

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th 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 D. A. FOSTER,
F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX,
F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., D.D. GARNER,
J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., and F. C. GODDARD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

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

Messrs E. K. WALCOTT and BETHELL entered the House and took their seats.

PAPER LAID

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

The Seawell Airport Regulations, 1951.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution making it lawful for the Vestry of St. George to lease a parcel of land situated at Ellerton, containing by admeasurement not more than six acres from the Governor-in-Executive Committee for a period not exceeding twenty-one years for the purpose of a Playing Field.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution making it lawful for the Vestry of St. Andrew to lease a parcel of land situated at Belleplaine and containing by admeasurement not more than eight acres from the Governor-in-Executive Committee for a period not exceeding twenty-one years.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution making it lawful for the Vestry of St. Michael to lease any parcel of land from the Governor-in-Executive Committee situated within its administrative boundary and required for the purposes of Playing Fields for any period not exceeding twenty-one years.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution making it lawful for the Vestry of St. Philip to lease from the Trustees (for the time being) of the Garnes' Trust, that parcel of land known as King George V. Memorial Park which land is to be used for a Playing Field, for any period not exceeding thirty years.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution making it lawful for the Vestry of St. Joseph to lease that parcel of land containing by admeasurement not more than four acres at the Old Railway Station, Bathsheba, from the Governor-in-Executive Committee for any period not exceeding twenty-one years for the purpose of a Playing Field.

Mr. COX: Resolution to approve the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of the Waterworks in the parish of St. Michael.

Mr. COX: Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

QUESTIONS

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

1. Was an elementary school teacher, Mr. L. Barrow, an assistant at St. Matthews' Boys' School, dismissed from the teaching service because of charges made against him by the headteacher of the said school, Mr. G. I. Cuffley?

2. Was an Inquiry held into those charges?

3. What was the result of the Inquiry?

4. Is the Government satisfied from the proceedings of the Inquiry that there was just cause for such dismissal?

5. Is the Government aware that this teacher was in effect suspended by the said headteacher when he was given no class to teach and no work to do sometime after the charges were made and before they were investigated?

6. Did the teacher in question protest to the Colonial Secretary on 31.1.50 on the ground that such an action was a breach of the Colonial Regulations?

7. Was this brought to the attention of the Director of Education and the headmaster in question?

8. If not, why not?

9. Should Government be satisfied that the dismissal of this teacher was unjustified, will the Government take steps to reinstate him in his job at some other school, or in suitable employment with a status at least equal to that which he enjoyed prior to dismissal?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, was read a first time.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat.

INFORMATION RE SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—Before we begin the business of the Day, I am asking leave to give some information which I promised to give on the last occasion in connection with the Supplementary Resolution for the sum of \$64,806.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: If honourable members will remember, in the Supplementary Resolution which was passed at the last meeting, there was an amount of \$60 for expenses incurred by the Crown Agents in interviewing applicants for the post of Harbour and Shipping Master of Barbados. The amount is for travelling expenses in respect of two applicants and travelling expenses and medical examination in respect of one applicant.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave that Order No. 1, Committee of Supply, be postponed in view of the fact that the first Resolution contains an item which depends upon the passing of Order No. 9. I am asking leave to postpone Order No. 1 in order that I might substitute Order No. 9 as the first Order of the Day.

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

SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) BILL 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the second reading of a Bill to make provision for the division of the Parishes and the City of Bridgetown into Registration Districts for the purposes of the preparation and revision in relation to each such parish and the City of Bridgetown, of registers of all persons entitled to be registered as voters at an election of a member of the General Assembly for such parish and the City of Bridgetown, for purposes connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In one respect it may be said that this Bill will be deemed to be historical and of immense consequences; from another angle it may be said that it is a mere, inevitable extension of the process which has started in recent years, of enabling as many people as possible over the age of 21 to take part in the government of their country by being able to be registered and to vote for the representatives of their choice in the General Assembly. I do not think that we in Barbados need speak at any length or at all, on the question of representative government seeing that we can rightfully—though I hope modestly—boast of an unbroken period of representative parliamentary government. If the members of this Government, which was only in office in the last four years, had the opportunity of introducing a Bill of this sort, and have not, so far, done so, it is because we considered that there were matters of greater importance—matters which deserved

being given priority before this Bill. Owing to the struggle—the successful struggle—which members of the Labour Party and the Workers' Union have made over a period of years, the wages of workers in this country have put the workers in the category of at least the £20 per annum income earnings, and have therefore made adult suffrage a reality if not a legal fact. I say that, Sir, not in boasting, but because it is a claim, a challenge and a responsibility. When our friends on the opposite side make the accusation against this Government that it is unwilling to speed up the enfranchisement of the people of Barbados, we are entitled to say that, in fact, the people of this colony are enfranchised; however, it is only right that at a convenient moment, we should put in the actual law the principle of adult suffrage. There is no necessity for me to say anything more as regards the necessity for having the principle of adult suffrage established by law, and it only remains for me to endeavour to explain to this House the provisions of this Bill which the Government has drafted after long and careful consideration in order that the newly-enfranchised people of Barbados might have the opportunity of being registered and thereafter to be able to vote at the next General Election.

At the outset I will remind honourable members that it is proposed that persons should be enfranchised and put on the Voters' List to be prepared for the next General Election. As honourable members are aware, immediately after this Bill we shall put before the House a Bill the effect of which will be that between now and the next General Election, the present Voters' List will be the list in case a by-election takes place before the new list is prepared. In other words, if a by-election takes place between now and the next General Election, only those who are now entitled to vote will be able to vote. In short, there will not be any registration between now and the coming into being of the new Voters' List; the list for 1951 is the list for 1950.

As honourable members will see from the second paragraph of the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill, "This Bill seeks to make provision for the registration of all persons entitled to vote at an election of a member of the General Assembly. For this purpose the parishes and City of Bridgetown will be divided into registration districts and lists of voters (which will subsequently become the registers of voters) will be prepared for each registration district." To put it in a general way, this Bill provides for the island to be divided into registration districts, these registration districts being marked out in such a way as to get as nearly as possible 450 persons eligible for voting in each district. For some weeks now, as early as November, Mr. L. A. Chase, who was responsible for the taking of the census, has been working on the delineation of districts. In the case of the census there were some indivisible lines like the Equator or the line that goes through a road and through somebody's house. In delineating the districts for voting, Mr. Chase is going by streets and roads so as to be more exact. An effort will be made to have in each district 450 persons who are eligible to vote, 450 persons who are 21 years of age and who have been resident in the district for three months. The persons in each district will be put on the Voters' List alphabetically, and in each district there will be a polling station with the necessary number of booths. The enumeration of voters is to be done by persons who are called, in this Bill, Assistant Registering Officers; I believe that in Jamaica and Trinidad

they were called enumerators. The Assistant Registering Officers will issue forms, as appear in the Schedule of this Bill, which are claims for registration in which persons will be asked to fill in their names; these forms will be left, as in the case of a census, and will be collected within a week or so afterwards. The Assistant Registering Officers will have to see whether the forms are filled in properly or not; it will be their duty, if the forms have not been filled in properly, to have them so filled in. These Officers will then prepare preliminary lists from the forms, which they will hand in to the Registering Officers of the various parishes, and the Registering Officers will then perform the work which they naturally have to perform under the regular system. When completed, the preliminary lists must contain the names and occupations of all persons whose claims have been received; provision is made for persons, who might not be at home when an Assistant Registering Officer calls back for the forms, to send them to him. That provision is made as a safeguard against any omissions from the lists. I would like to say, at this stage, that the Government has rightly been questioned as to its failure to have somebody from Trinidad to guide us in this connection; to be perfectly frank, I say that while we have consulted people from Trinidad, while we have got all the information we could get from Trinidad, and while we have referred to the census results which were made up in Jamaica, we do not consider it beyond the capacity or the ability of native Barbadians to use all the information which we got from Trinidad by post, without the necessity of bringing up anybody to this island in connection with this matter. This is nothing stupendous or mystifying; I say it with modesty that Barbadians feel themselves capable of dealing with this matter, with such information as they might have had as to what were the difficulties experienced somewhere else in respect of the matter, and I do not think that any honourable member should blame the Government because we have not got any Trinidad official in our midst to guide us. In the past we used to show the way to other West Indian Colonies and I hope that honourable members may feel that we can still do so. Numbers of difficulties arise when you make an innovation of this sort, and those difficulties have shown themselves up in many ways in Trinidad; but we have enquired of Trinidad as to what were the difficulties experienced there and how they got around them. I am prepared to put the matter as high as this; that no honourable member today can show the Government any snag which took place in Trinidad against which we have not provided in this Bill. The first snag is that to which I have just referred; an Assistant Registering Officer goes to a house and leaves a form; the house might be closed when he goes back and he has to go again. He might go back to the house when it is again closed, and he will have to go again. In that connection, we make it possible for the claimant to send his form to the Assistant Registering Officer so that he might get his claim in. We also provide—and honourable members will appreciate the need for this provision—that Assistant Registering Officers shall not canvass when they are enumerating. That is a snag which arose in Trinidad and it is a snag that might well arise in this island; not only are we told that persons canvassed in Trinidad, but that they paid substantial sums of money to enumerators for not enumerating people who might be of a progressive shade of mind. I am perfectly sure that that would not arise in this island with the Party to which honourable members on my left have the honour to belong. There is a penalty provided in sec-

tion 9 of this Bill against any Assistant Registering Officer who, without reasonable excuse, omits the name of any person who is entitled to be registered, or who fails to collect a claim; we have provided against that sort of thing by putting in a penalty of a fine of \$500 or imprisonment for six months, and a forfeiture of any claim to fees under this Bill. That is the penalty against any enumerator who omits, without reasonable excuse, any man's claim from the list or who fails to go to his house and collect his claim. I think the House will agree with me that we have covered that point, which arose in Trinidad, pretty substantially.

Having got his list ready, the duty of an Assistant Registering Officer is to return the claims to the Registering Officer who, by section 10 of the Bill, must satisfy himself that the instructions have been carried out and fulfilled and if there are any inaccuracies, the Registering Officer must correct them. When the lists have been completed, then it is the duty of the Registering Officer to affix a copy of each list in a conspicuous place at every post office or police station in the parish, and a copy to the door or outer wall of three buildings in each registration district to which the list relates, preference being given to Government or Parochial buildings in the district. It is hoped that shopkeepers might give permission for putting up lists on their shops. These lists are to remain posted up for a period of 14 days; they can remain for a longer period, but provision is made for the punishment of anybody who tears off any list or mutilates or destroys it. As soon as possible after the publication of a list, the Registering Officer has to affix as close as possible to that list a revision notice as shown in Form "D" of the Schedule. That notice has to state the boundaries of the registration district to which it relates; the date, time and place at which the list for the registration district to which the revision notice relates, will be revised by the Revising Officer, the right of any qualified person to object to the inclusion in the lists of any other person; and the last day for the making of any claim or objection in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of the Bill. In short, the revision notice will state that on such and such a date a Revising Court will be held; you who have the right to vote, have the right to go and make a claim; you who see somebody's name on the list, have the right to go and object to the name being there, if you think the name should not be there; and the notice will state the last day on which a claim or objection can be made; but the Registering Officer must put up a notice saying that the Revising Court will be held at such and such a time. The day specified as the day on which the Revising Court will be held must not be less than 21 days after the date on which the revision notice is posted up. The preliminary lists having been put up in conspicuous places, anybody in the registration district can go and look at them and see if his name is there or not; if it is not there, he can go to the Revising Court and put in his claim. If it is put there incorrectly, he can go and get it changed. The Revising Officer, on the day specified in the revision notice, will go through the lists of claims, and if he does not finish them on that day, he has to sit from day to day, Sunday or Public Holiday excluded, until he finishes them.

