

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th. January, 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. T. O. BRYAN,
D. A. FOSTER, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, M. E. COX,
F. L. WALCOTT, J. E. T. BRANCKER, G. H. ADAMS, B.A.,
F. C. GODDARD, L. E. R. GILL, E. K. WALCOTT, K.C.,
W. W. REECE, K.C., and E. L. WARD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings which were held on the 5th, 12th and 14th December, 1950, respectively, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

MESSRS. CRAWFORD and WILKINSON entered the House and took their seats.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the month of November, 1950.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to present from His Excellency the Governor the following Message:—

MESSAGE NO. 1/1951.

*His Excellency The Governor
To*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Address from the Honourable House of Assembly dated the 12th of September, 1950, asking that steps be taken for the acquisition of Rosegate Tenantry, St. John, and to inform the Honourable House in reply that, although

it is realised that the availability of land suitable for housing sites in country districts is an essential feature of any rural housing scheme, it is not proposed to embark on piecemeal acquisition of land merely because land is offered for sale. In the case of the Rosegate Tenantry it is not considered that acquisition by Government would improve the housing position in rural areas, nor is it believed that the sale of the tenantry will be carried out in such a way as will cause any of the existing tenants to be moved to another area.

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.
6th January, 1951.

PAPERS LAID

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

Annual Report on the Barbados Police Force for the year 1949.

The Island Scholarship Regulations 1950.

The Customs (Amendment) Regulations 1950, No. 2.

Resolution passed by the Directors of the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce of the British Caribbean—July 1950, in connection with the proposed Federation of the B.W.I. Colonies.

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

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$43, 509 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. 35, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$32, 400 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1950-51, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1950-51, No. 36, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$69, 680 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1950-51, Part

II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1950-51, No. 37, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. COX: Resolution to sanction the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under the provisions of Sub-section 2 of Section 2 of the Customs Tariff Act 1921 (1921-3).

Mr. COX: Resolution to sanction the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the sixteenth day of December, 1950, and laid on the Table of this House on the ninth day of January, 1951.

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

QUESTIONS

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

Will the Government take steps to

(1) initiate a contributory Insurance and Pension Scheme to provide compensation for benefits payable to sugar industry workers in all phases (field, factory and waterfront) during sickness, disability and superannuation.

(2) initiate a programme of economic security in the sugar industry under which workers in all its phases shall be entitled for a minimum period to unemployment compensation benefits?

(2) If the answer to either of the above questions be in the negative, will the Government please state the reasons why?

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Before you call the Orders of the Day, I am hoping that the House will bear with me in asking them to agree with me that we should place on record our appreciation of the fact that the Governor of this colony has been elevated to the dignity of a Knighthood. While it is true that Colonial governors are elevated to that dignity, it is not infrequent that some of them remain for two or three years before they attain that honour. It will be generally known that there are very few Knighthoods granted annually to colonials, and that includes governors. I think it is an honour to Barbados that the Governor has not remained in the colony for any long time without being knighted. In the elevation of His Excellency the Governor to the dignity of a Knighthood there is being carried on the tradition that Barbados is one of those colonies which must continue in the forefront of colonial territories which deserve the honour of their governors being knighted. I do not intend to say anything more; we congratulate His Excellency the Governor on his elevation to the dignity of a Knighthood and we are proud of the fact that within a short time of his arrival here, he has been elevated to that dignity.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to associate myself with the remarks which have just been made by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. His Excellency the Governor has endeared himself to all classes in the community and I think it is an honour to Barbados that he has attained the dignity of a Knighthood.

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.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—This Resolution for the sum of \$64,806 is to supplement the Estimates 1950-51. Hon. members have had it in their hands for some time and I hope to give them the chance of perusing the various Heads of the Schedule and to make observations on any particular item on which they need further enlightenment than what is supplied in the notes and which they wish to criticize. I would just like to say that the Government is prepared, as usual, to give all the information which is available, and if, in introducing this Resolution, I do not say much, it is not because the Government wishes to conceal anything. This is the usual supplementary Resolution and we have endeavoured on this occasion, by means of a note attached to each item to give a sufficient lead to hon. members as to what these separate items represent. In short, I feel that the notes are sufficient, but I do not wish for half a second to deprive hon. members of their undoubted right to ask questions. It is much more convenient to take these Heads of the Schedule one by one, after the Clerk reads them I will move that they stand part of the Schedule.

Head I — Governor

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am asking for a slight explanation here. This amount of \$216 for the item "Purchase of Fire Hose" was included in the 1948-49 Estimates and it was apparently deducted from the 1949-50 Estimates. I take it that an explanation is necessary as to why this amount was left out of the 1949-50 Estimates when it was included in the 1948-49 Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: The explanation is that in 1948-49 we voted this amount for the Fire Hose and it did not arrive until 1950-51.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—From time to time we are asked to vote certain sums of money in respect of Government House. I do not know if scrutiny is being maintained or if discretion is being used as regards the running of Government House, but I must again intimate to the Government that we have to be careful as to how much money we allow this place to cost the colony. I notice that an amount of over \$30,000 is voted to run Government House every year; the last amount we voted was \$400 for the purchase of a stair carpet, and that is nothing to do with the \$1,200 a year for keeping the furniture up there in proper order. I do not know that that should cost this amount every year; I feel that some care should be taken so as to avoid any unnecessary breakages or loss up there, which would prevent us from having to vote money every now and again. The sum of \$100 a month for the upkeep of

furniture in any home is an appreciable amount and it causes me a certain amount of heartburning when I am asked to vote more money for the same thing. We are now asked to vote the sum of \$250 for furniture for Government House and I do not know that the furniture up there is so much out of order as to merit this vote of \$250 which is nothing to do with what is voted every financial year. There are some people who would not mind having golden carpets, golden linens and everything golden so as to satisfy their personal tastes, and we are likely to meet somebody who feels that the bed must be tied to the ceiling with some expensive material or other. Mr. Chairman, I feel it is time that we cause those who live at Government House, and who deal with the running of it, to realise that we are watching the expenditure on that place. If you would observe, Sir, besides this amount which we are asked to vote every year, you have two labour gangs from the Prison going up to Government House and working daily, and there are other employees who are not paid out of the allocation to Government House. Taking these things into consideration, you are liable to get this department costing the colony too much, comparatively speaking. We are nothing to do, or we should not be anything to do, with what other countries do because they have the means to do it; the occupiers of Government House should be told that even if they feel that they want an extra cocktail table they should do without it for the present, rather than cause the taxpayers to feel that we are spending too much for the running of Government House, when some of the same people who have to contribute taxation to pay for the running of that place, do not have the necessary equipment in their homes. I hope that my words are not going to drop on deaf ears, but that they will be conveyed to the occupiers of Government House so that they can realise that they should be careful as regards the money which they ask this House to grant for the equipment at that place.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,— The hon. member's strictures have not fallen on deaf ears. I agree with his last sentence that the present occupant or any occupant of Government House should be warned as to what happens up there; and he might not invite up there people who chuck about things and break them. I say nothing about the number of cigarettes which some people take when the butler comes around. We have been presented with an inventory of the articles that have been broken. As regards the question about the occupiers of Government House wasting the taxpayers' money, that is not true; I can tell honourable members how every cent of this money is accounted for. This \$250 is for the replacement of certain equipment and I will say that it is surprising to see what happens at Government House after a cocktail party. This vote is in respect of the visit of Princess Alice; we are now asking for the money. The whole House gave the impression that it felt that the money expended in connection with the visit of Princess Alice was merited. I am perfectly sure that honourable members will see that far from there being any extravagance, there was some diffidence, if anything, in asking for what was voted. With regard to this \$100 which is being asked for under the head "Incidentals," the approved estimate was \$452; that amount has proved to be inadequate. The amount which is now being asked for is to cover the wages of a scrubber, and incidentally, expenses for cleaning. When the Government comes to this House, as it intends to come soon, with a request for increasing the emoluments paid to the present Head of the Executive, honourable members will be surprised to know the sort of wages which are paid to servants at Government House. I have already had cause to

draw this matter to the attention of honourable members. I feel, and the Government feels, that it is a shame that Government House should be paying to employees wages which, we feel, no private employer should be paying. What honourable members should know is that what we are paying the occupant of Government House is such as would prevent him, unless he happens to be a rich man, from paying wages that should be a model to other employers in the island. We have voted sums of money to pay ourselves as members of the House because we believe in the principle that it is not right to have people doing Government work, conducting the Government of this colony—people who would not otherwise be able to do it because of their financial position. In short, if we are going to establish the principle that only a rich man should be a member of the House, or that only a rich man should be Governor of this colony, then the hon. senior member for St. John should not be a member of this party. If we are going to establish the principle that no money should go into our pockets, well, let us do it. There is not a single suggestion of any new furniture in this estimate. The honourable senior member for St. John was not a member of this House who went to Government House and saw the carpets which were a shame to any middle-class man in this colony, otherwise we would not have heard those remarks today. As regards the fire hose, that was ordered three years ago; the vote for it was passed in the 1948—49 Estimates, it has only now arrived and we are asking for the amount now. If the honourable senior member for St. John feels that there is any extravagance in any part of the organization in this colony, whether at Government House or Glendairy Prison, it is his duty to bring it to the notice of the Legislature and attack it; but do not let him just repeat in parrot fashion, attacks on this or that Department without any evidence to support them. There is no reason to suppose that any extravagance takes place at Government House; on one occasion it was thought that a piano was the property of the occupants of Government House and not the property of the Government, but it is a long time since occupants of Government House have forgotten "what is mine and what is thine." I suggest to the honourable member that he should bring to the notice of the Legislature anything which he discovers to show that the taxpayers' money is being wasted, but not to make accusations when there is no foundation for those accusations.

