The Government should be able to come on the floor of this House on an occasion like this and say: "While you may say this is black beer, we are in a position to tell you on the authority of the Government Analyst, that it has whatever is necessary to be put into beer." In Great Britain or the United States of America, you cannot manufacture anything for human consumption unless it is up to the standard required by the Food and Drug Laws. We must always remember that there are industries and rackets. I remember that during the War a man came here and started to manufacture a sort of drink and the next thing you heard was that shopkeepers were fleeced and he was off. Mr. Chairman, you know that what I am saying is true. The Government of this colony owe a duty to the people of this colony to see that any article of food, whether it is local margarine or anything else, contains a certain amount of food value. Let us encourage local industries as much as we can, but surely we cannot let people come out here—displaced Englishmen for that matter and advertise themselves as chemists or scientists—it is bad enough for school teachers to come out here and say that they have all sorts of degrees—and then we find that people have been poisoned. For goodness' sake, when an application is made for a licence to brew beer, let us see that the applicant knows something about manufacturing beer; let us see that we are not allowing people to buy vinegar. Despite what anybody says, these criticisms will serve a good purpose because people will know that while the Government encourages industries, it will not encourage them at the expense of the health of the community. I agree with what the honourable senior member for St. Philip has said, because a man might come here and start a pioneer industry and he might be able to swindle thousands of people. If a local man starts to manufacture an article for local consumption, it must be up to a

certain standard and it is the duty of the Government to see that at that standard the article is fit for human consumption.

Messrs. REECE and GILL came into the Committee and took their seats.

Mr. ADAMS: I hope honourable members will pay the compliment of listening carefully to what I am going to say now. From a Government's point of view, we are prepared to do everything possible to encourage secondary industries including the manufacture of beer which is being carried on by these two people. Nothing has been brought to the Government's notice about this beer; if anything has been said which seems to be a reflection on the conduct of this business, it is merely because we are of such limited experience that we may have felt that this particular beer is of the poor quality, not the beer which we are accustomed to drink. It is quite possible that this beer is excellent as a dark beer; we are not saying that this beer is inimical to health, and I hope that those honourable members who are defending this beer do not think that we are driving anybody out of business, because, far from that, this Government is prepared to help secondary industries. We are not prepared to help industries where the people who want to carry them on think that the Government is a milch cow. As regards secondary industries, there are those which would prevent us from sending a lot of money out of the country. Take fish, for instance; if we could get more vessels to go out to sea and bring in fish, that would stop us from importing fish. Similarly, if we could put an end to the importation of beer from Denmark, Holland or England, we would do so. I want to say in the most emphatic language that nothing is to be understood as coming from the Government, which would tend to harm these two enthusiastic workmen who are starting a brewery in Barbados. I do not want anything to be said which would reflect on the quality of the beer; we are doing nothing to encourage that. I do hope that after all the debate the gentlemen who are carrying on this industry will feel that from the Government's point of view, they are going to get all the encouragement possible. If the beer is not fit for human consumption, the public will not buy it; if the public buy something which is unfit for human consumption, sooner or later somebody will die. It would be said that the person died as a result of drinking bad beer, which would necessitate an enquiry by a coroner and that would be the end of the business. We are not accustomed to drinking dark beer. I go further; I am prepared to criticize the Trinidad beer and the Jamaica beer as much as I criticize the local beer. There is no reason why we should give up Barbados rum for Trinidad rum; it is a matter of taste. I deprecate the suggestion that we, on the floor of this House, either advertise anybody's business up or down, or that we kill or boost anybody's business. I would go further and say that at Christmas time when I had to lay in a stock of rum for the benefit not merely of my associates but for that of others in the neighbourhood, I said to someone from whom I was buying rum: "Give me the best rum you have for my intimates who may drop in, and give me some poor rum for general distribution." And he gave me "Sugar Cane" rum for my intimates and "J & R" rum for the others. (Laughter). Therefore whatever we might say in here, whatever might appear in the columns of the daily Press, the public know what is good and what is less good. I do not think that anything which we might say in this House will kill this beer industry, and, I repeat, from a Government's point of view, if these gentlemen can succeed, we are only too glad to help them to succeed; but if a comment is made that we do not like this particular beer at present, these people

might get something to suit the taste of Barbadians. We do not reflect on the capacity or otherwise of these people.

Now Mr. Chairman, with regard to the matter with which I shall now deal, I had hoped that in a straight debate on this particular issue, I would have had the opportunity of speaking, and not in the accidental way in which the matter has been mentioned today. The honourable senior member for Christ Church has made reference to hotels and to tourists; I think it is only fair to the Government and fair, naturally, to hotel proprietors or potential hotel proprietors to say early what the attitude of the Government with regard to this matter has been so far. I cannot imagine a weaker case being presented to the Government than the case which is presented from time to time in the columns of the "Advocate" newspaper, or by some of those who put forward the proposition that this Government should clearly express itself with regard to aiding hotels. I cannot imagine any more stupid argument being put forward than the argument occasionally put forward that you should help hotels and pioneer industries. We should help anything that brings money to Barbados, but is the hotel industry and pioneer industries the same? Let us encourage local people to produce articles; therefore put a tariff on articles from outside. Let us help any industry the future of which might be uncertain; if a man is going to start a new industry or if he is competing against an already existing market, you help him. But when you come to the hotel industry, we are told that that industry is thriving, hundreds of people have to be stopped coming from Canada and from Venezuela, therefore this is an industry which is paying. This is not a knitting industry or anything like that; this is not a guess or something which has to be safeguarded or preserved. The Blue Waters Hotel Company had everything cut and dried, and if I may add a personal touch, I will say that I have been approached by an emissary on the question of the position as regards income tax. What happened in connection with the Blue Waters Hotel Company was that the Governor of this colony as Head of the Executive, was advised by the Colonial Office that only a certain amount of dollars would be released for use by this Company, and the Company said that it was not being given enough dollars. It is for that reason that the Company shut down. This Company never asked the Government of this colony for any income tax concession; it never asked the Government for the slightest concession. Had the Government in those days said: "Yes you can have all the dollars with which to buy the stuff" the Blue Waters Hotel would have been in existence to-day. The Blue Waters Hotel was not any pioneer industry and there was no question of any gamble; we do not know that this Company would make bricks or tiles in which case it would need to be safeguarded, but we do know that there is not a day from the 1st January to the 31st December that Venezuelans would not come here. I want to say that very few people may actually know the position with the merchants and the Government and potential hotel keepers in this island; the Government is always the target of the Electors' Association and people of that ilk. They are always ready to chuck bricks at the Government and when they think they can milk the Government, they approach the Government and ask for money in order to do this and that thing. They tell you how many dollars flow into their coffers when a tourist ship comes here, but what do they do to help in view of the time when they will ask for help?