As honourable members will have noticed, J.P.'s have been eliminated; there is no swearing to your qualifications. You make your claim and the Assistant Registering Officer satisfies himself, although the Bill does not say that; the Bill says that he must do his best to see that the requirements are complied with. For instance, if he says that you are only 16 and you have not been living in the particular dis-

trict for three months, you produce a Birth Certificate to prove that you are over 21. You might find it difficult to produce a Birth Certificate and we have to cover that point; you either produce a Birth Certificate or make a statement on oath or affirmation that you are over 21 and that you have been living in the particular district for three months, so that you have a residential qualification. You might be required to produce a certificate of naturalization or make a declaration on oath or affirmation that you are a British subject. The Revising Officer or Registering Officer has the right to make you swear that you are over 21, that you have been living in the particular district for three months and that you are a British subject. That was the duty of the J.P.'s. Where the Revising Officer makes the necessary corrections in the lists of claims, he must send you a notice by registered post that he is upholding an objection and giving you the right to go and say: "The objection is wrong; I am entitled to be registered." After that has been done, the Registering Officer puts in the changes that are necessary and then we have what becomes the register of voters for each district. The Registrar then prepares two copies of the register of voters, certifies them to be correct, and forwards them to every presiding officer for use at the next election. Any person can get a copy of the list of voters upon the payment of a fee to the Registrar.

I have to anticipate questions and say the sort of things about which I know honourable members will ask. I shall have to ask for permission later on to insert another section in the Bill. If a person has been living for three months in a district and then moves out of it, we propose to allow him at election time to go back and vote in his old district, the district in which he was registered. The new section is partly for the purpose of saving a lot of complicated work and partly for the purpose of preventing a person from being deprived of his vote if he moves out of a district and goes in another one. I shall also ask leave to add another section to deal with the case of a person who moves in a district temporarily. If a cane-cutter leaves his home in St. Andrew and goes to live in St. Philip for a few weeks or for a few months, for that matter, he will not be deemed to be registered in St. Philip, but in St. Andrew.

There is a provision in the Bill for a penalty for making a claim knowing it to be false, as honourable members will see. I would like to point out that it was thought we should make these penalties drastic; it is not a question of "not exceeding", if you are fined, you are fined \$100. For mutilating or altering notices or lists, the penalty is fixed at \$100 or imprisonment for six months. Making false statements before the Revising Officer or Registering Officer is deemed to be an offence meriting a similar penalty and a fine of \$100 or imprisonment for six months is fixed. The last section of the Bill, or nearly the last section, gives power to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make regulations for the proper carrying out of the provisions of the Bill, that is to say, prescribing the remuneration and travelling allowances to be paid to any Assistant Registering Officer; the duties of Assistant Registering Officers and the procedure to be followed in the performance of those duties; the records to be kept by an Assistant Registering Officer; varying the forms set out to the Schedule to the Bill and prescribing additional forms; and prescribing the number of lists to be printed. Honourable members will see from the Resolution which will follow this Bill, that we have decided

what Assistant Registering Officers and other persons should be paid; we have borne in mind what was paid in Trinidad and we have put in what we thought suitable to Barbados.

That Mr. Speaker, covers all the points in this Bill; it is conceivable that in the fertile brain of the honourable senior member for the City, there might be some points which I have forgotten, but I think I have endeavoured to put before the House all the points which have occurred to me. Naturally, if honourable members want any further explanation, they have only to ask for it and I shall endeavour to satisfy them by telling them what is proposed. I would just like to point out that numbers of things might arise from this Bill—it is a matter for Your Honour, of course—things which are not relevant to the Bill but which might be dealt with later on by necessary amendments to the Ballot Act. We might find, for instance, that with adult suffrage, even with the polling districts confined to 450 persons, we might have to extend the time for polling; but that is a question of amending the Ballot Act. Some honourable members might point out that with many bungalows going up, workmen might have to leave their homes in St. Thomas or St. Andrew too early to be able to vote and they might not get away until 5 o'clock to go back to their district to vote. We might have to extend the time in the Ballot Act so that persons in that category might be able to vote.

I will say this in addition to what I have already said about Trinidad. We have sent to Trinidad, we not only have their report and the report from Jamaica, which we have studied carefully, but we have sent to ask them whether the figure of 450 persons to a district works satisfactorily. The Jamaica Act says 250 persons to a district and the Trinidad Act says 450. We have been advised by a sheriff that we could risk 600 or 700 persons to a district; we have not accepted his advice but we have sent to Trinidad and we were advised that 450 to a district works well, but even fewer than 450. I think I can say that we have endeavoured to cover all the points in this Bill, and I hope that those honourable members who have seen any omissions will let us know, so that amendments can be inserted. We have had the 300-year-old practice of the Parochial Authorities being responsible in these election proceedings; but I think, and honourable members will agree with me, that the Government should be responsible for running an election. As regards who will be in charge of the polling stations, each of them will, of course, have a presiding officer and an assistant and there might be a sheriff. These are matters which will have to be considered under the Ballot Act. I do not mind honourable members making suggestions; it is a matter for Your Honour or the Chairman of Committees to say when honourable members are straying. I shall be glad for every possible suggestion. All of us have had serious contested elections; we have experienced difficulties and if honourable members will help the Government with the benefit of their experience as to what happened in their time, we shall be glad to make use of those things. As I have said, matters relative to sheriffs and presiding officers come under the Ballot Act, and the Executive Committee has not sat down to consider any of these things which are not relevant at this particular time. I have very much pleasure in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

MESSRS. CRAWFORD and MOTTLEY entered the House and took their seats while Mr. ADAMS was speaking.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,— I am sure that everybody sitting around this Table is in favour of this Bill, and I, personally, wish to thank the honourable introducer for the very full explanation which he has given as to how the Government proposes to work this registration of voters. This is a big job and, possibly, this Bill has a lot of snags in it, although I appreciate the fact that the Learned Attorney General has devoted much time to it. The honourable introducer has said that the Executive Committee has endeavoured to benefit from the experience of Trinidad, Jamaica and elsewhere; but what is suitable for those places is not always suitable for Barbados. I am sure that the honourable member will appreciate that if we make any criticisms from this side of the Table when we go into Committee on this Bill, we do so with the idea of trying to get this Bill to work satisfactorily having regard to the conditions in Barbados. Personally, I will have very few suggestions and criticisms to make in respect of a Bill of this sort, but there are members on this side of the House, and on the other side too, who will be putting forward some suggestions.

I realise that this is going to be a very expensive job, and after we have spent a large amount of money with the idea of getting everybody enfranchised, I hope that we shall have everybody satisfied. It is everybody's right to vote for his representatives in the House and I feel sure that the Government is endeavouring to make it as easy as possible and as simple as possible for everybody to register and get to the voting booths. The honourable member has mentioned that the experience of Trinidad was that the number of 450 persons to a district was the right number; probably that is right, but there may be some districts which are so scattered that it might be necessary to have booths for 500 voters. However, I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the second reading of this Bill.

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

Mr. GILL entered the House and took his seat while Mr. WILKINSON was speaking.

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

Clause I, the title Clause, was read and passed. Clause 2 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: The second line of this Clause reads: " 'Appointed day' means the 30th day of September;" It will be in order to delete the figures and words "30th day of September" in order to insert "31st day of October, 1951." When this Bill was drafted it was hoped that it would have come before the House in December; that is why the date "30th day of September" has been put in the Bill. Now that we are a month later, it becomes necessary to make this change which I am asking leave to make.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: It is set out in this Clause that "register" means the register required by Clause 3 of this Bill to be prepared for each parish or the City of Bridgetown. I would just like to enquire whether "register" means the register for the whole parish containing the registration districts in alphabetical order. I would like to know whether there is a method

by which the register is done in respect of the various registration districts.

Mr. ADAMS: As the definition reads, it means the register for the parish as a whole, but made up of several districts. The parish of St. Michael will have 14 registration districts, but those districts, each with a separate alphabetical list, will form the register for the parish of St. Michael.

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

Clause 3 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. MAPP: As this Clause reads, a register of the names, addresses and occupations of persons entitled to be registered as voters has to be prepared. I thought that the age of a person was as important as his occupation as far as this Bill is concerned. I am wondering if the honourable senior member for St. Joseph would also make provision for the insertion of the age.

Mr. ADAMS: I would accept an amendment to that effect because it is intended to have the age inserted in the Schedule of the Bill.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: The register has to prove that a person is 21 and over. I think this Clause is all right.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, automatically if a person's name is on the register he is 21 and over, so that it is not necessary to state the exact age.

The question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 4 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill, I should like to say that, as honourable members will see, we are aiming at 450 persons to a district. We were told from Trinidad that 450 persons to a district seemed to be right, but they found that 350 persons to a district would have been better, and they suggested to us that wherever there were 600 persons to a district we should make sure to have two polling stations. It is comparatively easy to get 450 persons to a district using imaginary lines. The divisions will be made according to the census figures: the results of the census included villages and streets and it showed that in a population of 1,000 persons, there are 450 persons or it may be, 600 persons over 21. Mr. Chase is the one man who could do this job because he has done it already. Sub-clauses 3 and 4 of this Clause have been put in with the object of giving power to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to vary this approximate number of 450 persons to a district. In some cases, the number might have to be reduced to 250. Jamaica made theirs 250 because you might have a group of houses in a district and you might have to go about 4 or 5 miles before you come to another collection of houses; but in Barbados we are so thickly populated that you might get 450 persons in one street. I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

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

Clause 5 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I take it that the inclusion of the addresses and occupations in the preparation of these preliminary lists of persons is purely for the purpose of identification.

The question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 6 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Sub-clause (4) reads: "The Governor-in-Executive Committee may at any time replace any assistant registering officer by appointing another person to act in the place and stead of the person already appointed and any assistant registering officer so replaced, shall upon request in writing signed by the registering officer for the parish, deliver or give up to the person appointed in his place any instructions, papers and any information which he has obtained for the purpose of his duties."

I notice that the constituency of the City of Bridgetown does not appear after the word "parish" occurring in line 6 of this Sub-clause. I would like to know if that has been left out purposely, or whether the Registering Officer who is appointed for St. Michael will also look after the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. ADAMS: The City of Bridgetown has been so well represented that perhaps it is not necessary to put it in here. However, I think we should have it in. I am asking leave to insert the words "or City of Bridgetown as the case may be" after the word "parish" occurring in line 6.