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

Mr. REECE: I rise to speak about this item "Purchase of Fire Hose" and to say this; it is common knowledge that material which has been ordered for the Waterworks Department has not arrived in this colony although the Waterworks Department is making every effort to get it through the Crown agents. I think that the Crown Agents should pay more attention to the orders which are given by the Government. It is also common knowledge that people who are carrying on business are able to get items from England and the Dominions more quickly than the Government can get them, and the reason for that is that the Government has to depend upon the Crown Agents. What is now before us is a case in point. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has told us that as far back as three years, this fire hose was ordered, and today the Government is forced to introduce this Resolution in order to get the money to pay for something which has been ordered three years ago. This is something which is happening in respect of all Government Departments. The extension of the water supply system in this colony is being materially held up by the non-arrival of

supplies which have been ordered for the Waterworks Department—supplies which are essential for the extension of the system. I hope that the Government will use every agency in its power to make the Crown Agents realise the necessity of supplying **within a reasonable time, materials** which have been ordered.

Many have been the criticisms from all sides of the House as to the expenditure under this Head; but I would like to say that, in my humble opinion, it is essential that Government House which is the property of the people of this island—it is inhabited, it is true, by the representative of His Majesty the King—should be well equipped. It is regrettable that, from time to time, we should be called upon to supplement things which one would reasonably expect to be in existence; but, nevertheless, it is our duty to see that Government House is properly maintained, and it is equally the duty of the Governor and those who are under him to see that there is no wastage. On that point I would like to suggest that there should be some person put in charge or who would be responsible for looking after the ware, linens and other chattels at Government House; one could hardly expect that the Governor's wife or his A.D.C. with their many duties, to be able to keep an accurate check of these items. I think we should consider whether the time has not come when some person should be appointed to look after the costly things which we must have at Government House. We are responsible for the upkeep of Government House and inasmuch as we are called upon to maintain the furniture, cutlery, and so on up there, I think we should appoint someone to see that these items are kept in good order.

Mr. ADAMS: I did not make it clear in respect of the item "Incidentals" for which the sum of \$452 has been voted in the Estimates, that of that amount the sum of \$320 is for the payment of wages to the scrubber. It has been found that the vote of \$452 was not sufficient to cover the expenditure under this item and that is why this extra \$100 has been asked for.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I believe that most of us dislike involving the Governor, as the Chief Officer of the colony, in any discussion in this Chamber, which could be regarded as somewhat derogatory of his high office; but at the same time I cannot share the opinion that it is silly to comment adversely on the amounts which we are being called upon to spend periodically on these items at Government House. On this item "Furniture", within the past three years we have spent \$1,600 a year. The furniture at Government House is old, most of it is antique but it is in a tolerably good condition, needing slight repairs; and even if we make allowances for the replacement of cutlery, it seems to me that with spending \$1,600 a year for three years, it should be almost impossible to walk through Government House for the furniture in it. After all, \$1,600 a year is a tidy sum. Reference has been made to the likelihood of a few glasses being broken at cocktail parties at Government House, and even to the smoking of a few cigarettes at these parties up there. Perhaps the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has seen cigarettes in abundance at Government House; I have not seen cigarettes in abundance up there, and I feel that any breakages at cocktail parties is more than covered by the Duty Allowance to the Governor—an Allowance which has been increased by \$200 a month. From last year we made the Governor's allowance \$400 a month; in the Estimates we increased the allowance from \$2,400 to \$4,800, and I am at a loss to hear that this \$400 a month could be spent on entertainment and even

replacing new items of crockery or cutlery and glasses unless people steal tea and dinner sets or other items up there. This Duty Allowance is adequate to support any entertainment at Government House or any expenditure like the replacement of cocktail and whisky glasses which might be broken not necessarily by the visitors but, it might be, by careless or indifferent handling. What has really brought me to my feet is the warning that in the near future we shall be called upon to increase the emoluments of the Governor. The Governor's salary, is something like \$1,200 a month and he gets \$400 a month extra for Duty allowance; we pay his Private Secretary and his Clerk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member, but he should stick to what is before us now.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is in reply to the observation of the introducer of the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is by the way.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What I want to say incidentally is that the Governor's salary and the emoluments paid to the office are so high that it is impossible for him to spend the salary or claim with any justification that he cannot live on it. He could claim that he wants to send his child to the most exclusive school in England, or that he wants to bank every month—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I again ask the honourable member not to go along with that because it is not before us.

Mr. CRAWFORD: My remarks are being made with a view more or less to establish the point that without the money which we are being asked to vote today, this expenditure could be met out of the present emoluments of the occupant of Government House. This vote for "incidentals" for which we voted \$452 in the Estimates is now being increased by \$100, making a total of \$552. I am convinced that the money which we are being asked to vote today—the amount for furniture and incidentals—is no more than could be provided for out of the handsome emoluments which the Governor now gets. I do not want to convey the impression that one is cavilling at a small amount like this, but one has to scrutinize the amount which we vote for the Governor; it is therefore most unfair to suggest that any honourable member who issues the warning that more care should be taken in the expenditure of money at Government House, is being silly or that he is not discharging in a most conscientious manner the duty which he feels he owes to the people of this colony.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—I should like to reply to a few points which have been made by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. The observations which I have made are based on facts, and those facts are found in the Estimates which are presented to us annually. I did not directly suggest that extravagance takes place at Government House, but we do find extravagant dealings by persons whether they are governors or whether they are employees. As regards extravagance at Glendairy Prison, the only extravagance which I know exists there, is harsh treatment, and unnecessarily so, of the inmates. I have tabled some Questions in connection with this Department some time ago, and I hope that some steps will be taken to have the state of affairs remedied. As regards the provision of this fire hose, I am wondering if it is necessary to put a fire hose at Government House especially if there is the possibility of its not being in use for a long time.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. The honourable member is attacking a vote of this House. We have already voted for the provision of this fire hose, but it has not arrived until this financial year.

This money is in respect of a vote which we have already passed.

Mr. ALLDER: Several years ago the money was voted, but since then this item was taken off the Estimates, and it would appear that it was not necessary to have it. All I am saying is that we might find it unnecessary to put this fire hose at Government House, because we might be asked to replace it every year or occasionally. I would prefer to have fire extinguishers put at strategic points of the building; the fire extinguishers can last for several months without going out of proper repair. We have the Fire Brigade and its equipment up to mark. I still feel, Mr. Chairman, that the greatest scrutiny should be maintained at Government House; if we have to vote the sum of \$4,800 for entertainment purposes up there, the replacement of glasses should come out of that money. When an exclusive section of this community goes up there and enjoys luxury at the expense of others, I do not think we should be asked so continuously to grant further sums of money. When I am asked to contribute something to a cocktail which somebody who is better placed than I am has to drink, I may not have a tin of milk or any coffee for my family.

Mr. LEWIS: In connection with this item "Purchase of Fire Hose", I would like to say that I am not blaming any member of the Government, but it seems to me as if there has been a slip on the part of some employee of the Government. You put in this item in the 1948-49 Estimates, it is taken out of the 1949-50 Estimates and no explanation is given. It is not restored in the 1950-51 Estimates and it appeared that the idea was abandoned; but we are now asked to vote this money for this item. Before I sit down, I would like to say that the Government should pay some attention to the suggestion made by the honourable junior member for Christ Church as regards the appointment of a housekeeper at Government House; we should have somebody up there to see that things go all right. It cannot be said that we are paying anybody up there a salary which would entitle us to expect supervision of the place from him; we are paying butlers but we are not paying anybody a salary so that that person would have to walk about and see that the glasses are not broken and so on. A housekeeper at Government House would not only see that the linen which we lose up there is not lost, but that things which get old are replaced, rather than have to expend any big lump sum. I got up to make my position clear as regards the fire hose and also to support the suggestion of a housekeeper being appointed at Government House. Such an appointment is made in other islands, and I think that the same thing should be done here.

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

Head II—Colonial Secretary

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head II, Colonial Secretary, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I see from the note that this \$720 is needed for the purchase of additional furniture which is required to equip four new offices which have been added to the Secretariat. I am taking this opportunity to express my opinion that those cubicles are not suitable for the Secretariat. You want arrangements whereby people can see Heads of Departments and Heads of Departments can see

what is going on. If they go on erecting these cubicles they are asking for trouble.

Mr. REECE: I believe that the time has come when the offices of the Registrar, Provost Marshal and Public Trustee should be removed and placed over at the Courts. As the hon. junior member for St. James has said, it is of no use having the Head of a Department placed in a cubicle; it is not only inconvenient for him, but it is *infra dig.* to have him so placed. The Colonial Secretary's Department is an important one, and the arrangements there should be in keeping with the dignity and importance of the Department. Some time ago an extension was made to the Courts but it has not gone far enough; the offices of the Registrar, Provost Marshal and Public Trustee are still a long way from the Courts—the Courts which they were established to serve. I think the time has come when these Departments should be housed in the right place and give the Colonial Secretary and those new Officers who have been appointed under him the necessary space. I hope that this matter will be considered by the Government and in the course of time we will have a building which will house the Legal Departments and which will be a great convenience to the public and at the same time give the Secretariat the necessary space.

The question that Head II, Colonial Secretary, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head V—Harbour and Shipping Master

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head V, Harbour and Shipping Master, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I see that there is something new here. They are charging us something for interviewing people, and I would like to know what the charge is, whether it is five guineas or what? This item "Refund of Quarantine Visit Fees" is something which is new to me.

Mr. ALLDER: As regards this amount of \$60 in connection with the item "Incidentals", I take it that the Crown Agents are subsidized by the British Government for assisting the Colonies in getting business transacted in England; and to charge us \$60 for interviewing three applicants for the post of Harbour and Shipping Master of this colony is something unusual, to my mind. I do not know the method which is adopted, but the percentage of the Crown Agents for transacting business for this Government is somewhat high.