Hotels and guest houses in this island have contributed for a year the sum of \$748 to the Publicity Committee; there are at least 10 hotels in this island and they contribute just over \$70 each in the course

of a year. Nothing could be more disgraceful than the constant attack on the Government in respect of hotels: nothing could be more hypocritical. If boats come in here, in a month the hotels make what they contribute in the course of a year. The merchants, hotels, and others contribute \$3,128 and the Government contributes 10 times what they contribute and then it is said that this Labour Government does nothing to encourage hotels. Because we happen to be Labourites, because we are non-Europeans, non-Nordics, that is the accusation they bring against us; we are accused that because of racial prejudice we do not help these people when all the help they give is \$3,128 and the Government is contributing \$32,000. I have kept quiet so far because in the interest of Barbados we do not want to tell the outside world what sort of people—it would be unparliamentary if I described them as they should be described—what sort of persons are trying to encourage people to this island. The Chamber of Commerce will meet and pass Resolutions, but they will not put their hands into their pockets and really contribute to the advertising of Barbados to the world, to get people to "come and see sunny Barbados." Last year we said: "You are contributing practically nothing; we will give dollar for dollar to the Publicity Committee. Produce more money yourself and we will add a dollar for every dollar you contribute." In that case we would still be in the position of contributing ten times as much as is contributed from all sources—hotels, guest houses, private contributions, everything. Therefore do not let us have any more talk about the Government letting down the island and having no interest in the island in promoting the secondary industry of tourism and all that. If these people cannot do any better than they have been doing in the past, let them stew in their own juice; when the public know the true position as to how much money these people are contributing, then the public will not be fooled by what appears in the "Advocate."

I would never have dreamt of introducing this question in a debate of this sort, but the honourable senior member for Christ Church is innocent. He is a layman on political matters; however there are certain honourable members of this House who might introduce arguments of this sort not entirely out of innocence, but in order to make a debating point. I could never accuse the honourable senior member for Christ Church for doing that. Of the honourable members on that side of the Table, there is only one whom I might accuse of making a debating point; but the hon. senior member for Christ Church is there innocent like the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, very innocent, very green, very affable, and therefore I do not accuse him of raising points with anything of a desire merely to tackle the Government.

Mr. GODDARD: I think it is clear from the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that no help is expected from the Government for hotel keepers. When the honourable member said that the Blue Waters Hotel Company did not ask the Government for any concessions whatsoever, that is not correct as far as I know. A letter was written to the Government of that day asking what they were prepared to do on lines similar to what other colonies had done in respect of sending down a Hotel Aids Bill, and the Government replied that the Company could not expect any such concession. The honourable member has also said that the project of the Blue Waters Hotel failed because of the refusal of the Government of that day to allow the Company to get the necessary dollars for building a hotel of that size and luxury. It failed

on that account and the stuff which was imported was eventually sold. The estimate for building that hotel was somewhere in the vicinity of a million dollars; today it would cost two million dollars to build it, and that is where we come back to the Government asking for concessions so as to assist in the building of new hotels. The hotels which are already in existence would continue to do business, but if you wish local or foreign capital to be put into hotels, people are going to ask for a Hotel Aids Bill. The hotel industry is a gamble and unless help is given it, I do not see any capital being invested. Canadians have told us plainly that they want income tax exemption otherwise they are not going to come in. I am interested in the hotel industry; in the parish of Christ Church which I have the honour to represent, there is the Marine Hotel at which 143 persons are employed and the guests number 131. Good wages are being paid and money is being put in circulation. On one occasion I went to the Crane Hotel to see what was happening and one gentleman said: "You all do not want any money in Barbados; if the business houses in town had been opened today we would have left money in Barbados." I say that we want to encourage the tourist industry. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said that the hotels only contribute a small sum in advertising Barbados, but he does not know the amount which hotels spend directly in advertising this colony. Money has been spent in bringing people to Barbados and the Government did not provide any of it. A cocktail party in Venezuela has cost me \$500, but that brought Venezuelans to these shores. I am interested in hotels personally and financially, and I am interested in the hotel industry on behalf of the parish of Christ Church because hotels of any size are situated in that parish. I know that dozens of people are employed in the hotel industry in Christ Church and they may not even be parishioners of Christ Church.

I thank the honourable senior member for St. Joseph for having stated clearly that there is a definite refusal of the Government to aid hotels; the hotel keepers will know where they stand. The hotels are helping themselves and they are helping the Government by bringing money in the colony; whenever tourists leave here with whisky which they have bought here, the Government collect their duty. The Marine Hotel employs 143 persons and if we had the Blue Waters Hotel, that would employ about 400 people and good wages would be paid. I saw a boy at the Marine get a \$5.00 tip and I am sure that he ended up the week with \$20. I would like to say that there is absolutely no argument against the tourist industry, and as long as I represent the people in Christ Church, I am going to vote in support of that industry. People who are unemployed will benefit from the expansion of the tourist industry.

Dr. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On re-assembling,

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

HEAD VI—CUSTOMS

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply before the adjournment, we were considering Head VI of the Schedule of a Resolution for the sum of \$342,535.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—I am sorry if it appears to honourable members that I am prolonging this debate; but while the debate is really in connection with an *ex gratia* refund of Customs Duty paid by the Barbados Brewery Company, it certainly took a different turn when the honourable senior member for St. Joseph attempted to make clear the Government's position relative to a Hotel Aids Bill. I am craving your indulgence to make a few remarks in that regard. The honourable senior member for Christ Church will have much more knowledge of hotels in this island than I will have, and, like other honourable members of this House, I am interested in the matter from the point of view of the employment question and the relief which the hotel industry can give to the people of this colony. In season and out of season there have been adduced arguments as to whether we should have a Hotel Aids Bill in this colony or not. Long before I had the honour of being a member of this Chamber, I remember this question being discussed, and I saw on the Order Paper a Bill which was introduced by the present honourable junior member for St. Philip. I understand that the Government did not feel like sending down this Bill. I have not yet been convinced that the stand which the Government is taking in connection with a Hotel Aids Bill is the correct one; I am still of the opinion that such a Bill should be brought down by the Government. The way in which the case is being put by the Chamber of Commerce or the "Advocate" or other people, is not, to my mind, the correct way of putting it; I believe that if you really want to get anything done, the correct way of going about it is not to actually abuse, but to use cogent argument and reasoning. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said that in respect of the Blue Waters Hotel, no assistance at any time was asked of the Government of Barbados; and the honourable senior member for Christ Church has said that that is not correct. When I use the word "assistance" I do not mean monetary assistance in the erection of the Hotel. The honourable senior member for Christ Church has said that not only was assistance asked, but a reply was received from the Government setting out the Government's position. I want honourable members to weigh the situation carefully; the establishment of hotels in this colony will not be putting money into the pocket of any particular individual. It is true that the ultimate aim of every man, whatever business he is carrying on, is to make money; if you educate your children, your ultimate aim is that they will be able to make a living. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said that the erection of a hotel is not a gamble, but I consider that it is a gamble. Those of us who read His Excellency's speech at the opening of the Legislature will appreciate the position of the hotel industry. Let us deal with a hotel like the Marine: if you have 131 guests at a hotel and you employ 143 people, is not that an indication that if you had more hotels you would employ more people? What greater evidence does this honourable Chamber need to satisfy it as to the importance of the hotel industry? You cannot say that because "A" or "B" or capitalists will make money out of the hotel industry, you will not do anything to assist the industry and thereby suffer hundreds of people; I do not agree with that at all.