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

The question that Clause 6 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Clause 7 was read as follows:—

7. (1) Every assistant registering officer shall not later than the twenty eighth day of February visit each house in his district and leave with each qualified person a claim in the Form A in the Schedule of this Act:

Provided that, where it is impracticable to leave such Form with any qualified person, the assistant registering officer may send such Form by registered post to any qualified person in his district;

(2) On every such form shall be plainly expressed that it is to be filled up by every qualified person residing in such house.

(3) The assistant registering officer shall visit each house in his district and shall collect all the forms so left on or before the 15th day of March and shall if required by any qualified person complete such form or correct such form as he may find to be erroneous:

Provided that where the assistant registering officer is unable to collect such form by reason of the absence of the qualified person, such qualified person may send or cause such Form to be sent to the assistant registering officer before the 28th day of February.

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking leave to make certain amendments to this Clause. These dates were originally put in because it was thought that this Bill would have come before the House in December, but they will now have to be changed. I ask leave to delete the words "not later than the 28th February" in order to insert the words "within two months after the coming into operation of this Act" in Sub-clause (1): and in Sub-clause (3) to delete the words "on or before the 15th March" in order to insert the words "within the period of two months as provided by Sub-section (1) of this Section"; and in the Proviso to this Sub-clause, to delete

the words "before the 28th day of February" in order to insert the words "within the aforesaid two months".

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 7 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

Clause 8 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: It is necessary to make certain amendments to this Clause as well. Sub-clause 2 reads: "The preliminary list so prepared together with the claims so collected or received shall be sent to the registering officer for the parish or City of Bridgetown as the case may be not later than the 31st day of March".

I am asking leave to delete the words "the 31st day of March" in order to insert the words "fifteen days after the last day fixed for collection or receipt thereof as provided in section 7"; and to delete the word "as" occurring in line 2 of Sub-clause (4) in order to insert the word "in".

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 8 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I do not see that there is any definition of the word "district". Sub-clause (1) says: "Every assistant registering officer shall prepare a preliminary list for his district of all persons whose claims have been so collected or received." I am wondering whether we should not insert the word "registration" before the word "district" because "district" is not defined, and the word occurs in this Sub-clause and also in Sub-clause (3).

Mr. ADAMS: I do not mind the insertion of the word "registration" before the word "district" wherever it occurs. I ask leave to insert the word "registration" before the word "district" in Sub-clauses (1) and (3).

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

The question that Clause 8 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that wherever the word "district" appears in all other Clauses of the Bill, the word "registration" be inserted before it.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 9 was read as follows:—

9. Every assistant registering officer who, without reasonable excuse, omits any name from the preliminary list or enters in the preliminary list any person not entitled to be registered or fails to collect a claim, shall be liable on conviction by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a fine of \$500 or to imprisonment for 6 months and shall forfeit any claim to fees under this Act.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Despite what the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said on the second reading of this Bill, does he not think that the penalty under this Clause is a little harsh? The penalty under this Clause is a fine of \$500 if an Assistant Registering Officer, without reasonable excuse omits any name from the preliminary list or so on; I think we had better leave the penalty to the discretion of the Magistrate. After all, in most cases, the penalty is

a fine not exceeding so much. I think the penalty for just failing to put in a name is harsh.

Mr. ADAMS: I am appealing to the honourable senior member for St. George to bear me out in this matter. In Trinidad the three things mentioned in this Clause took place and that is why we have been so careful. Enumerators were paid for not putting in certain people's names while other people's names were put in; some people were shifted from one district to another so that they were not entitled to vote; they were, so to speak, migrated from place to place and there was no means of punishing any enumerator. The words "without reasonable excuse" covers all these things; where an enumerator leaves a form and does not collect it, the fine should be a substantial one. We want to get this thing done without any corruption, and enumerators should be honest men, men who are above being bribed. Where a voter says that he wants to be registered and the enumerator would not register him, he has to make a complaint; and it is well for enumerators to know that if they fail to register anybody, they are liable to a fine of \$500. I think that the penalty should be drastic in order that we might have a clean system of registering people.

Mr. MILLER: I do not know that I have very much to say in connection with this matter. I think that the Government has undertaken a herculean job, not having the assistance of somebody who has had experience in dealing with an election of this sort. However, I can pay a special tribute to the Government in having to handle this job. I took time off to go to Trinidad because I wanted to make a very serious study of the election there. What actually took place in Trinidad was a grave disappointment even to the candidates; enumerators were paid to keep voters off the list, and so were canvassers. I am satisfied that the majority of the snags which were experienced in Trinidad have been removed in this Bill, but I feel that in Barbados we will have our own peculiarities. I repeat that the Government has undertaken a big job and if it can carry through this election with satisfaction to all the candidates, it will have achieved something. I have no doubt that the members of the Executive Committee are aware of their responsibility in bringing about an election on the principle of adult suffrage; it is a question of bringing every person who has attained the age of 21 years to the polls. I feel that it is going to be a very difficult task to put over an election with adult suffrage in a place like Barbados, and I would like to warn the Government to be more than careful in the arrangements for having people placed on the preliminary lists. I do hope that the Government will pay to this matter the attention which is really necessary to be paid to it.

The question that Clause 9 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 10 was read and passed.

Clause 11 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking leave to make a small amendment to this clause, and that is to delete the word "the" occurring in paragraph (b) of Sub-clause (1), in order to insert the word "this."

There being no objection the hon. member was granted leave.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move Mr. Chairman, that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

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

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

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, — I beg to lay the Replies to Questions No. 64, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip, relative to the Mills Milk Processing Scheme.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to lay the Replies to Questions No. 26 also standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip, relative to the ration allowance accorded the staff of the Government Industrial Schools.

SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) BILL 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was in Committee on a Bill to make provision for the division of the Parishes and the City of Bridgetown into Registration Districts for the purposes of the preparation and revision in relation to each such parish and the City of Bridgetown, of registers of all persons entitled to be registered as voters at an election of a member at the General Assembly for such parish and the City of Bridgetown, for purposes connected therewith and incidental thereto.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee on this Bill before the adjournment, Clause II had been passed.

Clause 12 was read and passed.

Clause 13 was read as follows:—

13. (1) Any person who claims to be entitled to be registered as a voter and who is not entered, or is entered in an incorrect manner or with incorrect particulars in such lists, may claim to be registered or to be registered correctly by sending to the registering officer not later than 7 days after the publication of the said lists a claim in the Form E in the Schedule of this Act.

(2) Any person whose name appears in any list may object to the registration of any person whose name is included in those lists by sending to the registering officer not later than 7 days after the publication of the said lists, notice of objection in the Form F in this Schedule of this Act.

(3) Every notice under subsection (1) of this section shall specify the address of the claimant on the twenty-eighth day of February, 1951.

(4) Every person who objects to the inclusion in the list of any other person in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall forward a copy of his notice of objection by registered post to the person to whose inclusion in the list such objection relates.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to make an amendment to Sub-clause (3) by deleting the words "twenty eighth day of February" and inserting in place thereof the words "thirtieth day of April". It may be thought that the 7 days set out in this Clause is a short period of time; however, it appears to me that persons will have quite a long time in which to know what to do in order to be registered, that is to say, to fill in a claim and hand it to the Registering

Officer. It is a comparatively simple matter for a person to know whether his name is on the list or not because these lists will be affixed in three places in the area — in Trinidad there were only two places — and in addition to that there are the Post Offices and the Police Stations. There will therefore be full opportunity for persons to know whether they are on the list or not; if they are not on the list they can make their claims. If honourable members on the whole feel that 7 days is too short a period, I am not averse to an amendment being made.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 13 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. GODDARD: I think that the period of 7 days is too short. The names will be posted up and the people who make claims or counter-claims are going to telephone their representatives and ask them to make the amendments for them. I think that more time should be given in which to deal with any omissions or errors that may have taken place. The onus is going to be thrown on people who are politically-minded and they will be expected to correct anything that may have gone wrong. I beg to move that the words "7 days" be deleted in order to insert the words "14 days". I also draw to the attention of the honourable member that the word "on" occurring in line 3 of Sub-clause (1) should be changed to the word "in."

Mr. MILLER: I beg to second that. I, too, feel that the period of 7 days is too short for a person who is making a claim to be registered. I am in agreement with the honourable senior member for Christ Church that the period should be increased to 14 days.

Mr. ADAMS: I accept that amendment. As regards the amendment which I asked leave to make, that might be putting the time too far. If the Act comes into operation in the middle of February, then two months after that will be the middle of April. If we change the twenty-eighth day of February, to the thirtieth day of April, a person may be sending in his claim before the thirtieth day of April and he cannot state his Address on it. I ask leave to postpone the consideration of this Clause so that I can further consider the matter.

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

Clause 14 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: For the same reason I am asking leave to postpone the consideration of this Clause because the date, the twenty eighth day of February occurring in Sub-clause (2) (a), will have to be changed. I am just working out the time in order to see whether it should be the thirtieth day of April or not.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to postpone the consideration of this Clause.

Clause 15 was read and passed.

Clause 16 was read as follows:—

16. (1) The Revising Officer or registering Officer may if he thinks necessary—

- (a) require any person either to produce a certificate of birth, or if that is not practicable, to make a statement on oath or affirmation that such person has attained the requisite age and has the requisite residential qualifications;
- (b) require that person to produce a certificate of nationalization or to make a declaration on oath or affirmation that he is a British subject.

(2) The Revising Officer or registering Officer may administer an oath or a solemn affirmation for the purposes aforesaid.

Mr. ADAMS: There are some amendments to be made to this Clause. I ask leave to insert the words "or will have" after the word "has" occurring at the end of line 6 of Sub-clause (1). The Bill makes provision for persons who are not yet 21 years of age, but who will have reached that age before the end of September, to be registered. The Elections are not likely to take place before September, and that date has been chosen. If a person is now 20 years old, but will be 21 by September, he will be allowed to be registered. If honourable members will look at Clause 22 (b) they will see that if a person swears falsely that he has attained or will have attained the age of 21 years by September, he is liable to a penalty. I also ask leave to insert the words "or baptism" after the word "birth" occurring in line 4 of Sub-clause (1); to delete the word "that" occurring in line 1 of Sub-clause (1) (b) in order to insert the word "any" and to delete the word "nationalisation" occurring in line 2 of this Sub-clause in order to insert the word "naturalization."

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 16 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 17 was read and passed.

Clause 18 was read as follows:—

18. When the Revising Officer makes any correction in lists otherwise than in pursuance of a claim or objection, or for the purpose of correcting a clerical error, he shall give notice by registered post, in the Form 1, in the Schedule of this Act, to the person affected thereby, and allow that person an opportunity of objecting to the correction and if necessary of being heard with respect thereto.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: In this Clause it is stated that the Revising Officer shall give notice by registered post to the person affected by any correction in the lists, and allow that person an opportunity of objecting to the correction and, if necessary, of being heard with respect thereto. I think that there should be set out some reasonable time in which that transaction should be carried out.