Mr. WARD: I, too, regard this item as something unusual. It seems to me that the Crown Agents are only trying to speculate with this Government. We put a lot of money in the hands of the Crown Agents and it is unreasonable for them to charge us \$60 for just interviewing these applicants. I think we should get some information as to why we are really asked to pay this \$60.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—I am sorry that I have no more information before me than what appears in the note. This is unusual expenditure; I will see if I can get the details as to why this unusual expenditure was necessary, how it came about and transmit the information to hon. members. I do not know if they want to wait for the information or if they want the consideration of this Head postponed. However, I will try and get the information.

Mr. LEWIS: My view is that this expenditure might be something necessitated by the Crown

Agents recently, and we will have to find out whether they are going to interview the Colonial Secretary, the Director of Agriculture or anyone else at a particular figure. You might have to travel a very long distance so as to interview somebody who is coming into the service, I feel that this is a new principle and it appears that the Crown Agents interview people at a flat rate of \$20 each.

Mr. REECE: The question really arises as to whether the Crown Agents are agents for the Colonial Office or agents for Barbados. Appointments are made from the Colonial Office and, as a matter of fact, I do not see why the Crown Agents have to come into the picture at all. I do not want to carry the matter any further, but there does not seem to be any reason for this charge. This is a question of the Colonial Office acting on behalf of the Crown. When the local Government order goods through the Crown Agents, they have to pay them for their services; but I do not see that Crown Agents have to come in here.

The question that Head V, Harbour and Shipping Master, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head VI—Customs

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

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

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: In connection with item 20 (a) "Drawbacks—Seawell Contract," I am again asking the honourable senior member for St. Thomas when is it likely that the work at Seawell will be finished? On the last occasion I was informed that provided that we have fine weather, the work would be finished by the 15th of January; well, we have had fine weather and I have been to Seawell and I do not see any chance of this work being completed in a week's time. I would like to know if the honourable member has got any later information as to when the runway is likely to be finished.

Mr. ALLDER: Note (a) to item 23 "Ex-gratia refund of Customs Duty and package tax" reads: "\$4,172.62 to Messrs. W.I. Knitting Mills Limited in respect of Customs Duty and Package Tax paid on machinery and material imported for the manufacture of cloth." This is a good idea from the point of view of assisting local industry, but what I find is that some people who import these materials are reluctant to assist new industries in getting rid of the articles which they make, and they have to depend upon Trinidad, Jamaica and other colonies to get their articles sold. The reason why the local stores do not take these articles is because they get a heavy profit from the imported article. Within the past few months these new industries have taken on several hands in their concerns, and I feel that they should be protected so that they can expand their business and absorb some of the unemployment which we have in this colony. I am making the suggestion now, that encouragement and assistance should be given these new industries, and so long as the articles which they make are up to standard, a tariff should be put up against the imported article. I have visited the Hat Factory and I find it difficult to make any difference between the imported hat and that which is produced just a few yards from this Chamber; but this concern needs encouragement and assistance from this Government. If assistance is given to this concern immediate expansion can take place and the result will be greater benefit to this colony. I hope that my suggestion will be considered because it is necessary

for us to offer our help and support to industries of a new nature. Trinidad and Demerara have got the lead on us in so far as new industries are concerned; we have a large population here and we should develop industrially. Larger colonies with a lot of land can embark on an extensive scheme of agriculture, which we find it difficult to do, but which position has been forced upon us because we have been too late in trying to encourage and develop new industries as other colonies have seen fit to do.

Dr. CUMMINS: As regards the question raised by the hon. junior member for St. James, I think he is a little incorrect. I think the answer given on the last occasion was that, given fair weather, the runway would have been completed in December, but there were other things to be done, which would keep the contractors occupied for another two or three months. The main thing is the runway; that has been done and it is in use. I am sure that the contractors do not want to remain here a minute longer than is necessary because it would not pay them to do so; they are anxious to get through with their job. Relative to the point made by the honourable senior member for St. John about West Indian Knitting Mills Limited, I would like to say that in a conversation with one or two gentlemen connected with the concern, they have assured me that they are quite satisfied with the business which they are doing locally as well as in the West Indies; not long ago they got a big order from British Guiana. However, in the very near future the Government will be coming down to this House with a definite policy in respect of new industries, and the honourable senior member for St. John will then have the opportunity of saying whether he is in favour of the concessions granted by the Government or not.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—When I suggested that some of the new industries have not been given the support from the local merchants as they should have been given, I really meant the Hat Factory which was started by two comparatively small persons who have been successful in producing an article which compares favourably with the imported one. You have to go to the factory and inspect the hats so as to satisfy yourself that they are not imported; but the manufacturers are saying that the stores would not take these hats in such quantities as would help them to expand their business.

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

Head XII—Registration Office

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XII, Registration Office, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I have made a suggestion in this House that we should not continue to have people copying documents in this Office; it is time that the Government adopt the proper method of photographing documents and the space required for storing these documents is comparatively small. I do not know if the Registry is to be removed, but wherever it is carried this work of copying documents will have to be done. I sincerely hope that the Government will act on the suggestion which I have made.

Mr. ALLDER: I do believe that some change should be instituted as to the orders for paper and the various books which are used in the various Government Departments. I notice that the cost of books and registers used in this particular Office has re-

cently been increased by over 50%. I notice that in some Government Offices there is a very small amount of writing to be done. I feel that in ordering paper and writing material, you should order it so that it cannot be wasted.

The question that Head XII, Registration Office, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XIII—Legislature

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XIII Legislature, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox 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.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XIV, Legal Departments, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Head XV—Police

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XV, Police, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I see that the note to item 15, "Medical Attendants", says: "It is necessary to continue the acting arrangements of the Police Medical Officer at District 'A' up to the 31st. of March, 1951, and provision is made for the payment of a salary at the rate of \$2,160 per annum for the period 1st January to the 31st March, 1951." Now, Mr. Chairman, that has been going on for some time, and we expected the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to tell us that some other arrangement was in view. We have not had a definite appointment there for many months now. I think that on the last occasion the honourable member told us that he hoped in the near future to inform this House that some appointment has been made. I am hoping that even now the honourable member is in a position to give us some more information as regards this vote.

Mr. ALLDER: As regards this item, Mr. Chairman, I have always thought it very unnecessary to have a separate medical officer attached to the Police. I am wondering, Sir, if policemen cannot be sent to the General Hospital when they are ill, and arrangements made to give them immediate attention. I notice that where several medical officers have resigned this post some difficulty has been experienced in getting others to act in this capacity. We are now voting this money to pay a medical officer who is going to act, but I think that we should abolish this office: and not only this office but the Hospital which is at District "A". This Hospital is not of much use; the policemen are complaining about the conditions which obtain up there. I feel that we can easily get over the present difficulty by abolishing this office.

Dr. CUMMINS: The hon. junior member for St. James has raised the question of the office of Police Medical Officer at District "A", and he has referred to the answer which I gave some time ago in connection with that office. The position remains the same today. There are a few part-time offices which are vacant; there is also the medical officer

at the Lazaretto and one or two others. The Government was hoping to co-ordinate the whole service making it a whole-time office and allowing one officer to do the work; but the same difficulty is experienced today as was experienced before....the difficulty of getting medical men....so that we are not any nearer the solution of the problem. As regards the suggestion of the hon. senior member for St. John, I will just refer to it so as to dismiss it. It is a ludicrous suggestion. In the interest of discipline, how could you have an arrangement of that sort? And you would not be in any better position.

Mr. ALLDER: It is not a ludicrous suggestion; if the hon. member would visit the Hospital at District "A" and allow himself to be reached by the men who go there, he would be able to get an idea of their feeling as regards that place. The question of discipline does not arise since arrangements could be made at the General Hospital where this discipline could be maintained. Do you not maintain discipline when people of a certain social standing go there?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—The apparent partiality of the Government in dealing with these part-time officers is causing some dissatisfaction. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will say that this is not true, but I understand that the Medical Officer of the Prison has actually put in an application for something like treble or four times his salary. It may be that it is difficult to get doctors to fill these posts; the salary of the Police Medical Officer is now \$180 a month and I understand that the present holder of the office is leaving. It must be obvious to honourable members that if you pay a small salary the policemen who have got to pass before the eyes of medically-trained men will not get any proper attention; because whether you are a doctor or lawyer or anybody else, the question is whether you are well paid or not. The hope of reward sweetens labour; that applies to doctors, solicitors—all working men—and even politicians. I repeat that there is some partiality on the part of the Government in dealing with these part-time officers; if that is not true, let the Government deny it. In respect of the part-time job at the Prison and in respect of another part-time job, application has been made for an increase of salary, but nothing has been done about the matter. If the argument is that you are going to wait until the re-organization takes place and you continue to pay these salaries, you are not hampering the medical men, but the members of the Police Force and people who have been incarcerated. It is not correct to pay Mr. "A", a salary of £400 a year and pay Mr. "B", who might not be a favoured person, a salary which down in your conscience you know is not a proper salary. I feel sure that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas in his capacity as a medical practitioner will appreciate the fact that when you are dealing with men of a profession of this sort you cannot so differentiate. I sit down by saying that a lot of dissatisfaction is being caused by the Government practising partiality and, in some cases, not even replying to letters which have been sent in to them.

Mr. WARD: It must be plain to everyone that there is a certain amount of partiality being shown between the Medical Officer of the Prison and the Police Medical Officer, when it is realised that both of them are part-time people and having regard to the salaries which are paid. I think that the Government should pay more attention to this matter and not be so partial in their set-up. The Medical Officer of the Prison, who is supposed to go there every day

of the week, has written more than once asking for an increase in his salary, and it seems to me that he is not a favoured person otherwise he would have been given a better hearing. It looks strange to me that one officer should be given £400 a year and the other should be given £200 a year.