As regards the question of finance, the honourable senior member for Christ Church has said that the Blue Waters Hotel was a million dollar hotel, and that is a lot of money. Business people in this colony must have a certain amount of capital to turn in their business, and if you are going to invest a million dollars in a hotel, the whole idea is to attract capital from outside. If you are going to raise \$1,000,000 in Barbados to be put in a hotel business, you must raise that amount from people who can spare the money from their actual business. Those of us who understand something about business, and who do not feel that the erection of a hotel will put money in certain people's pockets, will know that you must encourage big investors from Canada or the United States to come in; we will not say that only Harrison's or Goddard's should put up so much money. The Government of Barbados means more than all the merchants and hotel owners put together. I say that if you are attracting big business, you have to show the people something. Capitalists know exactly what is the position in the Bahamas, Trinidad, Jamaica and other places; I do not say that we must follow any country to the letter of the law, but there is such a thing as a Hotel Aids Bill—a Bill which allows people to get in certain material duty free and which allows them to operate for a period of five years without paying any income tax. The hotel industry is so important to the lives of people that the question should cease to be a Party issue; people should sit down and discuss the matter. Before World War II when you decided to erect any sort of building, two-thirds of the money was for material and one-third was for labour; but today the reverse is the case. In the erection of a million dollar hotel, I am reliably informed that over a period of two years masons, carpenters, plumbers and people of all descriptions would be employed, and about \$700,000 would go to labour. And after all, I cannot see anybody bringing people from Trinidad or Grenada or Antigua or anywhere else to build a hotel in this colony; hundreds of people would be employed in the erection of this hotel and we have the workmen here. It is true that some of the arguments used in the "Advocate" are not consistent with the application to Government for a Hotel Aids Bill; but I am interested in this matter, not from the point of view of Christ Church, but from the point of view of Barbados, because I know what it is to see people trying to get work. I am interested from the point of view of getting foreign capital in Barbados, and if the only means of achieving that end is for us to have a Hotel Aids Bill like other places, I do not think that we should refuse to give these exemptions. I think that we should arrive at some working solution as regards this Hotel Aids Bill; when tourists come here and leave \$40,000, they spend that money in goods which have been imported from England or France. If the goods are French goods and the tourists spend \$40,000, the Government has already collected 30%; and if the goods are British goods, the Government collects 10%. And when this invisible income is allowed to come into Barbados, the Government, as a silent partner, can still draw income tax. If people get help, they will help themselves.

The advertising of Barbados through the Publicity Committee is not the only thing to which the hotel proprietors and others who are interested in bringing tourists here, subscribe; but from what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph says the amount is rather negligible. Speaking from this side of the Table, I feel that they should subscribe more towards advertising Barbados. If you want help, you must first help yourself. Honourable members will recall Mr. A. E. Taylor trying to put into our hands what he thought should be done in Barbados. The honourable senior member for Christ Church said that he spent \$500 in Venezuela at a

cocktail party; he spent that money in the interest of Barbados because when people come to the island, not only Goddard's make money but 143 people are employed. I do not like the idea of the Government being asked to subscribe \$30,000 and the merchants only subscribe \$3,000 in connection with this matter of advertising; let the merchants subscribe more. On this question of the hotel industry, I feel that some set of responsible people should get together after hearing the Governor's speech and formulate policy and see reason. You cannot tell me that people could be so blind as not to see that if the hotel proprietors make money, that money must be passed on; Goddard's or anybody else will make money, but artisans and other people will also get employment. I feel that a Hotel Aids Bill is an absolute necessity; I say that even at the risk of some people saying that I am saying so for personal or Party reasons. Some people are afraid that if you encourage too many tourists here, the cost of living will go up; some people feel that if you encourage tourists here you will have to pay your servants more money, because if you have tourists here, they will pay better wages than what are being paid. I am interested in getting work for people. I contend that we should have a Hotel Aids Bill giving certain exemptions and if income tax exemption for five years is too long, well, say, for one year, two or three years. You cannot find a million dollars locally. (Dr. CUMMINS: What are you talking about?) When I am speaking about public health or medicine, I will discuss that with the honourable member. If you study the economic set-up of this colony, a million dollars is a lot of money, and it is a question of running your business and still finding a million dollars to put in a side line. Let honourable members disabuse from their minds that this question is any Party question; you cannot feel so when you think of the unemployment question in this island. After a hotel is in operation there is no likelihood of its being taken down; but if it is a question of manufacturing beer, the machinery can be removed in two or three weeks' time. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph feels that you should give exemptions to any industry except the hotel industry, but I do not believe that the Government's books are closed. We are prepared to do everything to encourage industries, says the Government, but doing everything, in the Government's opinion may not be doing enough. Every bit of machinery which Jamaica Knitting Mills brought into this colony can be taken up and carried to any other part of the world; but if you occupy three or five acres of land and erect a three or five-storeyed building on it and you have income tax exemption for five years — show me a million dollar hotel being taken up and carried out of this island. If you die before anything is done, the Government can collect Estate and Succession Duties. I think that the encouragement to people to invest money in brick and mortar and steel is gilt-edged security. If you give exemption from taxation to Jamaica Knitting Mills, people who rent a building, after a certain time and they make enough money out of Barbados, they can go to St. Vincent or Grenada; but you cannot remove a hotel. The hotel industry is the only one in which the majority of the capital comes to Barbados; in other cases the majority of the money goes to Czechoslovakia. A million dollars in machinery must be manufactured outside Barbados, but if you are building hotels in Barbados you cannot imagine people coming from outside the colony to build them. I regret that I had to prolong the debate on this item, but Mr. Chairman, you gave honourable members the latitude to drift from beer to hotels — you get beer in hotels

—and I thank you for the latitude which you have given me. Let it not just go forth from the floor of this House that one honourable member has said that the Government has not been asked for assistance in respect of the hotel industry and another honourable member has said that the Government has been asked for assistance. I say; let us meet and get people abroad interested in the hotel industry.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member says that a letter was sent to the Government of the day, I cannot contradict that; I can only say that I was a member of the Government and I have no knowledge of that letter. It may be that the letter was sent to the Administration and it was not mentioned in Executive Committee. That is why I said that the Government of the day, in the sense of the Executive Committee, was not asked for any concession. In a general way, as honourable members will remember, the question of giving assistance to hotels was discussed; the Government did not approve of it as a whole, but the honourable junior member for St. Philip, who, in those days was a member of the Executive Committee, introduced a Bill himself. However he very often found it inconvenient to be in his seat when the Bill came up for discussion.