Mr. ADAMS: I think that this Clause will work all right; a date will be fixed. If honourable members will look at Form 1, of the Schedule, they will see that the Revising Officer will give notice that somebody is objecting to your name being on the list and you will have to go in and see him within a certain time.

The question that Clause 18 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 19 was read as follows:—

19. (1) When the lists shall contain all changes and additions made by the Revising Officer and certified accordingly by him in the Form J in the Schedule of this Act those lists shall together constitute the register required by section 3 of this Act.

(2) The Registrar so constituted shall be forwarded to the Registrar who shall be responsible for the safe custody of the same.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 19 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRYAN: In the event of any persons having been left out, whether by accident or design, and these lists have been closed, what does the Government propose to do so that those persons can be added to the lists? It happened in Trinidad that on Election Day people went to the polls and found that their names were not on the lists. I should like to know what provision is made for people to be added to the lists after they have been closed.

Mr. ADAMS: The practice in big countries—in Great Britain at any rate—is that when a list is closed, it is closed until another electoral list is prepared. You cannot be added to the list after it has been closed, and that is the reason why honourable members have suggested that the period of seven days after the publication of the lists was too short for sending a claim to be registered. If you are keen on getting on the list, prospective candidates can go and see if your name is there, and you have fourteen days in which to see that your name is put on the list. There are 450 people in a district and there is plenty of time in which you can go and see whether your name is on the list or not. It may be that people will refuse to fill in a form, because it is not compulsory for them to do so, but it is up to people who are interested in politics to look up the list and tell others that their names are not on the list. I do not think that there will be any grave danger of people being left out. I have a letter from Mr. Farrell of Trinidad who pointed out that some of the trouble there was due to unsatisfactory work by the enumerators and that was not suspected until it was too late. Trinidad fixes the date for the Election and ninety days before the Election everything must be ready; after the ninetieth day nothing can be done. Here we are saying that we are passing an Act and within two months after that Act has been passed, you have to make your claim; then fifteen days afterwards the forms will be collected, and a preliminary list will be prepared and sent to the Registering Officer who then has to compile and publish the preliminary list in order that if there are any omissions you will have fourteen more days in which to have your name put on the list. If this were a parish list, that would be a different matter, but in a comparatively small district of 450 people, it seems impossible for people who want their names to be put on the list to be left out.

The question that Clause 19 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 20 and 21 were read and passed.

Clause 22 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to add another Sub-clause to be numbered (3) as follows:—

“Every person who knowingly makes a False Statement in any claim for the purpose of being registered in more than one Registration District or parish shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a fine of \$100 or to imprisonment for six months.”

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 22 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clauses 23 and 24 were read and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: Honourable members will remember that we passed Sub-clause (5) of Clause 8 which says that an assistant registering officer must not canvass, but we have not attached any penalty for a breach of that provision. I therefore ask leave to

insert a new Clause to be numbered 25 as follows:

“Every Assistant Registering Officer who infringes the provisions of Sub-section 5 of section 8 of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a fine of \$100 or to imprisonment for six months.”

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 25 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 25, re-numbered 26 was read and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the second reading of this Bill I referred to the matter of allowing a person who may have left his district and has gone to live somewhere else, to retain his qualification once his name is on the list. If the principle is that a list when once made is made, you should not deprive a man of his right to vote. Under this new Clause which I am asking leave to insert, a man will have to go back to his district to vote. This new Clause to be numbered 27 reads as follows:—

27. For the purposes of registration under this Act every person shall be deemed to continue, until the completion of the revision of the lists, to reside in the registration district in which he was resident at the date of the publication of the revision notice and no actual change of residence during the intervening period shall deprive him of his right to be registered in any other registration district.

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

Mr. WILKINSON: I should like the honourable member to explain this Clause.

Mr. ADAMS: This Clause, as it is worded, is a little complicated and I shall make an explanation. It is the principle that once on the list you are always on the list until a new list is prepared. It must be remembered that the Government proposes that during 1951, the old list is the list, and that from the next Election you are on the list as prepared as we are doing it now. You remain on the old list until provision is made for a new one. Honourable members will notice that we are not now making any provision for future lists; the Government proposes as soon as possible to re-write the Representation of the People Act and provision will be made for the new-comers. We may suggest that the Registrar or Clergymen should give a list of people who are over 20 years old and those who will be 21 by September will be put on the list. Every year an average of about 2,000 people will be going on the list and provision will be made whereby they will be automatically registered. Provision will have to be made whereby if a person leaves the parish of St. Michael and goes to live in another parish, he acquires a new district. That is not dealt with in this Bill. I know that in Great Britain people have to travel from one end of London to the other because they change their district; on Election Day they have to vote in the district in which they are registered. For the purpose of preparing these first lists, these things will have to be done, but the future will have to take care of itself. I beg to move that this proposed new Clause 27 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I should just like to enquire whether these voters' lists should not be published in the *Official Gazette*. It is not that I do not see that provision is made for anybody to be prosecuted for

interfering with the lists, but I feel it would be a good thing to have these lists published in the *Official Gazette* so that interested persons will see them and be able to render valuable assistance in checking up persons who should not be there, or putting on persons who should be there. I throw out that suggestion and I hope that one of the members of the Government will be good enough to answer that question. If in future years you have additional lists, they would be appearing more or less monthly and if you got a couple of persons registered in each constituency and relegated them to each district, you would be able to have up-to-date lists of voters. I do not feel that the Government would want to deny honourable members the facility I have mentioned when they have to pay a deposit in order to become members of the House. (A MEMBER: Look at Clause 11 (I) (c)). I see that provision is made for the publication of the lists and I am glad that that is so.

The question that the proposed new Clause 27 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to add another new Clause to be numbered 28 as follows:—

28. No person shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be resident at the date of the publication of the revision notice in any registration district to which he has come for the purpose of engaging temporarily in any employment of a seasonal character.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that new Clause 28 stand part of the Bill; it speaks for itself.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Clause 26, re-numbered 29 and Clause 27, re-numbered 30 were read and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: With regard to Clause 13, consideration of which was postponed, I had asked leave to delete the words "twenty-eighth day of February" occurring in line 3 of Sub-clause (3) in order to insert the words "thirtieth day of April," but the matter can be arranged. I have already accepted the amendment changing the words "7 days" to "14 days".

The question that Clause 13 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: As regards Clause 14, consideration of which was also postponed, I ask leave to delete the words "twenty-eighth day of February" occurring at the end of Sub-clause (2) (a) in order to insert the words "thirtieth day of April."

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 14 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Form "A" of the Schedule was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to insert after the words "DATE OF BIRTH" the following words: "I hereby declare that I have NOT made a claim or registered as a voter in any other Registration District in this Island under the provisions of the Special Registration of Voters (General Assembly) Act, 1951."

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Form "A" as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Form "B" was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to delete the words and figures "by the 15th day of March, 1951."

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Form "B" as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Forms "C" to "J" were read and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to re-commit Clause 5. The year "1901" set out therein must be a mistake, because the 1950 Act is described as the one in which all this registration is being made and prepared. I ask leave to re-commit this Clause in order to change the figures "1901" to the figures "1950".

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the figures "1901" appearing in this Clause be deleted in order to insert the figures "1950".

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 5, as amended stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: I want honourable members to appreciate the fact that while I am giving way to the honourable senior member for the City to proceed with a Bill which concerns a number of people for whom the Barbados Workers' Union has been working hard, we must deal with the Representation of the People (Registration of Voters) (Suspension) Bill, and the Supplementary Estimates in which is included provision to meet the requirements in connection with the machinery for setting in motion the registration of voters in 1951. I am asking honourable members to remain and form a quorum.

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH (BARBADOS) LOAN BILL 1951

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 51 under Private Members' Business as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for the City:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. Michael to raise a loan to enable them to grant retrospective pay to all parochial employees of the said parish.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is a Bill which is well known to every honourable member and I do not think it is a controversial one. It is a Bill which asks the House to authorise the Vestry of St. Michael to borrow the sum of £10,000 at a rate of interest not exceeding 4% per annum for the purpose of granting retrospective pay to all the parochial employees. This matter of granting retrospective pay to the employees is one which has been controversial for many months,

but at long last it has reached finality. I made the pledge that I would do my best to get this Bill before the Legislature and I do not think that there is very much more for me to say in connection with the Bill having succeeded in getting it here. The point might be made as to whether this Bill, having been approved by the old Vestry which is now dead, is in order; I say that the passing of this Bill will not be creating any precedent at all, because during this session a similar Bill relative to the Vestry of St. Philip was passed in similar circumstances. However the question was raised by the new Vestry and I have in my hand addressed to me a letter which I shall put in as a document of the House. This letter is from the Vestry Clerk and it reads as follows:

Vestry Clerk's Office,
Parochial Buildings,
Bridgetown,
16th January, 1951.

Sir,

At a meeting of the Vestry held yesterday, consideration was given to the question of the Bill before the Legislature in respect of the Loan for £10,000 for the purpose of paying retrospective pay to Parochial Employees.

The Vestry unanimously approved of the action of the 1950 Vestry in agreeing to seek Legislative sanction for the passing of the Bill mentioned above, and that you proceed to pilot the Bill through its various stages in the Legislature.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. C. REDMAN,

Clerk, St. Michael's Vestry.

I did not think it was necessary to make that point, but I felt that some honourable member might raise it. I therefore draw to the attention of honourable members that the passing of this Bill will not be creating any precedent since this Chamber passed a similar Bill a few months ago. I have much pleasure in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the second reading of this Bill. When I second the motion for the second reading of a Bill which has been moved by the third Leader of the Opposition, you know what it means. This matter of retrospective pay for the parochial employees of St. Michael has been a controversial one between the Barbados Workers' Union and the employers for two years and we are now seeing that justice is going to be done. As the Good Book says: the mills of God grind slowly but surely, and I am glad to see that the honourable senior member for the City has seen the wisdom of piloting this Bill through the House. On my behalf I will say that the honourable member has been persuaded that justice should be done in so far as these workers are concerned: he has been converted or he has converted others to our way of thinking in that he has brought this Bill before the House. I hope that the Vestry will deal with the payment of this money as expeditiously as we are passing the Bill.

Mr. LEWIS: As we have heard, this Bill is the outcome of rather serious negotiations between a section of employees of the St. Michael's Vestry and the Vestry, and undoubtedly we are all very pleased to know that the efforts of those employees, whether they met with our approval or not, have borne this fruit. It is regrettable that such a long and protracted discussion with threats of strikes had to precede the introduction of this Bill in this House. I have only taken an observer's interest in what has

been going on, and I can only say that I am very pleased that the matter has been settled in this way. I know it is difficult for a Government or Vestry, unlike a private business, to give retrospective pay where there is a dispute about wages. The Vestry is not a trading concern that might have made profits at the time when the negotiations started, and therefore the Vestry is removed from that particular category.