Mr. GODDARD: I thought that this matter had already been settled; it was drawn to the attention of the Government some six or eight months ago by the honourable senior member for the City, and I really thought that they had taken notice of it, and corrected what is an injustice. How can they expect people to be satisfied when they encourage such discrimination? Dr. Clarke has to attend the Prison at a fixed hour every morning; he dare not be late or he is reported and his salary is \$80 per month. I repeat that this matter has been drawn to the attention of the Government; no notice has been taken of it and I feel that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas should explain to us why nothing has been done or why the letters from this Medical Officer have not been answered.

Mr. ALLDER: In connection with item 57 "Payment of two-thirds band fees to Band." I would like to know how this money is allocated. A lot of concern is being caused on account of the fact that the Police Band, which is paid for by the taxpayers, is taking up too many jobs at the Marine Hotel and other exclusive places and forcing the private musicians out of work. I do not want to give the impression that I am criticising, in any way, the Leader of the Band, because I feel that he cannot be replaced. He is an efficient man, in my opinion and in the opinion of many members of the public; but what has happened is that he seems to have erred in taking all these private jobs at the Marine Hotel and at private residences. I feel that that should be stopped. I notice, Mr. Chairman, that occasionally, besides what we grant in the Estimates annually, we are asked to grant more money for the purchase of instruments; and I feel that when the Band takes private contracts, it brings in revenue. Such revenue should be spent on the improvement of the Band rather than our being asked to vote further sums from the Treasury. What I want to stress is that the Band should not be permitted to drive private musicians out of employment; the Band is open to the people and at least one day in every month it should be sent around the parishes for the entertainment of the people, because it is by music and other things that the people become cultured. You have the Band playing at the Marine Hotel and the Aquatic Club; but the people of parishes like St. John, St. Lucy or St. Philip would enjoy having the Band coming to them at least once a month and supplying them with the music which they want to hear.

Dr. CUMMINS: A few points have been raised by some honourable members, and as regards the matter of the Medical Officer of the Prison, first of all, Mr. Chairman, I must say that you were extremely indulgent. The matter of the Medical Officer of the Prison was not under consideration, but, Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as you granted honourable members the indulgence to refer to it, I will reply. The position as regards the Medical Officer of the Prison is this; as far as my knowledge goes, there was only one application received from the holder of that office as regards an increase of salary and that was dealt with under the review of salaries by Commissioner Adams. Since that, nothing has come before the Executive Committee. The salary previously was £150 a year and it was increased to

£200 a year. The salary of the Police Medical Officer was increased to £300 per annum because it was felt that the work done by the Police Medical Officer was greater than that done by the Medical Officer at the Prison. I repeat that since the salary of this Officer was increased, no other application for an increase of salary from this Officer has come before the Executive Committee.

Mr. MILLER: In connection with the remarks which have been made by the honourable senior member for St. John about the Police Band, I do not know that he has any reason whatever to complain as regards the actions of the Band. It is hoped that the Police Band would bring to us a greater desire for music as a culture, and I think that every soul in this island will agree that the Bandmaster is doing a tremendous job. I am very much interested in the movement and development of the Band. As a boy I remember that you used to pay a shilling to enter the Park on Christmas mornings, and we were told that that money did not go to the Vestry; it was a little preserve of a select few. I had a chat with Captain Raison and it occurred to me that it was uncouth to have a Government Band in a Government Park and people had to pay to go in there; I suggested that the people should be allowed to enter the Park free of charge. What I want to say is this; I do not think that you will find 1% of this community who will say that Captain Raison as Leader of the Police Band, has not been working strenuously. What we want is the provision of more instruments and men to increase the activities of the Band; we have a man who is cultured and who is willing to advance the art of music and bring encouragement and solace to people who ordinarily would not be able to enjoy such things. It is suggested that the Bandmaster could divide the Band into two sections, and one section could be playing in St. John while the other is playing in St. George; however I hope that the Government will see the wisdom of increasing the size of the Band.

Dr. CUMMINS: It would seem as if we will have a long debate on this Head, and at this stage, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion, which was agreed to, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I beg to lay the Replies to Questions No. 46, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, relative to the total expenditure to date in connection with the erection of the combined Parry and Coleridge Schools in St. Peter.

Mr. COX: I beg to lay the Replies to Questions No. 62, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph, relative to obtaining oilmeal or pollard in its pure state in Barbados.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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.

HEAD XV — POLICE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply before the adjournment, Head XV of the Schedule to a Resolution for \$64,806 was being considered.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I had no intention of speaking on this matter, but the statement made by the honourable senior member for St. George is so closely connected with the administration of St. Michael and Queen's Park that I think it is my duty to make the position clear. I heartily agree with the honourable member in his reference to Captain Raison. Sometimes when you praise officials in this colony you do them harm; sometimes when you criticise them people think that you do yourself harm, but I am free to do either when I like to do it. There is no control over my speech by any Party in this House. I agree that Captain Raison is among the few English people in this colony who really give to this colony more than they get out of it. Time was when you only heard that there was a Police Band. I am concerned with the big-heartedness of Captain Raison; many people come to this colony and draw their salaries and some of them do not even do their work properly; but this gentleman does more than what he is paid to do. Anybody who takes time off to go to the Police Barracks or pay a surprise visit to Captain Raison's office, will find that this gentleman is doing his best for youngsters who are not even Cadets in the Band because he sees that there is talent in them; numbers of people go to Captain Raison and ask him to help youngsters who are out of school. It is a fact that people enjoy the music played by the Police Band anywhere and on Christmas mornings you have people going to Queen's Park from all over the island, and you do not have the dull tunes which you were accustomed to have years ago. That is an appreciation not only of the Band but of Captain Raison.

I should like to clear up this point. Years ago, up to the time before Superintendent Calver went into the working of the Police Department, the 3d. which was paid by each person for the entertainment provided by the Police Band at Queen's Park on Christmas mornings always went to the Band in appreciation of its work; that was a consideration on the part of the Vestry of St. Michael, and the honourable senior member for St. Thomas who has served as Churchwarden of St. Michael can bear that out. It was recommended that the Police Band should not receive any monetary consideration outside the salaries paid to its members and, as a result, in 1946 at Christmas time instead of the money going to the Band as before, it was used to assist the Churchwarden's House Repair Fund. Some people do give more than 3d., for the entertainment provided by the Police Band; the honourable senior member for St. George in his generosity may have contributed a shilling, but I happen to know that the fee for admission to Queen's Park on Christmas mornings was only 3d. I think that consideration has been given to the Police Department relative to donations in respect of the children's treat which is offered by the Department; Captain Raison is big-hearted enough to see this money go to the acquisition of instruments for the

Band or to treating children who cannot give themselves a treat. It is true that Captain Raison is giving more to Barbados than he is getting out of it and, of course, that should be so; he is affable and approachable and is always willing to give of his experience to choir masters. I understand that he has been here for five years. I should like to say that to some people a salary of \$240.00 a month seems to be a big salary; but I do not think that any intelligent person in this colony would want to bring a professional person down to the category of a domestic servant. I say that this Officer is not drawing a salary in excess of the service which he gives to the colony. It is a pleasure to have Captain Raison conducting the Band on Christmas morning. From this same seat I would criticise any Police Officer and say that he is no good if he is no good; but when you have a good man in a job you should treat him right. Captain Raison has spent five years here and like a true family man, he would like to go and see his family; he has not had the opportunity of going home to see his family. Every honourable member who appreciates the contribution which Captain Raison has made to this colony would say that he should be given his passage to England and back. There are a lot of people who come here and rather than pay their passage to go home and return, you should put them on the boat a few days after they come and never see them come back. In this matter I am voicing the sentiments of honourable members when I say that the contribution which Captain Raison has made to this colony warrants our giving him a passage to England to see his family and return.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not seen anything in this Resolution in respect of leave passages or anything like that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am dealing with this Head in connection with the Police; this is a money Resolution and I am talking about something relative to the Police. I am speaking about the Police Band and I submit most respectfully that I am absolutely in order when I refer to the fact that you have a Police Band and a good Bandmaster and you should encourage that Bandmaster to continue to serve you. In respect of what the honourable senior member for St. John has said, I do not quite agree with him; I do not think that the Police Band takes sides with places like the Marine Hotel or the Aquatic Club. You will find the Band going to the St. Peter's Almshouse, Boscobel and down to St. Lucy; but the honourable senior member for St. John would like the Band to go to St. John two Wednesdays in a week. Time was when the Band only played at Queen's Park and Hastings Rocks, and instead of wearing out it would rust out; but today you find the Band playing in various parishes. I repeat that when a person is good you should praise him; but when he is bad you should abuse him.

Mr. ALLDER: Anybody who listened to the honourable senior member for the City would think that somebody was saying something bad about the good name of the Police Bandmaster. I was not attacking the Bandmaster as Bandmaster because he is producing everything that efficiency can produce but I was suggesting that there might be something wrong with the policy. Regardless of where the Band plays, it should go to every parish on one day a week; it should not only go to an almshouse or to concerts held by particular groups, but it should go to the parishes on specific days during the month and let the people enjoy the music. Some honourable members feel that that is being done at present; it is done if I suggest that the Band should

go to a certain place, but I want the visits to be regulated just as the Band plays at the Esplanade or Hastings Rocks on certain evenings. You cannot exonerate Captain Raison from what appears to be an evil; when he plays at the Marine or the Crane or the Yacht Club some musician is deprived of the opportunity of earning a small pittance. However reciprocal you might want to be towards this gentleman you cannot deny the fact that he should have a regulated system so that every parish would have the Band to play for at least one day of the month.