The question that Head VI stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD IX — PUBLIC MARKET

The item and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head IX stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Item 22 under this Head is "Expenses in connection with the running of Refrigerating Plant." Some time ago I asked a question about the efficiency of this plant at the Public Market, because it was brought to my notice that a number of butchers were suffering as a result of the condition of the Refrigerating Plant. I have not had the opportunity to debate the reply to my question, but in the note to this item it is stated that on account of the high cost of maintaining the refrigerating plant this year, supplementary provision is needed to meet requirements for the remainder of the financial year. The Government has admitted that this plant is not up to date; consequently many of the butchers who have to put their meat in the refrigerator suffer. I hope that steps will be taken to erect a modern refrigerator in the Market or, if possible, have the present refrigerator put in a proper state of repair. Not only is a hardship caused to butchers who lose their meat at times, but the health of the community might be endangered if you do not have a proper plant for storing meat. I know as a fact that if the plant is not up to date, a risk is being taken of endangering the health of the consumers of the meat, and that is more serious than the butchers losing money.

Mr. GODDARD: The expenses in connection with the running of this Refrigerating Plant seem to be rather high, and I dare say that is because of the age of the mechanical equipment. I would suggest that a survey be made of the present plant and see whether it should not be scrapped. I would suggest that the Government should pay attention to modern day requirements and proper modes of refrigeration. The idea is not to have one big plant, but a small plant for each room; you can get different temperatures for the various rooms. If you are dealing with frozen meat, the temperature required

will be very much lower than otherwise; and for that reason I feel that some investigation should be made in order to see whether the present plant should not be scrapped. If we have to get a new plant, let us get one with modern requirements.

Mr. MAPP: I wonder if the honourable member in charge of this Resolution can tell me what becomes of the fish which have been caught by the Government Experimental Boat. Mention is made by the Fishery Officer about shoals of fish, and suddenly the fish become scarce. It seems that the fishermen were not successful in getting where the Fishery Officer could get. I feel that too much assistance cannot be given to the fishing industry; we do not know when the position will be such that supplies of tinned stuff will be cut off, and the Government should start an experiment with motor boats so that the fishermen can go out further than they go now. I feel that we should pay more attention to our fishing industry and build boats whereby the fishermen can go out and bring in more fish out of the season for flying fish. That would be of much benefit to the community. I throw out that suggestion to the Government and I hope that they will act upon it.

The question that Head IX stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD X — FIRE BRIGADE

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head X stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XIV — LEGAL DEPARTMENTS

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XIV stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XV — POLICE

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XV stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I would like to know if the Government would consider keeping the expenditure under this Head under control and not allow it to increase with the increased costs of the Crown Agents. If we decide to spend a certain amount under the heading "Arms and Ammunition," regardless of the increased costs of the Crown Agents, we are not willing to go above that figure. I do not feel that this Head should be so elastic; we should either decide that we are going to spend "X" pounds under this Head because it is non-productive, or we must reduce the amount of arms and ammunition which is being used so as to prevent us from having to increase the vote under this Head. I am not convinced that we need to spend this amount of money under this Head, and the ammunition is just for practice. If the British Government decides to keep a small army, we are not above giving them our personnel; but they must send us some of the ammunition which they have in England or other parts of the world so as to prevent the expenditure from falling too heavily on the taxpayers of this colony.

Mr. ADAMS: Why cannot the honourable member find something better to talk about? The note says that "Supplementary provision is requested to meet Crown Agents' charges for ammunition ordered during the year 1948-49 which has only recently been received. Blank cartridges and spare parts for rifles ordered during the current year have also been received at an increased cost." This Head is to cover "Public Security Equipment," "Clothing and Equipment" and "Harbour Police—Motor Launch," and when the honourable member talks about cutting the vote for arms and ammunition down to an allotted amount, this vote is not for any extra ammunition; it is for blank cartridges and spare parts for rifles. On the question of "Clothing and Equipment", does the honourable member want the men to put their hands into their pockets and pay for something which the Commissioner is getting free? The honourable member has made a good point about having the ammunition sent to us and I will pass on his suggestion to the right quarter.

Mr. ALLDER: Everything which the Crown Agents are getting for us, we notice that the price of it has gone up. I would like to know if it would not be better for the Police to wear khaki shorts or something like that, rather than for us to be supplying them with this expensive kind of material which is now being worn and which is not much liked by the men, especially in hot weather. The men in the British and American Army wear khaki which is more easily worn. All over the world the price of wool has gone up tremendously and it is necessary for us to find ways and means of cutting down our expenditure. Nobody knows how far these increased costs will go and there should be some point at which we should say that we are not spending any more on these items. Even if we have to reduce the amount of ammunition which is now used, we are not justified in spending more than a certain amount of money on it.

Mr. MAPP: I should like to know the reason for the long delay in the supply of goods by the Crown Agents. The supplies in this case were ordered since 1949. (A MEMBER: Let us lead a revolution against the Crown Agents). Well, let us do that; let us lead a revolution against the Colonial Office if we have to do it. There is a similar state of affairs in respect of the Waterworks Department; you cannot get the material which has been ordered. The War is over, the material has not arrived and another war has started. There is no point in saying that we should lead a revolution against the Crown Agents; it is time that you criticize somebody about the delay in the delivery of goods. Does this state of affairs not show that these colonies are being neglected by somebody? I think it is time that we make a move in this matter.