However, in this particular instance, all these subordinate employees of the Vestry have maintained all along that they were promised that whatever the Government had done—the Government is no different from the Vestry in its annual budgeting—the Vestry would do. That claim has been so persistent that persons who know nothing about the matter must have come to the conclusion unhesitatingly that such a promise must have been made no matter how vaguely it was made. I am happy to be able to associate myself with the raising of a loan to pay this money and I have no doubt that the taxpayers will welcome a settlement in this direction. I do not know if there are any employees of the Vestry who are going to benefit from this Bill, but who did not agitate. If that is so, it is regrettable. We have a sort of respectable employee who likes to get anything in agitation for it, and prefers to see people go on strike, get dismissed, put in jail in agitating, and he will get his pick out of what is stirring, his pick being sometimes more than that of the poor people who have fought so as to get theirs. This retrospective payment is to be made as from the 1st April, 1948, and I claim that if between that date and the actual payment of the money you have had to dismiss an employee, that employee will be entitled to his share of the money up to the time when he gave satisfaction in his work. I would like to know if such an employee is going to get what is his, because I believe the Government itself did wrong on that particular occasion; the wages were to be paid from a particular date, but they did not pay everybody as from that date. I hope that the principle of paying everybody from the particular date will be carried out in the case of the Vestry employees; I hope that this Bill will bring satisfaction and prevent a similar occurrence in future, because these agitations do leave a bad taste in the mouth, and human beings being what they are, it is very difficult for them to forgive and forget.

Mr. MAPP: Like the last honourable member who spoke, I feel that honourable members do welcome the fact that this matter has been settled and that these deserving employees will be paid what they were promised by the Vestry of St. Michael would be paid to them. While that is so, I find myself compelled to draw to the attention of the House and the public what, in my opinion, indicates a very serious lack of business methods on the part of the Vestry. I cannot help saying that that state of affairs was brought about by a desire to save the taxpayers from contributing to a charge on the Vestry, which they themselves had deliberately incurred by their promise. We hear the boast made by members of the Vestry that they have sound business methods and that businessmen should be returned to the Vestries of the island; but for the first time in the history of a well run business we find that they are raising a loan to pay wages to employees for services rendered for a past period of time. For services rendered by the employees during 1948-50 the ratepayers of St. Michael will have to pay this year and for years to come; they will have to pay this amount of money which has to be borrowed and they will also have to pay the interest on it. I say that that indicates a

shocking piece of business—a shocking lack of sound administration by the members of the Vestry. It may have been good business acumen because they saved extra taxation, but people should have been taxed in order to pay these wages. I have never heard of a Government or public body borrowing money and saddling generations to come with taxation so as to pay for services rendered during a past period. These employees are quite justifiably entitled to the increases which they were promised and electioneering promises came into the matter. I maintain that this money should be paid out of current rates; you do not borrow money in order to pay salaries. The Vestry could not make up their minds to pay this money until late in 1950 and now they agree to pay the money by way of raising a loan. I cannot agree with those hon. members who feel that this is something about which the Vestry can flatter themselves; it cannot be denied that they have acted wisely in revising their past policy, but this is a serious state of affairs. I am not thinking of myself; I am thinking of the public in general and I throw out the warning that this procedure should not be entertained. It is time that somebody should protest against it; I do not think we should pass this Bill without sounding a note of protest. After all, we are representatives of the people; these matters are brought to us and it is in the interest of the people that a body like the Vestry of St. Michael should conduct their affairs in a proper way. When we find the Vestry borrowing money to pay people who should have been paid long ago, we should record our dissatisfaction with such a state of affairs.

Mr. COX: Like other hon. members, I am indeed glad to see that at long last this Bill has reached this House. I should like to say from the outset that the Vestry of St. Michael should know that members of this House, and more particularly the members who are connected with the Labour Party, deplore the behaviour of the Vestry in this particular matter. I can remember as well as anybody else that when the Government brought Commissioner Adams out here to investigate the position of members of the Civil Service and to make recommendations as regards their salaries and wages and as regards the re-organization of the Service, the Vestry of St. Michael made it clear that they were prepared to follow the Government in whatever decision was arrived at as a result of the investigation and recommendations of Commissioner Adams. It so happened that after Commissioner Adams made his recommendations, the Government made good with its employees, but on the other hand, the Vestry went back on their word and actually said that they had not made any promises to grant retrospective pay to their employees and refused to grant it. Although the Vestry realised that their employees were in the same category as Government employees, although they realised that the cost of living had risen to the same height for their employees as for Government employees, they refused to pay their employees their rightful due. At this point I must say that those who will benefit as a result of the passing of this Bill should, from the highest, take off their hats to those few sanitary workers who had the courage to stand up against the victimisation, the intimidation and the dismissals which took place. I say it is through the courage of those few sanitary workers that we have this Bill before us tonight; if it had not been for the courage of those few workers I am sure that no employee of this Department would have been getting one red half cent by way of retrospective pay. I know a lot about this matter because I have had to play my part in it; I had to advise and give courage where employees would have fallen down. As we all remember, it was decided, after a strike by the

scavengers who could not hold out for any long time, to give this payment only to the people in the lower category and to forget employees like the nurses at the Almshouse. It took a little courage on the part of the employees at the Almshouse to join the Barbados Workers' Union in order that their claims might be considered and something consistent brought about. I would like to say that it is regrettable that persons who are responsible for the spending of public funds should treat their employees in the manner in which many of them would not treat their private employees. The scavengers and other workers of the parish of St. Michael and the island as a whole, do a great service to the island; they do a type of work which many of us abhor and for that reason I feel that consideration should at all times be given to their claims, and sympathy should be extended to them when it is realised the type of work they do, rather than dismiss or victimize or tell them that it rained to-day and therefore they will not get any money. The Vestry should take into consideration that it is the taxpayers of St. Michael who foot these bills and that we, the taxpayers, are willing to subscribe to anything at any time, which we consider reasonable in the interest of furthering the health of the community and in the interest of doing justice to whom we consider to be the least fortunate. I sincerely hope that we will never see a recurrence of the situation which has existed and which may be still existing in the parish of St. Michael on account of the fact that these employees have tried to get what is due to them. If it had not been for the persistence of the Barbados Workers' Union and the fight which was put up by the Union and Labour members of this House, I say emphatically that these employees would not have been getting a red half cent.

Mr. ALLDER: However long it may have taken to convince the members of the Vestry to do what is right to their employees, you cannot get away from the fact that their final decision shows that there had always been the desire to treat the employees as they should be treated. What I feel is that it was a question of "power playing" between the members of the Vestry and the Union to which these employees were affiliated. Nevertheless, the Vestry are showing that they intend to lead the way to other Vestries in treating their employees well. I am thinking in terms of the horrible salaries and wages which are being paid to employees in parishes outside St. Michael. (Mr. MOTTLEY: In St. John?) In St. John, St. Peter or anywhere else. I regret very much that there is nothing at our disposal to compel the other Vestries to do a similar thing to their employees as the Vestry of St. Michael are doing to theirs. The people in the parishes outside St. Michael have to work under greater trying circumstances than those in St. Michael and I feel that year in and year out they do not get any consideration because of the kind of set-up which is found in these Vestries. I also regret that all the parochial employees are going to be considered under this Bill; I am not in favour at present of further overburdening the taxpayers in order to increase the salaries of any senior employees who are already getting what can be considered as handsome salaries. (A MEMBER: This is not an increase). I am informed that these employees are going to get back pay and such an amount would be put on their basic salaries. I am of the opinion that the senior employees of the Vestry are already being taken care of. I do not like the recriminations which have been showered at the Vestry; I would prefer to know that every Department, whether it be Government or Vestry, will be as magnanimous towards its employees as the Vestry appears to be. I am forced

to admire the action of the Vestry; it shows that the vestry are willing to bow to the opinion of the public and that is something which I would like the Administration to do in regard to certain employees who toil in the interest of the colony in the same way as any scavenger or other employee of the Vestry. I hope that the action of this Vestry will lead the way for other Vestries to follow suit, and also the Government in respect of employees whose cause I have been arguing here from time to time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: My colleague has asked one question which must be answered. I think I can safely tell the honourable member that the Vestry have agreed that all parochial employees who have been in the service between March, 1948, and April, 1949, whether they are in the service now or not, are morally entitled to their back pay, and I pledge to this House that I will see that that principle is carried out. There is only one other point which I would like to make; I see that the passing of this Bill will be unanimous and I would like to say that I have been in politics sufficiently long to accept criticism, and one must welcome criticism. I do not want to be personal, but speaking personally, I say that some of my political opponents took advantage of the opportunity when I was convalescing to make reckless remarks against me by saying that I was opposed to this principle, when I had said that I felt that these people were morally entitled to this back pay. I believe that the honourable senior member for St. Peter would testify to the fact that when the occasion arose for me to be a member of a delegation to meet a Conciliation Board, I had the honour of having the Labour Commissioner say to me, despite the arguments between the honourable senior member for St. Peter and myself, that it was one of the first meetings over which he had presided and at which so quick a conclusion had been arrived at. I made it quite clear that there was moral justification in these employees getting their back pay. Like some honourable members I do not say that if you are dealing with men of different views, because you differ with such men, the best means of getting them to see your point of view is to try to destroy them; I have always been taught to use cogent argument and reason. You must be astute enough to know when to strike and when not to strike. I do not object to anybody saying that I am playing politics; I do not see any of us not playing politics. I can quite understand the honourable senior member for St. Michael making the speech which he has made, but I say that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. I ask honourable members to support this Bill.

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

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

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed.

Clauses 1 to 9 were read and passed.

Clause 10 was read as follows:—

10. Whenever any interest money shall be paid to any holder of a Certificate on the principal sum named in the Certificate a receipt for such interest money shall be endorsed on such Certificate and signed by the persons or person receiving such interest money, and a duplicate receipt for the interest shall at the same time be given by the same persons or person to the said Parochial Treasurer

to be filed by him in his office and every Certificate shall together with the transfers thereof (if any) at the time of the payment of the principal money named in such Certificate together with all interest thereon as aforesaid be delivered up to the said Vestry and shall forthwith be cancelled or destroyed by them provided always that if any Certificates or transfers shall have been destroyed, lost or mislaid the Vestry shall still pay the sums named in such Certificates and the interest thereon to the persons, bodies politic or corporate whom they may consider entitled to the same respectively upon being satisfied (at the cost of such persons, bodies politic or corporate), that such Certificates have been destroyed or cannot be found and upon receiving such sufficient guarantee or indemnity as they may think fit to require or as they may by their Counsel learned in the law be advised to require.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I think that this is the appropriate time at which to ask a question which I am not quite sure my colleague will be able to answer. Can the hon. member tell me what it will eventually cost the parish of St. Michael to grant this back pay through the medium of this loan? The repayment of the principal with interest might eventually cost £15,000; if you are repaying £500 every year, it will take 20 years to repay this loan and the trouble is that the loan is not one for capital works, so that you will have to borrow the whole sum of money and pay it out. I would like to know what it will eventually cost to repay this money.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That can be worked out but it will take some time to do it. We are putting the interest at 4% per annum but it is obvious that we may get the loan at 3% or 3½% interest so that I cannot answer that question. We do not know at which rate of interest we will get the loan.