Mr. GODDARD: The honourable senior member for St. John is noted for not always getting his facts correct or withholding something which he should have said. When Captain Raison plays at the Marine, the Crane or at any of these places, that is only on occasions when charity dances are being held. As regards the Poppy Fund, everybody knows who gets that money; there are other funds too and the honourable member should be contributing to some of them. Captain Raison is doing a very great service in this colony; he is the first Police Band Conductor who has taken the Band all over the island. We have had him in Christ Church on many occasions; he went to Silver Sands one night, he brought up his lights and we had about 2,000 people there. He also went to the Almshouse on many occasions. If the honourable senior member for St. John wants Captain Raison to come to that parish, let him arrange something up there and Captain Raison will oblige him; but in making the arrangements let the honourable member remember that the Police Band needs refreshment. (Laughter).

Dr. CUMMINS: I suppose it would be superfluous to repeat what most honourable members have said about Captain Raison. I do not know whether the honourable senior member for St. John has ever asked him to go to St. John; (Mr. ALLDER: I do not want to have to ask him to go). Captain Raison has played on several occasions in St. Thomas when asked to do so by the representatives of the parish, and I am quite sure that if the honourable senior member for St. John had approached him about coming to St. John, he would have made arrangements for doing so; but the honourable member feels that he should not have to ask Captain Raison to come to St. John. The Band has engagements but Captain Raison is quite willing to play for people when he is asked to do so. I have known the Band to play on an occasion in St. Peter not long ago. What I really want to say is that I am glad to hear the sentiments expressed by the honourable senior member for the City, and I promise him that I will report what he has said to the proper quarter.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sorry that I have to rise again, but honourable members still persist in distorting what I have said. If I ask Captain Raison to come to my parish he will do so; but he should not be asked to do so. If you have a regulated system no hardship would be created; why should I have to ask the Bandmaster to carry the Band to St. John? He should be required to carry the Band to every parish once a week. I do not say that Captain Raison has not played when he has been asked to do so, but if I do not want to ask him to play do you mean that the people must be deprived of the services of the Police Band? As regards the Band playing for public dances at the Marine, I have no interest in that; before the Band played at these places, the dances were held and private musicians were employed. The fact that the Police Band now plays at these places instead of private musicians shows that some musicians have

been put out of employment. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Not necessarily). The Band of the late Mr. Percy Green used to play at the Marine at public dances. I agree that Captain Raison is willing to give his services when he is asked to do so, but, I repeat, you should have a regulated system so that there will be an understanding that in a particular parish on a particular day the Band will be going to play at a particular place.

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

HEAD XX—EDUCATION

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XX stand part of the Schedule.

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

HEAD XXIII—MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS

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

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

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

Mr. MILLER: As regards the Lunatic Asylum I was hoping since the consideration of the last Estimates that the Government would have carried out a serious examination of the state of affairs existing at this Institution. There is the question of having an isolation ward for patients suffering from T.B. I do not think it is in the interest of the colony to have people suffering from this disease. However, I do not think I can say much on this matter; the honourable senior member for St. Thomas is a member of the Executive Committee and he will be able to say something in connection with the number of cases of tuberculosis at the Institutions and how they plan to separate them from other inmates.

The question that Head XXIII 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.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXIV stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I believe I was one of those members of the rank and file as well. I felt that if they were in England whence these gentlemen came they would get that treatment. I notice from the note that several major operations for the permanent staff and their families have resulted in heavier expenditure than was anticipated; I sincerely hope that they have not put themselves to any inconvenience to have those major operations. It seems to me that in giving free medical attention to these people we have made them susceptible to major operations. Major is not only a medical term but also a military term, and I hope that these operations were medical operations. I sincerely hope that this facility which is extended to these people will not bring discontent, but it will be discreetly and prudently taken advantage of.

Mr. ALLDER: I would like the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to tell me if all the ammunition for which provision was made in the

last Estimates has been used and on what, and if any is still there, how long it can be kept in case you do not have any reason to use it. We have concentrated on the production of arms instead of the production of butter or hams or potatoes, and it is regrettable that we voted \$8,000 for Arms and Ammunition in March last year and we are now being asked to vote \$900 for more ammunition. Since we voted this money no disturbance has occurred, no birds were shot with which we could supply our food and, to me, this is all non-production and a very dangerous spending attitude. I dislike to know that I have to vote this amount of money for this purpose and I regret that many honourable members feel that we should spend such an amount on destructive weapons. We are not in Europe and nobody interferes with us; I have been told that Barbadians are the most orderly people as compared with people in other parts of the world, and it is bad to be spending this amount of money on ammunition every year. I feel that it is unreasonable to ask us to vote this money for ammunition all the time; it annoys me all the more when I know that Addresses have been sent to the Administration in connection with things which would benefit the colony and the money cannot be found to put them into effect. The stop-gap method which is used prevents any implementation of constructive suggestions which are made in this House by way of Questions and Addresses. It is a waste of money to buy things for building up a riot squad; the people cannot riot because they are kept under control. I understand that I cannot move a reduction of this amount, that this is an ultimatum and we have to vote for the whole amount.

There is another thing. I notice that the sum of \$960 was voted in the last Estimates for medical attention for the Staff Officer and his family. I suggested that that amount was rather high for the family was unfortunate in having this treatment. Now we are asked to vote this \$1,200 for providing this treatment and it would be embarrassing to ask for an itemised account of this expenditure. A volunteer who is asked to go up there and practice has told me that the strenuous exercise which has to be gone through has caused him to suffer from hernia; an appeal was made to the Staff Officer for assistance in the particular case and he said that this assistance is limited to himself and his family, it is not for other members of the Force. That is a bad state of affairs; a man enters the Army, he suffers an injury and no assistance is given to him; but you have a Staff Officer who has a wife and he is causing the taxpayers a lot of expense in respect of medical services. I doubt whether you would have anything like this if he had to pay for these services; there is nobody keeping any check to know whether this Officer is really taking such services. Why can't you send him to the General Hospital; he would get the necessary treatment without any cost to himself: he could go wherever he likes and he could send in the bill. As regards the men in the Army, if any one of them gets his foot broken he does not get anything for it; he goes into the free Institution until Nature helps him to get over. I am told that everything is not well in the Regiment; this particular Department has been criticised and I would like to ask for a postponement of this Head on the ground that we should not spend all this money on ammunition. It has not been explained why this ammunition has run short and why there is this necessity now when the Estimates will be brought down within a couple of weeks.

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not know if the honourable senior member for St. John wants his glasses

changed or if it is a question of his not being able to absorb what he reads. On the question of ammunition, it is not stated anywhere that additional ammunition is needed for shooting down people; the note says that this ammunition was ordered since 1948 but it did not arrive until 1950, the price is greater than what was estimated and this \$900 is to pay the amount which is due on the ammunition. The honourable member talked about a riot squad; does he think that the four of us here who are members of the Executive Committee are any less interested in the people than he is? We do not get up and talk the riot which he talks because it would not suit us to do that. When it comes to a question of the interest of the people—if it is a question of increased ammunition we are not passing that; but this ammunition was ordered since 1948 and this money is needed to square the bill. The honourable senior member for St. John also spoke about the medical attention to the Staff Officer and his family; if the honourable member would look and see what the note says, or if he could understand what it says, he would see that this medical attention is for the permanent staff and their families. There are several families up there; it is not only the Staff Officer and his family. Could the honourable member imagine that we would want a total of \$2,160 to be spent for medical attention merely in respect of the Staff Officer and his family? They would be permanent idiots or lunatics. If the honourable member would open his eyes and see what he is reading, he would not talk these things. I am not quite sure as to the number of families that are up there, but this money is to pay the medical expenses of the permanent staff of the Barbados Regiment and their families. I take care of three families of the permanent staff up there; I wish the honourable member would see what he is reading and speak on it.

Mr. REECE: It would seem that the statement made by the honourable senior member for St. John constitutes an indictment on medical men as regards the treatment of these officers and their families. It is the medical men who are responsible for the state of affairs which the honourable member has suggested. After hearing the honourable senior member for St. Thomas say that he looks after three of these families I do not think that anybody could have any doubt that the fees which have been charged are reasonable fees. I would like to assure the honourable member that it is not such an easy matter as he thinks to get money out of the Treasury of Barbados. As long as we have the pre-audit system it would be most difficult to do anything that is embodied in the suggestion made by the honourable senior member for St. John. Before you can get a voucher the Auditor General has to be satisfied that the payment has been properly incurred; and when a medical man sends in a bill that bill has to go to the Auditor General, and if, in his opinion, it is not a proper bill or there is some irregularity, he takes the advice of the Crown Law Officers. It is only after all those persons have been satisfied with the voucher that the money is paid out of the Treasury. No member of any staff can increase his salary by getting a fictitious voucher passed through the Treasury; in order to do that he would have to be in collusion with the medical man. There is really nothing in the charge made by the honourable senior member for St. John. When it comes to the other point, the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has pointed out that this ammunition was ordered as far back as 1948, and owing to the late delivery the price of the ammunition has increased; it is not a case of increasing the amount of ammunition. It

is no good having any Government unless you have behind that Government the necessary force to maintain order; no Government can be run satisfactorily unless you have behind it the force to see that its orders and commands are carried into effect, and that law and order are maintained in the country. It is necessary to have only a reasonable amount of force, but the question is, what is a reasonable amount of force considering the nature of the people of the country. I do agree that there are no more orderly people under the face of the sun than the people of Barbados. In these troublous times we not only have to look for local events, but we are passing through a world crisis and we can never tell when trouble may come to us. I think we should make provision against the day and time—I hope they will never come—when we will have to rely on the Barbados Regiment to repel any attacking force which may come to our shores. I do not think that there is any need to protract this debate; I hope that the zeal of the honourable senior member for St. John will prevent him from getting the criticisms which are levelled at him by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. LEWIS: I have listened to an excellent speech made by the honourable junior member for Christ Church and there is a lot in it. I do not remember if we compelled the importees to go to the General Hospital for this treatment; if they went elsewhere for treatment in respect of major operations, I defy the Auditor General of any colony to say that the fees charged by the particular doctor are not what is reasonable. Suppose it was a question of legal fees; I defy the Auditor General to say that the fees charged by the honourable junior member for Christ Church are not reasonable fees for the advice given. You may be able to restrict a whole-time medical officer, but outside the Hospital he would be at liberty to charge his fee. If we find that the facility which has been given is getting out of hand we can take steps in the matter. I mention that point so that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas can take it up.