Mr. ADAMS: There was a time when the honourable member was congratulated on being the youngest member of the House; that has worn very thin and now he is the youngest member in a lot of things. The merchant, planter and factory owner complain that if they place orders in England they cannot get them supplied, not through the Crown Agents, but privately; but the honourable member is prepared to sit in a Chair at the "Beacon" and lead a revolution against the Crown Agents because some of the goods which were ordered did not arrive during the same year in which they were ordered. It is impossible to get your material in the same year in which it was ordered.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am sounding a warning as to the use of the Harbour Police motor launch. That launch is for the use of the Harbour Police and the higher officers must be made to understand that it is

not to be used for private parties. If this launch is used for private parties, naturally the cost of maintenance will go up, and the taxpayers will have to foot the bill. It is known that this launch is used for purposes other than Police duties, and that must be stopped, otherwise I will deal with that item in the Estimates.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not propose that we should start the revolution now, but we must issue a warning against the dilatoriness of the Crown Agents and the accompanying increase in prices. In the note to item 30 "Clothing and Equipment" it is stated that "the very large increase in the cost of items supplied by the Crown Agents for the Colonies has resulted in the expending of this vote, and an additional amount is now requested to meet requirements for the remainder of the financial year, which include the provision of uniform for three additional Inspectors and payment of initial Uniform Allowance to a newly appointed Superintendent." The Government has admitted not only that the prices of the goods have gone up but there is delay in the delivery of the goods. We should protest against this state of affairs and let the people on the other side know that we have taken sufficient notice of the matter and things have become harmful to us. People from Great Britain in the Police Force and in the Barbados Regiment have come out here under certain terms of employment, they ask for things, and because we have to buy them from Great Britain, our cost of living has gone up tremendously. I say that at least we should register our protest against the present state of affairs so that when the time comes for the revolution we will be able to say: "We have warned you all a lot."

The question that Head XV stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XVI — PRISONS

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XVI stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XVII—COMMISSIONER OF CURRENCY

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XVII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: When the last Supplementary Resolution came before this House in connection with the destruction of currency notes, there was a note stating that "In order that the new Unified West Indian Currency may go into circulation in April, 1951, it is essential that the very large stock of cancelled Barbados Government notes which are at present in the Currency Department's vault be disposed of so as to provide space for storing the new issue." If this note is correct, these notes which were imported must have been among those which were to be destroyed. We should have known the price of these notes at the time. I have no doubt that these notes costing over \$12,000 are among the lot which are to be destroyed. It is time that we put an end to these things and cut down the amount which is voted in matters of this sort. With the remodelling of the Estimates and the presence of the Financial Secretary, we thought that the House would have had more time to spend on legislation rather than having to deal with these supplementary estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: This money is completely recoverable from the Currency Note Income Account, and there is no question of any excessive expenditure or anything of that sort. These currency notes were received and put into circulation as distinct from those for which the expenditure came before the House recently.

Mr. LEWIS: These notes are going to be destroyed and the expenditure is not recovered in the manner in which the honourable member says: these notes are really a dead loss. This seems to be a lot of money to pay for these notes because the paper is cheap.

Mr. ADAMS: In the 1937 Act dealing with currency notes, provision is made for the establishment of a fund called the Currency Note Security Fund. One of the Sub-sections of Section 8 of that Act says:—

"There shall be charged upon the said account all the expenses incurred by the Board and the Crown Agents for the Colonies in the preparation, transport and issue of the currency notes and the transaction of business relating thereto". In short, the cost of these currency notes is paid out of that Fund which is a constant Fund that exists under the Act.

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

HEAD XXI—SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXI stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MAPP: In the Resolution which was passed earlier this afternoon provision was made for the payment of a 12½% increase in basic wage rates, a crop bonus of 7% and for the usual bonus which is paid to labourers. I am wondering if the amount under this Head includes all these items, because only two items are mentioned here.

Mr. ADAMS: This provision seems to apply only to the first two items. I shall make enquiries along the line enquired by the honourable member.

The question that Head XXI stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXIV—BARBADOS REGIMENT

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXIV stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I am glad to see that the Government has begun to employ people to take care of their buildings, but there is one thing which strikes me. The note says: "Owing to the recent renovations to the barracks at Gun Hill, it has been necessary to employ a caretaker on a full-time basis at the rate of \$6.00 per week." Although I appreciate the attempt which is made to see that Government buildings are protected, the wage which is paid to this caretaker is very low. The practice has been to pay watchmen by the period as is done by the Department of Highways and Transport. What I want to know is whether the Government is going to extend the policy of employing caretakers to protect their buildings. I am thinking of a valuable building like the St. Leonard's School and other buildings too, on which much money has been spent. Occasionally windows are left open and things of that sort, and in process of time more money will have to be

spent on these buildings. I feel that it would be expedient to have caretakers at these places, but they should be paid adequate wages. I hope that the Government will give consideration to this matter.

Mr. MILLER: When you think of the people who live in hovels all over St. George and there is a Socialist Government in power, it does not seem reasonable to pay a man \$6.00 a week to watch this building when so many people could be housed in it. This wage of \$6.00 a week is entirely small and I am wondering if the Government does not consider using this building to better advantage; it could be used as a juvenile school, for instance. You have a building situated on a hill top, it is closed all day and you pay somebody to watch it when so much school space is needed! I suggest that this building could be used for an evening institute or for classes on Saturday mornings or for a sanatorium for tuberculosis cases. There is the constant cry that you cannot find accommodation for people and here the Government is paying somebody \$6.00 a week to ensure that none of the windows of this building is left open (Laughter). The Government is committed to a policy of education both juvenile and adult and this building could be used as a school. I regret to be in a position like this where I create laughter, but I am concerned about certain people sleeping in cattle pens when the Government has this building. I suggest that no building should be left closed for 24 hours a day when it could be used for some purpose; I do not think that this building should be allowed to rust out when it should be wearing out. I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, in view of the spread of the disease of tuberculosis, whether this building should not be used for a sanatorium. If you talk about erecting a sanatorium somewhere else, you hear that it will cost a lot of money to do that, but we have this building which can be used as such an institution. I beseech the Government to regard this building or set of buildings as being fit for use as a sanatorium for cases of tuberculosis and not continue to ask a man to watch these premises for \$6.00 a week.

The question that Head XXIV stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXVI—PENSIONS

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXVI stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXIX—MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXIX stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sure that Government printing and advertising is costing over \$70,000 a year, and I expect that in the not distant future it will cost \$100,000 per year. That should be sufficient to convince the Administration that it is necessary to have a Government printing press. Every time an officer is to be appointed to advertise in the Press. Besides that, it is necessary to review the situation as regards Government printing; Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent do

not have any large amount of printing to do and they have Government printeries. It is time that we do something about having a Government printery in this colony.