Mr. MAPP: The question raised by the hon. junior member for the City is a very apt one. You cannot actually calculate how long it will take before this loan will be repaid, but it looks to me that it will take nearly two decades before it can be paid off; so that instead of repaying £10,000 you will be paying nearly half as much again. As I have already said, this is a bad state of affairs. That has never been done in well run municipalities; people will be receiving interest—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I think he is making a second reading speech.

Mr. MAPP: I am not making any second reading speech; I am speaking on this Clause of the Bill and I am showing how serious a matter this is for the island as a whole. The people who should have paid this money when it should have been paid are going to benefit from this Bill.

The question that Clause 10 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The remaining two Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

Schedule "A" was read and passed.

Schedule "B" was read.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Schedule "B" stand part of the Bill.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to say that it is the rich people on this Vestry who have introduced this method of relief and it is probably the rich people who will invest their money in respect of this loan, and although they may have to pay more taxes, they will eventually get it back in the interest which they

will get on the loan. The rich people who have money will lend it out; they will pay more taxes but they will get £400 on the loan for the first year.

The question that Schedule "B" stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (REGISTRATION OF VOTERS) (SUSPENSION) BILL, 1951

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 6 under Government Business be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—Second reading of a Bill to suspend the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1901, requiring a Register of Voters to be prepared in the year 1951 and for purposes incidental thereto.

Mr. ADAMS: This Bill is companion legislation to that which we have just passed. Inasmuch as the new Register of voters will be prepared on the basis of adult suffrage, and inasmuch as it may not be ready for a few months, it is necessary to pass this Bill. The passing of this Bill is necessary in order to avoid duplication and to put an end to the provisions of the representation of the People Act, 1901, which exists today and which requires registration from month to month and all the subsequent acts which must be performed by the Revising Officer and the Registrar of the colony. Honourable members only have to glance at this Bill to see the necessity for it. As from the passing of this Bill, nobody will be registered under the old Act. If a by-election should take place between now and the coming into operation of the new list under the Bill which we have just passed, only those persons who are registered today will have the right to vote. You cannot have two methods of registration and two different lists of voters at the same time; the list for 1950 shall be the list for 1951. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to insert a new Clause to be numbered 5 as follows:—

"This Act shall come into operation on such date as the Governor shall appoint by Proclamation published in the *Official Gazette*."

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee with an amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On resumption,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave to take Order No. 1 as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ADAMS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one 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 the Resolution. As honourable members will see, the proposed expenditure comes under five heads, namely, Commissioners of Currency, Subsidies and Grants, Miscellaneous Services, Department of Highways and Transport and Dodds Plantation. I propose to go through these Heads and take each item separately. As will be seen, the first item is in connection with West Indian currency. It is thought that by some time in April the Agreement which has been made in the West Indies will come into operation, and the last set of Barbados notes will have to be cancelled. The sum which is being asked for is for their destruction. The note says: "As it is not possible to accommodate in the Currency Department the large staff which would be required to cope with this work in the limited time available, it is proposed to employ four temporary assistants on a wholetime basis and to perform the remainder of the duties out of office hours by requiring the staff of the Currency Department and such of the Treasury Staff as are available to work overtime. It is estimated that the amount required to pay the extra staff, to remunerate the present staff for extra duty, and to provide for incidentals—chairs, tables, etc.—to the 31st of March, 1951, will be approximately \$2,434."

The next item is in connection with increases in salaries for the staff of the Trade Commissioner in Canada for the British West Indies. The note says: "The Trade Commissioner in Canada for the British West Indies has asked for increases in salaries for his staff amounting to \$6,360 (Canadian currency) with effect from the 1st of January, 1951. The reasons given are (a) that it is not possible for him to retain the services of his present staff at the

salaries paid, and (b) that no increases in salaries have been granted over the past eight years. This Colony's share of the proposed increases for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1951, will be \$119.25 (Canadian) or approximately \$210 (B.W.I. currency).

I would like to state in this connection that during my visit to Canada with the molasses Delegation I had many opportunities of seeing the actual work of Mr. Stollmeyer, and I can hardly think of anyone who is more suitable for this kind of work than Mr. Stollmeyer. He is affable, friendly, and one can easily get on with him. He knows people in every walk of life; he is the same with the British High Commissioners in Canada as with the man in the street, and he does a really good job for the West Indies. As a Trinidadian, he did not give the impression that he was trying to push the claims of Trinidad in preference to those of Barbados. In addition to the work which Mr. Stollmeyer does for the West Indies, he has been asked to see after colonial students at one of the Universities. I can hardly speak highly enough of him; he is really deserving of great consideration by all the Governments of the West Indies, having regard to the work which he does. As far as I remember while the molasses Delegation was in Canada, there were two members of the Trade Commissioner's staff who were due to leave because they could get better salaries, and we agreed that when we returned home we would let the people of Barbados know how useful Mr. Stollmeyer is to us and other West Indian islands. We were fully convinced, after seeing for ourselves, that the Trade Commissioner was fully deserving of the small addition for which he is asking. I feel sure that any representations that are made to him to further our commercial interests will be looked after by him. The honourable senior member for Christ Church made a statement about his activities, I think at the time the Estimates were being considered, in respect of the tourist trade; he is really not so much concerned with that, or practically not at all, as he is with pushing the commercial interests of these islands. I wish I could bring to honourable members' minds the effectiveness of the Trade Commissioner's service as the members of the molasses Delegation saw it. Barbados "Bema" was being pushed as well as products from other West Indian Islands.

The next item is in connection with the services of a Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas. We have been fortunate in getting Mr. Tanner to select for us a Gas and Metallurgical Engineer from Canada to advise us as Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Government proposes to employ him on a contract basis for two years at a salary of \$12,000, West Indian currency, a year to advise us in respect of petroleum and natural gas. We have been told that we are extremely fortunate in getting this Officer at so cheap a rate. At the present moment we have a Waterworks expert at the same rate, and water and oil are as far apart as the Poles when it comes to the payment of salaries. However this salary of \$12,000 a year might seem to us on this side of the House, at least in oil circles it is not so much money.

I will remind honourable members that one of the things against which Governments are warned in granting concessions to private individuals is that an Oil Company may get a license from you and then mark time. The services of the Director will be needed to see that an oil concessionaire is really carrying out the terms of his license and is earnestly

endeavouring to extract oil as quickly as possible; therefore it would not be accurate to say that this Officer is being employed too early and that it is not necessary to have him so soon. He will come here and advise the Government as to whether the terms of a licence are being observed, and in addition to that he will advise us, of course, on natural gas as to what these gas wells of the B.U.O.C. are really worth. As far as I can see, arbitration is inevitable in respect of the price of these wells, the fantastic sum of one million dollars having been asked by the B.U.O.C. As this Officer is going to advise us as to what the wells are really worth, it is necessary for us to get him here at once. He will be a technical Officer of the Government who will look after the matters which the possession of these two wells entail. I should add that it is contemplated that his services might be made use of in other directions. I should also add what appears in the note: "The provision in these Supplementary Estimates represents the salary for the period 1st February to 31st March, 1951, plus cost of passage from Canada to Barbados—\$335". By agreeing to the provision of this Officer, the House will have given its sanction to his appointment, and hon. members will find appearing in the Estimates for 1951-52, the salary of this Officer.

The next item is in connection with the appointment of persons who are to carry out the registration of voters for which we have just made provision. As honourable members will see, provision is made for an Island Supervisor, Travelling Allowance, Parish Supervisors, Assistant Registering Officers, Clerical Assistance, Printing and Stationery and Incidentals. I shall begin at the top. We will have Assistant Registering Officers or Enumerators, as they were called in other places, and over them will be Parish Supervisors. I regret that I have temporarily mislaid the plan which has been drawn, so that I cannot tell honourable members the stage at which it has reached. Since November Mr. Chase has been drawing out districts along the lines which obtained in respect of the census, and he has made proposals following his experience as regards the census for the Enumerators. Over the Parish Supervisors will be a general Supervisor. We have considered carefully what should be paid to these Officers, and we have come to the conclusion that the sums of money which are set out here are fitting. Island Supervisor, \$800; Travelling Allowance, (\$60 per month for supervision plus Parish Supervisors) \$240; Parish Supervisors, \$120 each or 3c. per voter whichever is greater, \$3,210; Assistant Registering Officers at 9c. per voter, \$9,630; Clerical Assistance, \$500; Printing and Stationery, \$1,200 and Incidentals—10%, \$420. What we are paying Assistant Registering Officers is more than what Trinidad paid. I can give the Committee the assurance that these figures were arrived at after careful consideration, first by the Acting Attorney General, the Revising Officer, Mr. Chase, myself and then the Executive Committee.

The next item is to make provision for a sum of money to pay for two rollers for the Department of Highways and Transport. As appears in the note. "Although the order for the rollers will be placed during the present financial year it is unlikely that delivery will take place before the 31st of March, 1951, and the amount will be revoted in the 1951-52 Estimates of Expenditure." I am quite aware that nothing I say is going to make any difference to those honourable members who are glad for any opportunity to criticise warmly the Director of Highways and Transport. However, I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that honourable members will observe the ruling of which His Honour the Speaker had occasion to remind them earlier this session; it is a ruling that they should

not attack a Civil Servant who cannot reply. If there is a regulation preventing a Civil Servant from replying, it seems unfair to attack him personally when he cannot reply. If honourable members feel that the Government has not done its duty, let them attack the Government as a Government. If the Government has been misled by the Director of Highways and Transport, or if we failed to take his advice and acted differently, or wilfully joined with him in doing something wrong, that is the Government's fault. I would advise any honourable member who wishes to criticise any act of omission or of commission to do so without referring to the Director himself. I am perfectly prepared—and I have no doubt the other members of the Executive Committee are perfectly prepared too—to take any blame which the Government ought to take in our capacity. One can well understand the anxiety of the two honourable members for St. Michael when, so far this year, no money has been spent on tenantry roads. As against that, the fact that roads have been constructed at the Bay Estate has served a three-fold purpose; people are being employed just as if they were employed at Haggatt Hall, New Orleans or anywhere else, preparation is being made for re-housing and the way is open for slum clearance in Bridgetown. I myself am prepared to say that the Government has chosen wisely in so far as we have acquiesced in directing the construction of roads at the Bay Estate rather than using such rollers as are available so far, on the construction of tenantry roads. Now that the danger of the floods is over, it would be a wise thing for the Government to do a little shifting, and work on some tenantry roads along with the roads at the Bay Estate. I am perfectly prepared to defend the action of the Government in concentrating on getting the roads at the Bay Estate done; and even if it is considered that the Government is wrong in sticking to the roads at the Bay Estate, as regards tenantry roads, we have to consider those roads in the whole island and the possibility of the renewal of floods. We have to take into consideration not only the needs of St. Michael or St. George, but those of the entire island. Whatever might have happened in the past, whatever might have been the keep back or the wrong choice, the Government is determined to get these two rollers as soon as possible and get ahead with the road programme.