Mr. BRANCKER: As regards this question of arms and ammunition it has just flashed across my mind that perhaps the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. John were not inopportune at this time, because we are near the time when the Colonial Estimates for 1951-52 will be before us and it is just as well that we sound a warning about the matter. The provision of arms and ammunition is necessary for the Barbados Regiment because if you have soldiers they must have arms and ammunition. These people must be prepared to be sent to Korea or anywhere else and they would need arms and ammunition; however, as regards the Police Force, the Executive Committee is now being warned of what I have to say, of what the honourable senior member for St. John has to say and of what the honourable senior member for St. Michael used to say about arms and ammunition being supplied to this Force. This supplementary provision is required to meet the cost of ammunition which has been ordered since 1948; if the delivery of this ammunition has been delayed by the manufacturers why are we paying the increased cost due to the delay? If I order anything from Goddard's tomorrow and they hold up delivery for three months, would I have to pay an increased cost for the article?

Mr. REECE: The honourable junior member for St. Lucy has made a good point. It seems that when we order articles through the Crown Agents and they fail to deliver them in a reasonable time, as a result of their non-delivery of the articles the

price of them goes up and we have to pay the increased price. That is very hard indeed; I think that the Executive Committee should urge upon the Crown Agents to forward the orders sent by the Government within a reasonable time.

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

HEAD XXIX.—MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXIX stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXII.—DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXXII stand part of the Schedule.

Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXIII.—AIRPORT

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXXIII stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XLI.—SOCIAL WELFARE

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XLI stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The note to this item "Stationery" says this: "Owing to the necessity of paying outstanding accounts in respect of the year 1949-50 from the current year's provision, the amount voted in the 1950-51 Estimates has proved to be insufficient." I would like to know what the outstanding accounts were. The note to the item "Incidentals" says: "The amount provided for the current year has been expended and additional provision is requested to meet requirements for the remainder of the financial year." I should just like the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to tell me what the outstanding accounts were, and as far as the item "Incidentals" is concerned. I would like the honourable member to break it down.

Mr. LEWIS: The notes to the items under this Head were no doubt prepared by this Department and they are stupid, having regard to the spending in this Department. To say that: "Owing to the necessity of paying outstanding accounts in respect of the year 1949-50 from the current year's provision, the amount voted in the 1950-51 Estimates has proved to be insufficient" is stupid. These outstanding accounts, according to the Financial Secretary, should have been put in for revote. I am not blaming the Government for this, because these notes must have been prepared by the Department; but it is a stupid thing. Supplementary Estimates mean that the amounts which have been voted have proved to be insufficient. But this is a fresh budget; this means that you have used all the money and you have started to budget

afresh. You are saying that for the next three months you might want so and so. These Supplementary Estimates are not the only ones that will be coming before us, because down to the month of June we will have Supplementary Estimates coming in. I agree with Supplementary Estimates coming in, but when you tell me that you are not prepared to curtail your expenditure for stationery and other things for an absolutely useless Department—useless because of the person you have in charge of it—I do not agree with that. This social welfare work is now taken over by the Police Department and that is where the money should be going. I wonder if some of the travelling done by the Social Welfare Officer is for the purpose of choosing police women, because that is one of her activities now. She has made an absolute mess of the one piece of work which she has done, and which caused her to be in this colony without my voice of protest being heard against that; she went and got some domestic help for the hospitals in the United Kingdom, and that is what has caused her to come back here. She is like a cow that has given milk and then kicked down the bucket twice; she tells the girls not to carry a lot of clothing to the United Kingdom because nobody will handle their baggage and that was an absolute lie. She has told the people up there not to advertise for nurses because there would be Barbados Scholars here and they would not get trained as nurses. I understand that she has written letters preventing people from getting work. I think that this is a woman who should be got out of this island: Trinidad has seen fit to close down its Social Welfare Department due to the impostors in it, and I think it is time that we get this woman out of the colony. I kept quiet for a long time because I thought she did good work in getting nurses for the United Kingdom. It is not a question of having an office and people smoking cigarettes in it: the time has passed when we were spending money from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization. We are now spending our own money. I do not agree that the item "Incidentals" should be broken down because it would be nothing other than what we have voted before: but this is a peculiar form of Supplementary Estimates, it is fresh budgeting. This Social Welfare Officer has made an absolute mess of a Department which should be doing good work, and I would cut this entire vote out of the Estimates. This is a Department which might be doing good work, but nobody can see it; this Department should be very careful not to overspend what has been voted for it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is very rarely that my colleague and I agree in this House, but on this occasion I say that every word which he has spoken is correct. During the consideration of the Estimates last year I criticised the Social Welfare Officer and the honourable senior member for St. Joseph told me that I should be ashamed. When you say certain things the first thing you hear is that an inquiry should take place. This woman has written some wicked reports to the Colonial Secretary's Office; she wrote a letter on behalf of the Governor-in-Executive Committee and she had the temerity to ask the Vestry of St. Michael to itemise "Incidentals". What a piece of colossal ignorance! She wrote: "The Executive wish you to itemise 'Incidentals'" and why can't I ask the honourable member who is now in charge of this Resolution to itemise "Incidentals" relative to this Officer's office? I am sorry that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph is not here: I remember well that the Press and everybody said that the people who suffered as a result of the flood two years ago should be given help, and this Officer wrote a letter saying—I knew it was a lie—that you must not ask for any assistance as regards the loss

of furniture because the Executive was not going to give it. At that time she should have been fired. If I vote alone I am voting against these amounts under these items in respect of this Head of the Schedule, Social Welfare. It is ridiculous to put a matter like this before this Committee; you should not let any officer think that there are a bunch of ignoramuses in this House, and he can get a defence from the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. For all the years in this colony we have been looking for decent standards; but as long as people feel that they can get one or two people in the Executive to defend them, they think they can do what they like. When this officer wrote that assistance should not be asked for people who had lost their furniture as a result of the flood, that the Government was not going to give it, the honourable senior member for St. Peter upset the whole thing quickly. As regards the girls going up to the United Kingdom, it is true that this Officer wrote back to say that they were doing well, but she wanted them to look like domestic servants; she did not do any good work for us. I warn the honourable senior member for St. Thomas now that I am voting against the amounts under this Head, it is an insult to put this note before us. "Owing to the necessity of paying outstanding accounts in respect of the year 1949-50 from the current year's provision, the amount voted in the 1950-51 Estimates has proved to be insufficient." If any of the local people had written this note, you would have heard the arguments of some honourable members about it. I counsel the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to see that that is not fair; people do not actually tell you that you are figureheads, but they will get in somebody's house and drink cocktails and say that you are figureheads. I should like to have some information about these travelling expenses. If this Department was doing anything the Commissioner of Police would not have been organizing a Boys' Club: you must have the confidence of the man in the street and the ordinary man in the street has no confidence in this Social Welfare Officer. Where is the Social Welfare Officer? Earlier this afternoon I praised an Englishman to the skies because he is good; but that does not prevent me from telling one who is no good that he is no good. I will not be able to vote for the amounts under this Head unless the honourable senior member for St. Thomas can break down the figures. The feeling is that once the honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that these amounts must be passed, the blind sheep will vote for them; but there are some honourable members on that side of the House who have a lot of guts. Honourable members like the honourable senior member for St. John and my colleague will tell them that they are wrong.

Mr. MILLER: I am asking honourable members to feel whatever they like about the lady in charge of this Department, but to allow this vote to go through. Social welfare means a lot to this colony. I ask honourable members to look ahead five or ten years and think of what social welfare will mean to the children of this colony; we have a lot of poor children to look after in the colony. It is unfortunate that this lady is in charge of this Department, but do not let us punish those who will benefit from social welfare. I should like to point out that you cannot dismiss or get rid of this Officer by striking out this vote, but you will do harm to the effort in respect of social welfare; the least we can do is to register our feelings in this matter and let this Department be carried on. In time this lady will go to another country, but I do not think it is fair for honourable members to harm social welfare work by not voting for these amounts. Social welfare is something which

should be encouraged and I appeal to honourable members not to allow the heat of their indignation to destroy the effort in this direction. Let honourable members feel whatever they like about the lady in charge of this Department, but let the service be continued; there are too many people in need of it. It is in the interest of honourable members of this House to see that social welfare is carried on; I appeal to honourable members to see what social welfare will mean to the people of this colony.

Dr. CUMMINS: I think I can explain this matter; I know that this is an opportunity for honourable members to get rid of a lot of heat, but I do not think that Miss Arne, the Social Welfare Officer, is really to be blamed for these "incidentals." On the 30th December, 1949, this Officer wrote to the Financial Secretary pointing out that she had certain outstanding obligations and asked for a supplementary vote of \$50 to meet them. These obligations were in respect of the financial year 1949-50. Apparently there was a slip somewhere and the amount was passed over: no answer to the Minute was received and no supplementary vote was passed, so that in this year we had to meet the expenditure. This Officer states that she had these outstanding obligations which she could not meet from the vote in 1949-50 and she asked for a supplementary vote; that was lost sight of, and, consequently, she had to meet these obligations from the amount voted in 1950-51. As regards the question of travelling, in the re-organization of the Department provision was made for two Assistant Welfare Officers and they would have to do some travelling. The increase in the amount for travelling is to enable the Social Welfare Officers to carry out their duties until the 31st March this year. That is the whole thing in a nutshell.

Mr. REECE: The honourable senior member for St. Thomas has laid the blame for this state of affairs squarely on the shoulders of the Executive Committee.

Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of order. I have not laid any blame on the Executive Committee. I simply said that the request for the supplementary vote went to the Financial Secretary; it did not come before the Executive Committee and therefore the Executive Committee did not know anything about it.

Mr. REECE: No money is paid out of the Treasury under any Resolution unless by warrant of the Executive Committee; and if there were outstanding accounts in respect of the year 1949-50 the Executive Committee should have introduced a supplementary Resolution to meet those outstanding accounts. According to the note, there were outstanding accounts at the end of the financial year 1949-50 and those accounts were paid out of the Estimates for 1950-51; but that cannot be done under the law of this country. Those outstanding accounts, I repeat, should have been met by means of a supplementary Resolution; the Governor-in-Executive Committee had no right to authorise the Colonial Treasurer to pay this amount out of the Estimates for 1950-51. According to the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, the Governor-in-Executive Committee has gone wrong in authorising this payment out of the 1950-51 Estimates in respect of the year 1949-50; and there is now this shortage in the provision for the present year. That is the legal position. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas has told us that there was a shortage in respect of the year 1949-50, no action was taken on the Minute which was written to the Financial Secretary and

the money was paid out of the present year's Estimates. This note is not an accurate statement of affairs; this note should have been requesting a supplementary vote to meet outstanding accounts in respect of the year 1949-50. Neither the Governor-in-Executive Committee nor anybody else has any right to authorise the payment of outstanding accounts in respect of the previous year out of the present year's Estimates. That is the value of the pre-audit system; the Auditor General should have been more careful in this matter. From what the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has said, this mistake is that of the Executive Committee. I am not joining forces with the two honourable members for the City because I know nothing myself as to the facts on which they are speaking; I am dealing with this Resolution. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas has explained most clearly how this mistake has been made and I say that the blame is on the Executive Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I would like to reply to the honourable senior member for St. George who is asking us to see that social welfare work is not discontinued; but who in this 20th century would not recognize the necessity for a Social Welfare Department? Such a Department is part of any modern, democratic country. During the consideration of the last Estimates I said I do not think that we are spending sufficient money on social welfare: but we cannot have a Social Welfare Department without a Head. Because we are inclined to reduce the amount to be voted under this Head in this case, we are not destroying social welfare work. We have a Social Welfare Department in this colony and the Police Department has seen the necessity for removing the waifs and strays off the streets. This matter should be dealt with by the Social Welfare Department, not by the Police Department. Let the honourable senior member for St. George realise that we think that social welfare work should be continued; as a matter of fact, I get my strongest support in politics because I press home the necessity for social welfare work. Can you say that the Social Welfare Officer has sat with any Poor Law Board in the island so as to be able to bring her ideas to bear upon people? We would like to see more money spent on social welfare: but I am not voting for this amount now. The honourable junior member for Christ Church has given the legal position: a supplementary vote in respect of 1949-50 should have been brought in. (A MEMBER. It was a Government omission). It is a rather generous Government to accept blame for the Social Welfare Officer. I still maintain that as long as this Social Welfare Officer can get the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to say that all is well, the others are bound to follow and everything will be all right.

Mr. MAPP: There have been some very trenchant criticisms made of this Department and the person who is in charge of it. To my way of thinking, the Social Welfare Officer has not been trained in social welfare work at all and she has not got the temperament to take charge of this work in a colony like Barbados. She can give a nice Address as to how the system works in England and of the history of social welfare in the United Kingdom; but she is in the wrong place. Criticisms have come from this House repeatedly when previous Estimates were being dealt with, about the lack of active work in respect of this Department; but surely if the honourable senior member for the City or his colleague wants this Officer dismissed, the way to do that is not to

refuse to vote this money. If we reject this vote I do not see that we will get anywhere nearer that object. My colleague has pointed out that it is not the fault of the Social Welfare Officer that this state of affairs has taken place, and I have not been able to see how rejecting this vote can affect this Officer. If she could be removed by a rejection of this vote I would agree that we should reject it; if she had done anything wrong and you could possibly get her out and effect some improvement in the Department, I would say "all right". Frankly, I agree that this Office is far behind the kind of office which it should be. In a backward colony like Barbados there is a lot of social welfare work to be done; a lot of this work can be done in the country areas and people should be trained to go into homes in the interest of social welfare. This woman should probably be a liaison officer or something like that; if she has been trained as a lawyer she will not be so much suited for social welfare work, because lawyers never make proper administrators. She has a magnificent brain, but I think she is in the wrong place. However, what is the use of cutting out this amount when it has been admitted that this lady has not been at fault? You can introduce an Address asking that this lady be dismissed or you can ask that an inquiry be held, but that is nothing to do with this vote.

The question that Head XLI stand part of the Schedule was put and resulted in a "tie", the Committee dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs MILLER, MAPP, LEWIS, BRYAN, F. L. WALCOTT and Dr. CUMMINS —6.

Noes: Messrs. ALLDER, MOTTLEY, BRANCKER, GILL, WILKINSON and WARD —6.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has resulted in "tie", six honourable members voting "Aye", and six honourable members voting "No". I vote with the "Ayes".

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

I. POST OFFICE.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: In moving that this Head of the Annexed Estimates stand part of the Schedule, I know that there are one or two honourable members who would like some explanation in respect of item 31 "(New). Loss of cash in transit" for which the sum of \$74 is required. This amount is the salary of the Postmistress of St. Peter who was on leave when her salary was sent at the end of August, 1950. She left no instructions as to where her salary was to be sent: the registered envelope was received by the Acting Postmistress of St. Peter to be forwarded to the Postmistress at the place at which she was staying at Maxwell, Christ Church. The letter disappeared during transit and a thorough search was made by the Colonial Postmaster, but it has not been traced. The matter was referred to the Attorney General for his opinion as to liability and it is his opinion that as the matter is a Government responsibility and the Post Office is a Government Department, the Government is not liable *in tort* and the Administration will have to reimburse this amount; hence the amount has been included in these Supplementary Estimates. I beg to move that this Head of the Annexed Estimates stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I should like to know how the Government usually pays this money. Was this cash money or a cheque sent by registered letter? The

honourable senior member for St. Thomas has made an explanation, but even you, Mr. Chairman, are not satisfied; I can see from the expression on your face that you do not appreciate all that has been said. We are not interested in the legal part of the matter; how do they pay this Postmistress? Mr. C. H. P. Jordan in Speightstown would honour even your cheque. I ask this question before I make my criticism; was this money sent in cash or by cheque.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member does not understand one thing about this matter and still he wants to be the first member to speak. This is one Head on which the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has made an explanation and some honourable members might be able to tell him what has happened. When I received this Resolution and read it I was just as confounded as my colleague is. A similar thing has happened already; I knew the people personally and I had to vote against the Resolution and I have not made up my mind as to how I should vote on this one. I understand that it is usual to send cash in a registered envelope which is opened by the people who are to receive the money, and they are people in whom you must have some confidence, because they are Postmasters or Postmistresses. It would appear that a cheque should be sent and it might be all right to send a cheque for a sum of money to somebody in Speightstown, but you could not very well send a cheque to somebody in St. Philip or St. John and get somebody there to cash it for him. I understand that this lady was on holiday and she did not say to send the money to the address at which she was, and the money went to the Post Office; then somebody had to see that the correct amount was in the envelope, put it in another envelope and send it to the General Post Office to be sent to Christ Church. There is nothing unusual in that. In so far as the General Post Office is concerned, the particular letter never arrived there; in so far as the Government's liability is concerned, as long as you say to send the money to a particular place and the money is received, the Government's liability ceases. A dangerous thing in respect of this matter is that the same Postmaster or Postmistress in the country has to pay out the money for Old Age pensions and it is sent in the same way. If we are going to hold ourselves responsible for an envelope which is supposed to arrive and does not arrive, I would like to know where we will draw the line. You cannot say that you believe one person and you do not believe the other; if you say that the envelope was lost in transit so that the van driver might have taken it out, he would take exception to that. To my mind this is something in connection with which we can only express sympathy and the money has to be paid. If it is said that a registered letter has not been received, what are we going to do? Are we going to say that "A" received it and stole it or that "B" did not send it? This lady is a friend of mine and, in my opinion, if she left St. Peter and went to live in Christ Church, she should either have asked that the money be sent direct to her or she should have gone for it herself; but the Colonial Postmaster was given no instructions as to where this lady was living or whether the money could be sent direct to her or not. I suggest that this particular item should be referred to a Select Committee so that we can get an idea as to how the Post Office is being run. Registered mail should not be opened by a single individual; No bank will send a single person to register a letter. It is not that they doubt the staff, but they say: "You go with him so that you can say that he did put in the money." You should have two persons in a transaction of the sort which has been

mentioned here. I suggest to the honourable senior member for St. Peter that this matter be gone into by a Select Committee so that honourable members will get acquainted with what is going on and perhaps the system should be changed. I may have to vote against this item if I am forced to do so; I have sympathy for people who have worked and then they do not get their money, but I do not see that the Treasury must be responsible for money which is said to have been put in an envelope and sent out. I cannot vote for that; I am very sorry that this matter should have had to be discussed in public at all. I am not making any motion, I will leave the matter to the honourable senior member for St. Thomas. I appeal to honourable members to see that the circumstances are such that the debate should be closed and let us go into the matter. The Resolution that came here for the last amount of money in respect of the Post Office was sent back to the Executive about two or three times before it was eventually passed. I appreciate what has been done, but I cannot vote for this item because it is dangerous to do so.

Dr. CUMMINS: The honourable junior member for the City is anxious that the way in which things are handled at the Post Office be investigated, and he thinks the only way in which that can be done is by postponing this particular item. However he realises that this lady will have to get her money; I am suggesting that we should pass this amount and he or any other honourable member can introduce an Address asking for an inquiry into the working of the General Post Office. I think it is better to do that than to postpone this item. I appeal to the honourable member to allow this item to be passed and at the next meeting of this House he can ask that an Address be passed calling upon the Government to inquire into the system of transporting money as carried out by the Post Office. I will report the honourable member's suggestion in the proper quarter.