Mr. BRANCKER: If I heard the honourable member correctly, I am sorry if the Government has not yet been convinced about the necessity of having its own printery. Every now and then supplementary estimates for Government printing and binding are brought before the House and fat dividends go into the pockets of the private Company which does this work. We accepted the principle of the establishment of a Government printery in 1939 and we referred the matter to the Crown Agents; but, of course, they take a long time to get anything from the United Kingdom to Barbados. The Government has the backing of the Colonial Office and I would not like to feel that the Government wants to be further convinced about the necessity for the establishment of a Government printery. We know that the money for Government printing is going into the pockets of the Directors of one of the strongest enterprises in this colony. I hope that before the end of this session of the House we will have before us a Resolution for procuring the equipment for the establishment of a Government printery, because, in this matter, we have been lagging behind other West Indian colonies for too long. As regards a Deep Water Harbour, we are supposed to be the laughing stock of the West Indies.

The question that Head XXIX stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXX—INCOME TAX AND DEATH DUTIES

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXX stand part of the Schedule.

DR. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXI—LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The items and the amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXXI stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am glad to see that the Government has good hopes of the emigration of workers to the United States of America, but I am wondering if the honourable member can give us any more up-to-date information than what is given in the notes. Everybody is very anxious to see emigration from this island taking place, but we would like to get a little more information in this matter.

Mr. ADAMS: I regret that I cannot give the Committee any more information. We have unofficial advice that a substantial number of workers—10,000 from Barbados and 20,000 from Jamaica—will be emigrated, but that information is unofficial. The Authorities in Washington have said that we will have emigration of workers but they have not given us any figures. However, we have reason to believe that the figures will be fairly substantial. We believe that the uncertainty of the world situation is such that the figures are likely to be more than what we anticipate. I shall make enquiries and inform honourable members if anything official has been sent to this Government or the Government of Jamaica.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I think that we of the Opposition should give a word of encouragement to

the Government. This is a matter which is near and dear to the mind of every Barbadian; although the honourable member cannot give us any definite information as to the number of workers that will be emigrated, we do think that emigration will take place very soon and that it will be in very large numbers. Whatever else you want to say about the United States of America, you are bound to say that that country is the sphere of the working man in the West Indies. I notice that the note says: "It is expected that a portion of the transportation costs will be recovered from the workers," and I wonder if the honourable member can tell us what proportion of the transportation costs is expected to be recovered from the workers. We of the Opposition want to offer the necessary support and encouragement to any emigration scheme, and we do not envisage any sum too big to be spend on the transportation of people to the United States of America.

Mr. MAPP: During the consideration of the Estimates last year, I think we voted a sum of money to cover the cost of establishing a Bureau of Employment and Emigration. We commended the idea to the House because we felt that such a Bureau was necessary and we also felt that we should have funds to assist workers who might want to emigrate. I am wondering if the Leader of the House can tell me what progress has been made in the establishment of such a Bureau.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I imagine that sooner or later the opportunity will come for us to discuss this matter at greater length and in some detail. There is no point in having any prolonged discussion on the matter at this stage, because, up to now, it is not definite whether or not the number of workers mentioned will be emigrated to the United States of America. Therefore the remarks which I propose to make in connection with the division in which the workers should be sent and other things, will more appropriately be made after the scheme has reached a more decisive stage. In the meantime I want to say that if we were to send even the suggested 10,000 workers to the United States of America for six months, their average earnings must aggregate over a million dollars. People have previously been emigrated to the United States of America and earned large amounts of money; but when they returned here they were denied the possibility of making any worth-while investment of their earnings, and the money was soon frittered away. A few of these people ventured into the liquor business on a basis which was entirely uneconomical and they soon lost their money. I want to suggest very seriously to the Government that, in so far as the expected emigration is concerned, provision should be made to permit the returning emigrants to make a proper investment with their savings; and no better investment could be found for these people's savings than an investment in land. Land is not available in any appreciable quantity in this island, and I propose that the Government should make available a few hundred acres for outright purchase by the emigrants when they return. At least five or six plantations should be acquired by the Government and divided and made available for purchase by these people. A few months ago I enquired from the Government as to the total acreage of land in the colony owned by absentee proprietors, and I have been informed in reply to my enquiry that the total acreage is, roughly speaking, 6,000 acres. I am not now debating the replies which have been given by the Government, that will be done on a special occasion; but I certainly do want to say now that this land owned by absentee proprietors is a very fruitful source for further investigation by the Government as to the

possibility of acquiring the land for purchase by the returning emigrants and others.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The purchase of land owned by absentee proprietors is not before us now.

Mr. CRAWFORD: You could hardly accuse me for saying that that question is before the Committee. I was saying in reference to the matter before us, that when the workers return to this colony, the Government should enable them to invest their money wisely by allowing them to buy some land in the island. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you view the matter as seriously as I do. Imagine 10,000 people coming back here with a million dollars in savings and there is hardly any opportunity for them to invest their savings!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That matter is better left until the workers go to the United States and return.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We cannot wait until after the workers have gone before we ask the Government to consider this matter; by the time that the workers emigrate and return here, the Government will have considered the matter. Anyhow, I have said enough to indicate what is in my mind, and I hope that due attention will be given to the matter. It would be an excellent thing if the Government were to earmark a few acres of land in which the workers could invest their money when they return here, and so add to the economy of the colony and assist their families; otherwise these people will put their money into the well-filled grocery business and eventually lose it.

The question that Head XXXI stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

HEAD XXXII — DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXXII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXIII — AIRPORT

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXXIII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXVIII — OLD AGE PENSIONS

The amount to be voted under this Head was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXXVIII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XL — WATERWORKS

The item and the amount to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XL stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES III DODDS PLANTATION

The items and the respective amounts to be voted under this Head were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head III of the Annexed Estimates stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I notice that the Government has several dozen motor vehicles attached to the various Departments, each Department is responsible for having its vehicles repaired and private garages are doing the work. I think that the Government should set up some Department for repairing their vehicles, motor launches, and other things. At present the Government vehicles have to be sent to a private garage for repairs every time they break down; I think that it would be more economical for the Government to have a Department staffed with whole-time mechanics to effect repairs to its vehicles, and it will be found that the saving will be great. There is much in what I am saying: I am hoping that the Government will consider the possibility of having a Department set up for repairing their vehicles.

Mr. ADAMS: The Government has been considering that suggestion for years: Sometimes the House has turned down suggestions such as that; but, speaking for myself and for other members of the Executive Committee, I would like to see a Government Repair Department and a Government Stores Department connected with the Public Works Department set up. I agree with the honourable member and I would mention that, during the preparation of the Estimates, the point has arisen; it has been discussed by the Estimates Committee and the Executive Committee will be dealing with the matter in about a week's time.