The last item is in respect of an increase in the salary of the Manager of Dodds Plantation. I suppose the honourable senior member for St. Andrew will help us as to the scale of payment for managers being according to the size of the plantations. The Manager of Dodds Plantation is also Manager of Seawell Plantation and his salary is \$160.40 per month. For the size of the joint plantations, a Manager in private employment receives a salary of \$180 per month, and the House is being asked to bring the salary of the Manager at Dodds to \$180 per month. I propose to deal with these Heads one by one.

HEAD XVIII—COMMISSIONERS OF CURRENCY

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I take it that new notes as well as old cancelled notes will be destroyed so that room is being made for a new issue entirely.

Mr. ADAMS: I suppose so.

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

HEAD XXVIII—SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

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

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

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to second that. I understand that this \$210 mentioned in the note as this Colony's share of the proposed increases in salaries of the Trade Commissioner's staff is in respect of two months. The note says later on: "This Government has also been called upon to contribute an additional amount to the Trade Commissioner Service to cover the increase in the rate of exchange between Canadian Currency and British West Indies Currency subsequent to devaluation. At the present rate of exchange this amount will be approximately \$290. B.W.I. Currency". I should like to know if this \$290 is also for two months. That point has not been made clear here.

Mr. GODDARD: I am glad to hear the honourable senior member for St. Joseph speak of the work which the Trade Commissioner is doing. All these Officers do their work unknown to the public; although I have not come into contact personally with the Trade Commissioner, I know that he is of great assistance to these Colonies. It is indeed heartening to know that we have such an Officer looking after the interest of the West Indies in Canada. At present he is in Barbados on his annual tour of the West Indies; he makes this tour so as to acquaint himself with problems in these Colonies. It is a source of much satisfaction to know that we can find a West Indian in Canada to look after the interests of the West Indies.

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

HEAD XXIX—MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I notice that we are getting out here a Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The question of the development of these industries has been hanging fire for some time now since the Petroleum Act was passed by this House, and I am hoping that, since the salary of this Officer is somewhat tangible, the greatest benefits will be obtained from this industry in as short a time as possible. This is certainly a tidy sum which we are paying this Officer, and in view of the fact that there have been some apprehensions in the minds of the public, I am hoping that we will obtain greater results in the not too distant future, than we have been getting from this industry.

Mr. REECE: I, too, hope that results will be obtained from the employment of this Officer. It does seem to me that it would require a tidy sum of money to run this Department; inasmuch as we have nationalized gas, it seems to me expedient that we should have at the head of the Department somebody who has a knowledge of oil and gas. I, too, hope that this expenditure will turn out to be money well spent. This is a matter of which we are entirely ignorant and we must depend upon the advice of people who know about it. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has assured us that the Government has acted on the advice of Mr. Tanner who came out here to help us through our difficulties.

and I do hope that this Officer whom we are appointing will be of service to Barbados.

Now I turn to the item "Registration of Voters". I see that an amount of \$16,000 is being asked for to set up the machinery for the registration of voters for 1951. We all know that it will be necessary to set up this machinery, but the question is whether this is the proper method of doing it. Only to-day we have considered the Bill to which this expenditure relates; that Bill has to be passed by the Other Place and we hope that it will be passed in due time. Under that Bill the Executive Committee has power to make regulations in respect of certain things. In order to carry out the provisions of the Bill we must have enumerators; but it seems to me that we are moving speedily, making provision for the appointment of Officers even before the Bill has become law. I appreciate the difficulty of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: nevertheless we are moving quickly.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to express my hope that the expenditure of \$1,000 a month for the services of a Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas will bear fruit, and that the Government will be assisted in its negotiations with regard to people who are searching for oil. I take it that the amount which is being asked for here is only in respect of getting down this Officer; an office will have to be set up and the Government will be coming back and asking for office equipment and a typist. It has happened before that somebody was being brought out here and they had to come back and ask for office equipment. I take it that this Officer does not have a family because I do not know that this \$335 is sufficient to pay for a man and his family. We usually pay \$960 in respect of people coming out from the United Kingdom. With regard to the registration of voters, I hope that the machinery in this respect will be speeded up so that those people who want to throw bricks at the Government will see that we are getting a move on to have the people of this colony express their wishes through the ballot box as to who should represent them.

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

HEAD XXXII—DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I am going to avail myself of the opportunity of making a few remarks in connection with this Head, and I would like to assure the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that, as far as I am concerned at least, he did not anticipate the right type of criticism on this vote. I do not criticize Heads of Departments in this House unless I am sure that they are totally unsuited for the job which they are doing, I think that that is in the interest of the community. I do not share the opinion that these Heads of Departments are so unprotected because they are defended by the four members of the Executive Committee in this House and then expensive Commissions are set up to defend them. We have just finished an inquiry because a member of this House said something which turned out to be right.

In the year 1949-50 nearly \$100,000 was voted in respect of this item, "Plant, tools, Spares and equipment" for the Department of Highways and Transport; and on the last occasion when we voted money, we voted an amount for a similar item for this Department. In the year 1949-50 the sum of \$40,000 was made available by way of supplementary votes under this Head; so much so that in bringing forward the Estimates for 1950-51, after nearly \$100,000 was spent on this item, the Government saw fit to put in a small sum of \$11,120. That is to say, this Department had made a survey of the plants and tools and came to the conclusion that they had a good replenishment and this small sum would do. I would like a statement from the honourable Leader of the House or the Minister in charge of this Department as to whether the property at this Department is getting the attention which Government property deserves, or is getting a fair handling. Now, Mr. Chairman, I have made a little inquiry about this Department, a Department which took over the Central Road Board, and I understand that when they took over the Central Road Board they had about 50 units which needed the attention of the mechanics. They have now increased to 150 units and, speaking under correction, there is not a single officer in that Department who can look after the plant which has arisen to three times the number of units as when they took over from the Central Road Board. What are we doing? We allow an expensive plant to be placed there without anybody to look after it, or the system does not permit time enough for looking after the equipment.

The next thing is that some years ago, there was some idea of a Government workshop. I take it that the scheme would have included the maintenance of the plant and equipment of this Department, but I believe that the idea has been dropped. It should be a very good idea to have the equipment of the Government looked after in one big workshop. I cannot, for the life of me, see that it is satisfactory for us to come here meeting after meeting and vote money in supplementary Estimates for equipment and things of that sort, after money has already been generously provided in connection with these things. In the first instance they said that \$11,120 would suit the Department for this item and now we are being asked to vote \$22,000; but once the amount is put down to be expended on the tenantry roads, it is like water, because it not only becomes a necessity but something political. If you do not put down anything here in respect of the tenantry roads, everybody is going to fear that, since it would be said that we did not provide the money to be expended on these roads. I hope that the two rollers which were lent to the big contractors, with millions of dollars, for constructing the runway at Seawell will be returned in a condition that they can be used. I say, Sir, that on the face of it, something is radically wrong, and I am hoping that if what I have stated is a rumour, some member of the Government will state definitely what the position is. I know that members of the Government are not responsible for departments, and, believe me, I do not blame them; but they are responsible members of this House. Every member of this House has a responsibility and I am exercising my responsibility by telling honourable members that things look wrong to me. It is not a question of anybody giving information to me; you can pass through the yard of the Department of Highways and Transport and see things for yourself. You will see equipment right and left up there, either

awaiting transportation to the Reef or awaiting repairs which there is nobody to carry out. I have been reliably informed that a new unit which was imported for that Department—an excellent unit for road-making—cannot be used by the Department, but it would be of great use to somebody else who could make use of it. I do not feel satisfied with the working of this Department; it is one Government Department which can dry the Treasury. There are more people from that Department drawing money from the Treasury than there are from several other Departments put together. In the Estimates for 1950-51 the sum of \$646,974 was voted for this Department and this is something of which care must be taken. These are days when you find difficulty in getting material; you get war material, not the material which you used to get before, therefore you want a maintenance Department. I am hoping to hear the Government say whether they are satisfied about this matter; if they state that they are satisfied and I get it in the records, I will be able to use it in future, because I will know that they have looked into the matter and are perfectly satisfied about it. It is of no use telling me that you have rollers which are 16 years old, because that makes no difference to me; something should be done in the interest of the taxpayers. In connection with this Department I heard an honourable member say at one time that there was quite a lot of money being spent on paper on which Minutes were written. However, this is a Department which needs attention being paid to it; I would even go so far as to suggest that a Committee of this House be appointed to go into the expenditure as regards this particular item, "Plant, tools, spares and equipment." If this item is taken out for investigation, all you need do is to put down \$1 for it and find out what the machinery is likely to cost, because it is stated in the notes that although the order for the rollers will be placed during the present financial year, it is not likely that delivery will take place before the 31st of March. This \$22,000 could be taken out of this Resolution and put in the Estimates which will come before us within the next two months. You would have here a token vote of \$1 with the understanding that you approve of the principle of ordering these two rollers. I do not attach any blame for the state of affairs at this Department to any member of the Government in this House; when the time comes—I hope it will be soon—that members of the Government in this House are in charge of Departments, and I have the honour of having a seat in this House—if anything goes wrong I will be very sorry for any such member if I find out that as a result of any slackness on his part, money is being spent out of the Treasury.

Mr. MILLER: I have a feeling that you would have to wait for ministerial status before you could have any member of the Government in charge of a Department supervising the policy of that Department. I feel that this particular Department is suffering from the lack of co-operation among the members of the staff. This Department is full of equipment, but, as I say, it is suffering from lack of co-operation among the members of the staff. A couple of months ago I examined a new scale beam which was ordered for handling trucks and other vehicles at this Department; I do not think it is correct to say that that scale beam is in the same state as when I saw it; it is correct to say that a lot of equipment has been lying waste at that Department waiting for erection. As regards the roads, what you will find is that a road which is capable of last-

ing for four or five years is suddenly torn up and collapsed when several tenantry roads are in need of reconstruction. I do not think I should criticize the Head of the Department who is an engineer because he has a lot of clerical work to do. I would like to say that work at Seawell which should have been done by this Department was done by Messrs. Harriman & Company. Mr. Chairman, I am very anxious that we should have ministerial status so that the Ministers in charge of Departments would have to decide whether things are going right or wrong.

We will have to spend this money if we must continue to carry on work on the tenantry roads; we will have to get these two rollers and we should not hesitate in making this money available. However, it is regrettable that this Department is costing so much money and I am asking the Government to pay a little more attention to it. Although I am in agreement with the idea of a Government workshop, I feel that if the Public Works Department were put together with this Department, you would have a better understanding.

Mr. REECE: I am glad to hear that the Government is turning its attention to the tenantry roads because these roads are in need of attention. There was a time when it was said that there were too many roads in this colony and the tenantry roads should be made into private paths; but what we want is more and more roads leading to the houses of people who must perforce live in these tenancies. I am glad to hear the honourable senior member for St. Joseph say that now that the Bay Estate roads have been completed, we are going to have attention paid to the tenantry roads. I hope that the parish of Christ Church will benefit in the near future; in Christ Church we are low lying and the floods affect us materially. We have not had the skilled knowledge of the Department of Highways and Transport, but now that we are going to have that skilled knowledge placed at our disposal, I am looking forward for a happy era in Christ Church as far as the tenantry roads are concerned.