Mr. MILLER: The honourable junior member for the City has made a very able speech and I agree with what he has said. I am afraid that in passing this amount we are probably creating a precedent and opening the door to petty crime. It is an ugly thing to take place, but a loss in transit can only point to the van driver or the party in the Post Office who has been receiving these registered letters. I do not think it is correct to say that we should vote this money right now; I agree that the matter should be referred to a Select Committee. I am afraid that we are creating a precedent and in another four or five years the Government will regret it. If we vote money which is supposed to be lost in transit, the temptation is there for the van driver and the clerk; on the other hand, it is easy to attribute blame to a person who is unable to defend himself. Mail bags are sealed and I do not think that we need an armed van for the transport of money in a civilized country like this. I happen to know this lady in question; the question for us to decide is whether or not it is right to create a precedent so that people can always come back and ask for repayment of money which was supposed to be lost in transit. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas does not think it is necessary that we should postpone the consideration of this Resolution, but I do not think it is correct for us to create such a precedent as to pass this vote right now.

Mr. REECE: The Postmistress of St. Peter has not received her salary for the month of August, 1950; she was not in St. Peter at the time when this registered letter was received by the Acting Postmistress. In point of law the Postmistress is entitled to her

salary because she has not been paid. You cannot sue the Crown; if it were a private employer he could be sued but not so with the Crown. In that case you have to put the facts in a petition and ask that the money be paid. Honourable members should not talk about something of which they do not know anything; it does not make any difference as to whether you had a check made or not, because if a person wants to commit a theft he will commit it. In this colony from time to time we have had employees at the Post Office being found guilty of embezzling things which were in the course of transit, and recently we have had a case in which an employee at the Post Office was sentenced to penal servitude for four years; so that there is nothing to prevent people from committing a breach of the Act if they want to do so. I would like to say that if honourable members think that this case has not been investigated thoroughly by the Police Department, they are wrong. Every effort has been made by the Police Department to discover how this money was lost; everything that could be done has been done in order to trace this money and discover if anybody is criminally responsible for the loss. It has been suggested that this matter should be postponed pending investigation by a Committee but during that time this lady must have her money. If it is thought that the Committee can do a better job than the Police Department, I wish it all luck; I promise that I will not be serving on that Committee. I counsel honourable members to pass this vote and allow this lady to get the money to which she is entitled.

Mr. BRANCKER: Nobody who knows the present Solicitor General of this colony would even begin to think of doubting his word; he has stated that this matter has been investigated by the Police Department. We have a note which does not make the slightest reference to the investigation by the Police Department and one wonders why those who are responsible for this note should have omitted to mention that detail. The note says that this amount is "to reimburse the Postmistress of St. Peter by the amount of her salary for the month of August, 1950, which was sent to her by Registered Post on the 30th August, and which subsequently was lost in the course of transmission. In spite of a thorough enquiry conducted by the Colonial Postmaster the registered letter has not been traced." Of course the Colonial Postmaster may conduct thorough enquiries through the Police Department, but one would expect that in this note it would have been set out plainly so as to reduce to a minimum the amount of discussion in this House, that this matter was investigated by the Police Department. The Colonial Postmaster is a man of no more than average ability and when I read that he had thoroughly conducted this enquiry, I wondered what had been done and why the matter was not referred to the Criminal Investigation Department and the opinion of the learned Solicitor General taken. This investigation was apparently fruitless and then it was decided that this letter was lost. I presume that the Colonial Postmaster is responsible for putting registered letters in a bag or package, such bag or package being sealed in the presence of the van driver before it is put in the van. That is where a Select Committee may be most helpful in this matter and it is possible that the member of the Executive Committee who is in charge of matters relating to the Post Office may be able to enlighten us in this regard. What does the van driver do with the bag or package in which these registered letters are placed? What is his statement as to this matter? Perhaps somebody who was receiving a "lift" in the van could have opened the package. I think it might be possible for some member of the Executive Committee to describe

the investigation which has been made in connection with this matter. When you say that something has been lost there is no criminal culpability attached to anybody; it means that that thing has been permanently misplaced. In view of the fact that the Government is not so careful as to send out cheques or postal orders, has it occurred to them to keep the numbers of the notes? I presume that this amount of money would be made up of three twenty-dollar notes, one ten-dollar note and two two-dollar notes. Reference was made to an employee of the Post Office who was sentenced to four years' penal servitude and one also recalls the case of a postman who received a term of imprisonment; I would counsel the member of the Executive Committee who looks after the affairs in connection with the Post Office to warn the Postmaster not only to concentrate on the postmen but also to see that all is well with the clerical staff. These unfortunate things cannot happen if only the subordinates are in the knowledge of them; let the Government investigate from the Postmaster down and see who may be the persons responsible in these matters. If this matter has been investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department and not merely by the Postmaster, let us be told that. In this matter I have heard what seems to be different views of the law; I have heard the honourable junior member for the City state his view of the law, I have heard the learned Solicitor General state his view of it and I find it difficult to reconcile those views; but whoever is right, from the moral standpoint this lady must get her money. If she has survived without her salary for the month of August, 1950, she can wait until a Select Committee has gone into the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard many speakers make their contribution to this debate relative to this item which is before us, and I cannot, by any stretch of my imagination, see why this matter should be postponed. If I should read the note to this item, it says: "To reimburse the Postmistress of St. Peter by the amount of her salary for the month of August, 1950, which was sent to her by Registered Post on the 30th August, and which subsequently was lost in the course of transmission. In spite of a thorough enquiry conducted by the Colonial Postmaster the registered letter has not been traced." From this note the responsibility for the payment of this money does devolve on the Government, and if honourable members would consider what it means to an ordinary Civil Servant to be deprived of her salary for a month, they would certainly reconsider their suggestion about postponing this item. A Civil Servant who is working for a monthly salary has suffered the loss of her salary for a month and I do not think that this matter should be held up by a legislative Assembly such as this one when the responsibility for payment devolves on the Government. This particular Civil Servant has no blame attached to her at all; that is obvious. From this note I gather that some effort has been made to trace this registered letter, but it cannot be said that any blame can be attached to this Civil Servant. I hate to think that the members of this Committee would withhold the passing of this Resolution. Obviously the responsibility for the payment of this money is the responsibility of the Government, the same Government which has seen fit to send down this particular Resolution. I counsel this Committee to pass this amount and be in sympathy with this particular lady in circumstances such as these. I hope I have said as much as will convince the members of this Committee not to postpone this Resolution when this particular lady has been the victim of circumstances beyond her control, when

the Government has made an enquiry which has revealed nothing and when the Government has accepted the responsibility for this payment.

Mr. MAPP: I shall be very short in speaking on this matter. I only want to say that while the facts as given by the honourable junior member for the City indicate a very serious state of affairs which has been existing in the Post Office for a long time, the Government must be guided by the opinion of its Legal Adviser in these matters. If the Attorney General advises that the Government is liable, I do not see how the Government can very well get around the payment of this money; but I will say that I doubt that there is any Government Department, except the Department of Highways and Transport, against which you get more complaints made than the General Post Office. I am not going to dilate on that matter at present; I am assured that a report will be made in the proper quarter and I hope that some enquiry will be made into the general working of the Post Office. As regards the item "Inland Mails", I notice that the note says: "The contractors for the conveyance of mail from the General Post Office to the parishes have applied for an increase of \$4.80 per month in the rate of the contract. The request is based on the fact that since the removal of the Parcel Post Branch to the Wharf it has been necessary to collect parcels from the new premises in addition to calling at the General Post Office with the resulting increase in the consumption of gasoline....." I understand that they have asked for this increase because the price of gasoline has gone up, but the note does say that. I do not see how the vans just going around Broad Street and back to the General Post Office could justify that increase. There might be a very good reason for this increase and I hope that my colleague will be able to give it.

Mr. LEWIS: If I allow this item "Loss of cash in transit" to go to the vote, I will have to vote against the whole Head "Post Office" which I do not intend to do. Therefore what is left for me to do is to move the deletion of the item, or alternatively move that this Head be reduced by \$74.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that this Head of the Annexed Estimates stand part of the Schedule Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to register my vote against this item.

The following division was taken:—

Ayes:—Messrs. BRYAN, MOTTLEY, F. L. WALCOTT, MILLER, MAPP, COX, REECE, CRAWFORD and Dr. CUMMINS—9.

Noes: Messrs. ALLDER and LEWIS—2.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that a Resolution to place the sum of \$64,806 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. 34, which form the Schedule this Resolution, do now pass.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ADDRESS *RE* ESTABLISHMENT OF A FARM
INSTITUTE IN TRINIDAD.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,— I ask leave to proceed with the passing of an Address in reply to His Excellency's Message No. 30/1950 to the House of Assembly requesting the approval of the House to an intimation being given to the Comptroller of Development and Welfare Organization that Barbados is prepared to participate in a Scheme to establish a Farm Institute in Trinidad for the Eastern Caribbean. I was told this afternoon that the Other Place has passed its Reply to this Message.

There being no objection, leave was granted the honourable member to proceed with the passing of the Address.

Dr. CUMMINS: The Reply to His Excellency's Message reads as follows:—

*THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
TO
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.*

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 30/1950 requesting the approval of the House

to an intimation being given to the Comptroller of Development and Welfare Organisation that Barbados is prepared to participate in a Scheme to establish a Farm Institute in Trinidad for the Eastern Caribbean.

The House beg to assure Your Excellency of their approval of the abovementioned Scheme.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: The Order Paper will remain as it is. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week, the 16th day of January, 1951, at about 3 o'clock p.m.

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