The question that Head III of the Annexed Estimates stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a Resolution to place the sum of \$342,535 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to Supplement the Estimates 1950—51, Part 1, Current, No. 40, which form the Schedule to this Resolution, do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

REPAIRS TO THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AT SEAWELL AIRPORT

Mr. COX: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman is a Resolution to place the sum of \$2,500 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to Supplement the Estimates 1950—51, Part 1, Current, No. 41, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

As honourable members will see, this money is required to effect repairs to the electrical equipment at Seawell Airport. The Governor thought it expedient to appoint a Committee to prepare a comprehensive plan of essential development at Seawell. That Committee was comprised of Honourable F. C. Hutson, Chairman, Commander Eggesfield, Mr. Wilson, who is seeing after the construction of the runway on behalf of the Government, the Colonial Engineer and the Airport Manager. I think that the Director of Highways and Transport was also a member of this Committee. The Committee saw fit to submit an Interim Report on the wiring of the Terminal Building at Seawell; they felt that it was quite unsafe for the wiring to remain much longer in its present condition and recommended that immediate steps be taken to effect repairs to the installations — hence this Resolution. I will read a part of the Report of the Electrical Engineer, Mr. Noel Seale. He says:

"The wiring inside the wooden hutments is defective, since a great deal of the insulation has perished, and the risk of fire caused by a short circuit inside these wooden hutments is very great. These buildings should be completely rewired immediately."

The Committee went into the question and submitted an Interim Report for the purpose of making figures available so that these installations can be repaired. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I cannot refrain from stressing the importance of having the Government Electric Inspector's Department carry out these repairs to buildings. That can be easily done. Private contractors like the City Garage and others will tender for doing work and all they are going to do is to hire workmen to do the job. And they expect to get huge profits out of it. The Government Electric Inspector's Department costs over \$15,000 to run it and that Department should supervise such work. There are always men who are qualified to do this job and it is easy for the Government Electric Inspector to do this work, because he does not have enough work to do. If I extend the wiring at my home, that has to be done to the satisfaction of the Government Electric Inspector, and I maintain that he should be responsible for carrying out this work. It is not satisfactory for this Department to cost us so much money to run it and for the Electric Inspector merely to go around and inspect the wiring when anybody wires his home; he should also do something by way of Government installations.

Mr. GODDARD: I am grateful to the honourable senior member for St. Michael for telling us that a Committee has been appointed to prepare an overall plan of what is going to happen at Seawell. I am sorry that the honourable member did not go further and tell us something more about the Interim Report. He says that the existing wiring of the wooden hutments is very bad. I would like to know what is the necessity for keeping these wooden huts; are we going to have another War or what? I was hoping that the honourable member would tell us that they have a new Terminal Building in view. (A Member: That is correct) because the existing one is hopelessly inadequate in every respect. Are we going to spend this \$2,500 in re-wiring buildings which are going to be pulled down? I ask the honourable member to tell us something more about the findings of the Committee, what they hope to put before the Executive Committee and whether it is necessary to re-wire these wooden huts which I consider should be out of the way. Let us have a proper Terminal Building in keeping with the progress of the colony — something which the public can appreciate, something in which the Customs Officials can work properly and something which passengers arriving and departing can use to their great satisfaction. I am hoping that the honourable senior member for St. Michael will give us a little more information in connection with the Committee's Interim Report, and when the final report is available I hope that he will place it in our hands at the earliest date.

Mr. COX: I do not know if I can say much at this stage. It is proposed that instead of having the electric wires run along the wooden buildings, poles will be erected and from these poles wires will be attached to the various buildings. I think the honourable member should know that at present policemen are stationed at Seawell; the Airport Manager lives there as well as the Health Officer and the restaurant is still there. These wires are to be disconnected from the various buildings and placed on poles. A little further on, the Interim Report states this:

"It is suggested that the following be implemented immediately:—

(a) the Installations to be completely re-wired.

(b) poles to be erected to support the weight of the high tension cables, and to raise the

wires carrying current beyond the reach of any passing vehicles, as well as to remove them from buildings."

As far as the point raised by the honourable senior member for St. John, that the Government Electric Inspector should carry out these repairs, is concerned, that point can hardly arise because it is not any part of the Inspector's duty to carry out any installations. He is employed in checking the wiring both in Government buildings and in private houses to see that there is no leakage and things of that sort. He is nothing to do with the actual work.

Mr. FOSTER: I hope that the Government will soon see about the extension of the electric mains to St. Andrew. I hope that that will be done and let us get a little light in that parish.

Mr. COX: The honourable member will be glad to know that the people of St. Andrew use the Airport just as the people of any other parish. This is not a case of erecting electric poles all over the island; it is only a question of removing the wires from the buildings at the Airport and putting them on poles.

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

EXPENSES *re* SERVICES OF DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$1,300 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to Supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part 1, Current No. 42, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Almost at the very moment at which I was speaking when I brought in the Resolution for a sum of money to engage the services on contract of a Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas, a cable was coming to the effect that this Officer was not in Montreal but in Edmonton, and that part of the terms of his contract would be that we would have to pay for him to get from Edmonton to Montreal to arrive here by T.C.A. or ship and that his wife would also be coming. It is expected that this Officer and his wife will be coming by T.C.A. from Montreal, and that his baggage or most of it will be coming by ship. On the day after I brought in the Resolution I was informed that the cable had arrived. If we had known beforehand, we would have added this amount to the \$12,000 which the House voted. These expenses are necessary expenses: this officer is coming on a two-year contract and it will be his duty not only to keep his eyes on the Gulf Oil Corporation or any other licensee that may exist, but also to advise the Government as to what is almost sure to take place—a dispute as to the value of the two Natural Gas wells for which the B.U.O.C. under the Act is claiming compensation. I should like to remind the House that \$12,000 is not too much money to pay for the services of a petroleum expert for two years, especially when we have reason to believe that he is a good man and when the B.U.O.C. is asking for one and a quarter million dollars as compensation—when so much is at stake it is advisable for us to have a really first-class man and not run the risk of having a person at a cheaper rate to give us less useful advice. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: 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 Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of four Resolutions in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am intimating that if there is not much left for us to do, we might finish it now instead of our having to come back in the House.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

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

REPLIES LAID.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to lay the Replies to Questions No. 56, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, relative to inconvenience and hardship endured by the travelling public of St. Thomas.