There seems to be a little misapprehension on the part of some honourable members of this House on the question of ministerial status. As soon as we have ministerial status everybody will be happy, but do not let us get it all wrong; do not let us think that people who are working in the Departments will be the servants of the ministers, because they are the servants of the Crown. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph understands these things, but other honourable members do not appreciate them. The honourable junior member for the City says that he will "go for the minister" if things do not go right; I hope that I will be in the House at that time, that I will still be sitting on this side of the House and awaiting the doings of those members who will have been promoted to ministerial office. If they make any slips they will hear from me too. (Laughter). The Department of Highways and Transport is a big spending Department and we must look carefully into its expenditure; and on the question of opening a workshop, that is something which must be given very careful consideration before it is entered upon. I know nothing about Government workshops; I know something about other workshops, but I say that the matter has to be considered very carefully before you launch out into the scheme.

Mr. ALLDER: The tenantry roads certainly do need special attention paid to them by the Government. I have had to travel through Carrington's Village and I find that in the avenues there are holes which are big enough that you can bury a small child in them.

It is most discomfoting for one to drive his car through an avenue and get water from the road reaching the windscreen. I have noticed that private concerns have been able to get rollers from the various parishes to do their work: grants have to be given the parishes to assist them in repairing their roads and I feel that the Government should be able to get these rollers when they are not carrying out repairs in the respective parishes. I feel, too, that everything should not have been concentrated on the roads at the Bay Estate, but that some of the material should have been released so that some attention could be given to roads such as those I have just mentioned. That is a matter which causes some dissatisfaction among the people who live in these areas, and the more you get houses of a better quality being placed in these avenues, the more the people are demanding an improvement to the roads. It would be a good thing if the Director of Highways and Transport were to be carried in these areas, because he would be able to see that certain roads need priority to be given to them. I must support the point made by the honourable senior member for St. George, that many people have questioned why some roads are dug up and they do not appear to be in an improper condition. When time and money are wasted on such roads it prevents the Department from going to the districts which really need assistance being given to them. I feel that the whole policy of road construction needs revision and the Department should try and get around more quickly than it has been doing. We do not want to hear people saying that roads are out of repair and nobody seems to be willing to have them put in order; that they have to pay taxes and it is very difficult for them to get that happy state of life which people in those areas should get. I hope that some revision will be gone into as regards the policy of this Department.

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

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

III DODDS PLANTATION

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

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a 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, do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

COST OF DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking honourable members to deal with these two other Resolutions. As honourable members will see, the first of them is a 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. This Resolution concerns the development of the water resources. As will be seen from the Addendum, "the approval of the Secretary of State has been obtained for a free

grant of \$32,400 from funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, for the purchase of two pilot drilling rigs and for the payment of operating crews for a period of three years. The drilling rigs will be used for the further exploitation of the ground-water resources of the Island by locating the underground streams which are usually found at the base of the coral formation above sea level. Both Dr. Senn and Mr. George Roddam strongly recommended the investigation of the potentialities of this stream-water area "Honourable members need hardly be reminded of this, but Mr. Garrod was brought out here to advise us as to whether it was a paying proposition to bring this water to the surface. We were told that if we have to go down several hundred feet, it would be a paying proposition to bring the water to the surface. These drilling rigs will make it easier for us to get the water to the surface than by the ordinary drilling. In any event, this money is a gift of Colonial Development and Welfare and therefore honourable members need not feel that we are wasting money, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that

Mr. LEWIS: This is something on which we are going to save money. The Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation is going to bear this expense and this is an occasion on which the Government is to be congratulated.

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

COST OF RUNWAY LIGHTING AT SEAWELL AIRPORT AND ALTERATIONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR SCIENCE LABORATORIES AT HARRISON COLLEGE

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one 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. As honourable members will see from the Schedule, \$45,980 is for the runway lighting at Seawell Airport, and \$23,700 is for alterations to and equipment for Science Laboratories at Harrison College. The lighting arrangements at Seawell are as up-to-date as those at any big runway in the larger airports of the world. This amount seems to be a big one, but the lighting of the runway is on a scale such as will make for safety in flying at any hour of the night. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to ask whether this amount is for generating or other equipment. I take it that you are going to generate your own light up there and also use the current of the Electric Company. This is a tidy sum of money and if it is only for equipment the current to run the equipment will be fairly great. I would like to know if this vote is for both generating and ordinary equipment for lighting.

Mr. ALLDER: I, too, want to find out what will be the lighting system up there. I do not know anything about electrical engineering, but this amount seems to be very high. I want to find out whether there will be a generating plant or if there will be attachment to the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation. If there is going to be attachment to the Electric Supply Corporation I feel that there will be a state of uncertainty as regards continuous lighting at the Airport. The machinery at the Electric Corporation breaks down so regularly that we should not be forced to depend upon current from this concern for lighting the Airport. I have seen where places

as small as Seawell have their own generating equipment, and that will make for greater security in the long run. I cannot convince myself that this amount of money is reasonable for providing the lighting at the Airport, and what has crossed my mind is whether the Electric Inspector's Department is able to undertake this work or not. We have an Electric Inspector who claims to have all the qualifications that are necessary, and I notice that in that office there is the most modern equipment which suits an office of that sort plus an extensive arrangement of text-books which I feel will contribute to the efficiency of such a Department. I am wondering if it would not be cheaper for this Department to undertake the carrying out of these lighting arrangements at Seawell; I feel that there are many electrical mechanics in the island who would be glad to work under the supervision of Mr. Chase. I feel that in matters of this sort such avenues should be explored before contracts are given to private contractors, because the Government can be exploited especially when we do not know anything about electrical engineering. I feel that a saving could be obtained if this work was done otherwise; I feel that if you have a Department, you should make use of it. In the same way that the private contractor can get a staff to do the work, the Government Department can do that to a better degree and at a cheaper rate.

Mr. MILLER: I really would not like to criticize the Government in this matter, but this seems to be a lot of money which is being asked for in respect of the lighting at the Airport, and it is only fair to find out what is being done for this money. I think that there are about four or five lighting plants at Seawell and I do not think that the Government would be prepared to pay the cost of running high tension wires from the Electric Company to Seawell. That would absorb one-half of this money. I would like to know how this money is going to be expended and the type of material which is going to be used. It is true that some of the equipment up there can be used, but you should think in terms of a stand-by plant. The recurrent costs will be negligible because I do not conceive that we will have night flying on any large scale for some time to come. I would like to have some idea of the type of equipment which is going to be used and the way in which this money will be spent.

Mr. ADAMS: I thought that the last speaker would have remembered that we purchased two generating units from the United States personnel. We have a double source of supply; we have the Electric Company and in case of breakdown we can use one of the generating units which is in good condition. If honourable members want technical expressions I can give them: I want to assure honourable members that the Government has had the advantage of the advice of experts in this matter. They went through the tenders which have been received—they were three tenders received locally and one from Trinidad—and gave the Government the benefit of their advice. In addition to that, at one time or another we have had the advantage of advice not only from Commander Egglesfield but from other people connected with civil aviation in the West Indies. We have had to be guided by experts who have been available. This question of getting tenders for lighting the runway is not an overnight matter: examination of what is to be done has been going on for months. I have been reading from despatches, and although these figures look big, I can assure honourable members that the Government has been advised by real experts who happen to be in the area, and we are satisfied that this particular sum of money is the best we can spend.

Mr. ALLDER: I do not like the suggestion of having a generating plant to be used in case of a breakdown; I would prefer to depend upon the generating plant for lighting and use the current from the Electric Company in case of a breakdown. I prefer to know that the generating plant will be generally used and that current from the Electric Company will be used only to a very small degree. My reason for suggesting that is that the recurrent costs will be too great.

Mr. MILLER: I would like to have it made clear to me whether current from the Electric Company is going to be used or not and if this vote for \$45,980 includes the cost of running mains from the Electric Company to Seawell.

Mr. ADAMS: The Electric Company says that it would take them £5,000 to run their mains from Oistin's to Seawell and the Company asked the Government to pay £2,000. We were advised that it was a paying proposition to use current from the Electric Company and keep the generating plant for emergency. I do not think that the honourable senior member for St. John would press his point; if he is careful enough to have candles available in case his electric light goes out, does he not put his hand on the matches and light the candles or turn to his electric torch? It is true that our past experience has been that the machinery at the Electric Company breaks down readily, but it seems to me that it does not matter which source of supply you use provided that the changeover can be done readily. We may have both sources of supply in use at the same time so that if one breaks down we will still have one-half of the runway lights burning. We have been fortunate in getting as good advice as any we could have got; we have had advice from people connected with civil aviation in the West Indies and also from the Airport Managers and the Government Electrical Inspector. I feel that in a matter of this sort we have had all the advice which one could reasonably expect us to have, and we have been advised that, taking into consideration the question of Canadian currency and the fact that this tenderer can get stuff from the United Kingdom, the tender is the best we could get.

Mr. MILLER: I know that we purchased equipment from the United States Authorities, and I think that some of the plants were used. If the lighting at the Airport can be handled by the Electric Company I do not think that that would cost any frightful sum; but I do not imagine that we will have more than two night landings in a week for a long time to come. I do not want to create any unnecessary discussion on this matter; I just want to know what is being done. I know that the Electric Company would be generous enough to bear one-half of the expenses of running its mains to Seawell, and it is reasonable to think that the people in that area should benefit from the money spent in this connection; because what is most alarming is that you have lighting plants at Seawell and electric mains are going to be carried over such a long distance when people have been suffering for all these years and complaining that they cannot get any light. I know that the Electric Company is particularly fond of running its cables through plantation lands away from people's houses. I just want to be satisfied about this matter because a lot of money is involved.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. REECE: I ask leave that Order No. 48 under Private Members' Business be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

BARBADOS MUTUAL AID AND ASSESSMENT ASSURANCE SOCIETY (DISSOLUTION) BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the honourable junior member for Christ Church:—Second reading of a Bill to provide for the winding up and dissolution of The Barbados Mutual Aid and Assessment Assurance Society.

Mr. REECE: This Bill has become necessary because this Society is in a dying condition and its legal advisers, Messrs. Hutchinson & Banfield, have thought that the only thing which can be done is to wind up its affairs and divide the assets which remain among those members who were financial at the date of the passing of the Act *pro rata* to the amount paid by them in respect of premiums and annual subscriptions. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member has been deserted by the members of his Party and I have come over to help him. (Laughter) I beg to second the motion for the second reading of this Bill and I am asking the honourable member to do me this favour—something which struck me when the Petition was presented to the House. This Bill was

introduced on the 31st October, 1950; it has been advertised as long ago as June last year and people who are financial members of this Society when it is dead will share in the assets of the Society. I am therefore asking the honourable member to see that people who may have forgotten the notice which was advertised in June are reminded that if they are financial they will share in the assets of the Society when its affairs are wound up. I think that that is a good point to make.

Mr. REECE: I thank the honourable member for the remarks which he has made; I will bring what he has said to the notice of the Solicitors and also to the Notice of the Liquidator who is to be appointed under this Bill.

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

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

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 23rd day of January, 1951, at 3 o'clock, p.m.

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