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

THE QUARRIES BILL, 1951.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter:—Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to make provision for the Registration and Supervision of Quarries and for the safety of workers employed therein.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This Bill seeks to give protection to workers in quarries. For some years now many accidents have been taking place in marl holes and quarries and it has been recommended by the Labour Commissioner that there should be passed some amendment to the Marlholes Act. I think that this is a Bill with which all honourable members will agree; I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Before the question is put, I would like to make a suggestion; it is that this Bill be so extended as to include protection for those people whose houses are situated in dangerous places in the country areas. It is no fault of these people that their houses are situated in such dangerous places; they had been unable to get spots in other areas in which to place their houses and they had to accept what spots were allotted to them. I feel that the owners of such spots should be compelled to see that they maintain a state of safety in respect of these big overhanging boulders such as those at College, Society, Coach Hill and other places in St. Joseph and St. Andrew. Not only is there to be considered the question of the occurrence of accidents in marlholes but also the lives of the people who live in the vicinity of these marlholes. I am glad that a Bill of this nature is being brought into operation, but I suggest that its scope be widened. It is easy for the Government to appoint an inspector to see where these dangerous places are, and the owners should be asked to demolish these boulders which, from time to time, destroy life and property. An accident has happened in St. Thomas, last year one took place in St. John and the situation of the people who live in these areas is one of fear. I hope that my remarks will not go unheeded; one can easily remember that some years ago a householder was crushed to pieces by one of these boulders which fell on her house. I hope that

the honourable senior member for St. Peter will consider the suggestion which I have made, and if there is any room for amendment see that it is made in the proper quarter.

Mr. MAPP: This is a Bill in which the Government is taking steps to see that the people who work in quarries are employed under safe conditions. An attempt is being made to provide for the safety of these workers, and we are all very glad to see that this Bill has come before us today. I would like to ask whether the honourable senior member for St. Peter can assure us that provision will be specifically made for these people to be insured. I feel that provision should be made whereby all these workers will be insured. This is a very serious matter; I feel that the Labour Commissioner should be empowered to call upon the owners of quarries to see that the workers employed therein are insured. However, I am very glad that some step is being taken to provide for the safety of these workers.

Mr. MILLER: We are all in favour of this Bill which seeks to offer protection to the people who work in these quarries. I am in agreement with the Government that these quarries should come under some regulation by the Labour Commissioner, and I feel that some form of insurance should be brought about in respect of these workers. If you look back to the time when quarries first came into existence, you will realise that these quarries have been responsible for many people's lives; and in recent years, as we all know, every now and then there has been the loss of life as a result of falling stones. Quarrying is indeed the hardest work in the world; if you want to have an idea of what I mean, you look at these workers and you will see them soaking wet being exposed to the sun. I feel that they should be afforded every protection. I do not think it is unreasonable for the Government to ask people who own quarries to insure the workers employed in them. We have the most quarries in St. George and since I am one of the representatives of that parish, it is my duty to see that these people are protected. Some honourable members are laughing; I say that quarrying is a relief of slavery and I feel that it should not be done by human beings. It was quite all right for a primitive age, but I feel that in this age quarrying should be done by machinery. The life of a worker in a quarry is always in jeopardy and it is the Government's duty to protect him. I wish the Government will take me seriously when I make these remarks; if I had the power, I would not allow anybody to work in a quarry. I ask the Government to make some provision for the insurance of people who work in quarries.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—I was led to believe that we were only dealing with a small matter and it would not be debated. However, the honourable member has spoken about the quarries in St. George and I will have to speak about the quarries in St. Philip (Laughter). I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

THE QUARRIES BILL, 1951

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was debating the second reading of the Bill intituled an Act to make provision for the Registration and Supervision of Quarries and for the safety of workers employed therein. The honourable senior member for St. George was speaking.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,— Continuing on this question of the protection of workers employed in the quarries, I would like to stress the point that work in the quarries is the hardest type of work in the world and people should be exempt from such work. There were slaves who were forced under the whip, and when you think of the suffering which is meted out to those people, the position is about the same to-day with the quarry workers. You think of a man working in a quarry from morning until night and some of these people have to get their children to assist them in getting bread. It is at a period of the year like the crop season when quarry workers get relief by being employed by plantation owners in cutting canes. As to the enclosure of these quarries, we should protect people who are likely to fall over the edges of quarries and thereby lose their lives. I am anxious to have a reply from the honourable senior member for St. Peter on this question of the enclosure of quarries; I am asking for a detailed explanation from the honourable member, and I want to be assured that the registration fees will not make it difficult for small quarry owners to enclose their quarries. I hope that a reasonable concession will be granted to these people. It is difficult to ask such people to enclose their quarries because some of them cannot look after themselves. I am in favour of quarry workers being insured, and if I had the power, I would see that these people are all insured. I think that we should bring about an insurance scheme in respect of these workers and compel quarry owners to insure them. I am asking the Government to pay some attention to this question.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I think the honourable members who have spoken should be aware that the purpose of this Bill is really for the protection of workers in the quarry industry. If honourable members look at the Act of 1895 they will find that in those days there was no question of any representation of the workers or of their being protected; certain duties were performed by the Police. If honourable members are aware of the Organisation of Labour to which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph belongs, they will find that Barbados is living up to the standard of the International Labour Organization and the provisions of this Bill are in line with that standard.

I do agree with the honourable senior member for St. John with regard to the matter of these overhanging stones, but that has nothing to do with this Bill. That matter will have to be taken care of when the Government sees fit to bring forward a Bill dealing with such a matter. In connection with the question raised by the honourable senior member for St. George, the Labour Commissioner will use his discretion when he is granting a licence in seeing that the provisions of the Bill are carried out. As far as the small man is concerned, the Workmen's Compensation Act, which was passed before I was a member of this House, was brought about for the purpose of protecting these small people. I can assure the honourable senior member for St. George that while consideration has to be given to the small owner, it must be borne in mind that the worker must also be protected; he is the essential factor on this occasion. I do not think any honourable member would resist the passing of this Bill. The owner of a quarry has to pay the necessary compensation in case his worker is injured and he should insure the worker against eventualities.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on this Bill, and that it be an instruction to the Committee when the House is in Committee, that on the numbers of the Clauses being called, the Clauses be taken as read. If there is any particular Clause about which any honourable member wants an explanation, I shall be only too willing to give it.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Clauses 1 to 15 inclusive of the Bill were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter:— To move the second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Western Union Telegraph Company's Act, 1920.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,— This Bill is a mere formality. The Western Union Telegraph Company want an extension of the period of their rights for laying cables and they have to come to this House for the grant of permission for such extension. There is no objection to the passing of this Bill and I would not tire the House with it. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: 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. F. L. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

The two Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the adjournment of the House, I am asking honourable members—I know that they will be extremely excited next week in activities other than politics—to come here next Tuesday at 10 a.m. and we should be able to adjourn by mid-day. I propose to deal with the money Resolution of which I have given notice to-day, the Colonial Treasurer's Bill and the Gas Company's Bill which is a Private Member's Bill. In consequence, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, the 20th day of February, 1951, at 10 a.m.

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