

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th July, 1951.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Mr. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Messrs. M. E. Cox, H. A. DOWDING, E. K. WALCOTT, K.C., L. E. R. GILL, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., and E. L. WARD.

Prayers were read.

MESSRS BRANCKER, GARNER and F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning the Bill to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1949, with an amendment. The Message reads as follows:—

*The Legislative Council
To
The Honourable The House of Assembly*

The Legislative Council have the honour to return to the Honourable the House of Assembly the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1949, which has been passed with the amendments which are shown written on the Bill.

2. The Legislative Council realise that the amendment made to Clause 3 of the Bill might be regarded by the Honourable House of Assembly as a technical breach of their powers, but they trust that

the Honourable House will see their way to concur in the amendment.

ROBERT CHALLENGOR.

Senior Member Presiding.
Legislative Council Chamber,
19th June, 1951.

I have also received another Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning the Bill to amend the Gas Works Act, 1911, with amendments.

DOCUMENTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following documents:—

Report of the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. John for the half year ending the 31st March, 1951.

Report on Tenantry Roads of the parish of St. John for the half year ended the 31st March, 1951.

PAPER LAID.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to lay on the Table the following Paper:—

Report on the Vital Statistics for the Island and other Registrations for the Year 1949.

PETITIONS.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. Andrew praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise the Vestry to raise a loan not exceeding \$6,000 for the purpose of erecting suitable Quarters for the Nurses at the Almshouse situated at Belleplaine. The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petition was taken as read.

Mr. GODDARD entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. Lucy praying the House to pass a Bill to amend the St. Lucy's (Barbados) Loan Act, 1949, authorising the Vestry to remodel and make extensive repairs to the present Rectory of the said parish. The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petition was taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to make it lawful for the Vestry of Christ Church to lease a parcel of

land containing by admeasurement 1 acre 2 roods 10 perches, part of Kent Plantation to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for a period not exceeding Twenty-one years at a pepper corn rent for the purpose of establishing a Playing Field.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of one hundred and eighteen thousand six hundred and fifty dollars (\$118,650) at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951-52, Part II—Capital, as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1951-52, No. 14, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: A Bill intituled an Act to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921.

Mr. COX: A Bill intituled an Act to provide for the collection and realisation of German enemy property and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

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

Mr. BRYAN entered the House and took his seat.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Private Members' Notices were given as follows:

Mr. HAYNES: Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. Andrew to raise a loan to enable them to erect suitable quarters for the Nursing Staff at the Almshouse at Belleplaine.

Mr. WARD: Bill to amend the Saint Lucy's (Barbados) Loan Act, 1949, (1950-6).

Mr. GILL: A Bill intituled an Act to make provision for the adoption of children.

Messrs. CRAWFORD and AILDER entered the House and took their seats.

QUESTIONS

Mr. HAYNES: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

1. (a) Is the Government aware that consent has not been given to the Highway Commissioners of St. Joseph to repair the damage caused by a landslide at Cocoonut Grove, St. Joseph?

(b) Has the Government not granted money for these repairs?

2. Will the Government enquire into this matter and have permission granted to the Highway Commissioners of St. Joseph to repair such damage?

Mr. GARNER: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

Is Government aware that serious and widespread dissatisfaction exists amongst cantoneers of the Department of Highways and Transport relative to their rates of pay?

2. If the answer to the above query is "Yes", will Government without further delay, take the necessary steps to provide them with adequate rates of pay?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

Whether vacancies exist at the Department of Highways and Transport in respect of the post of Assistant Engineer?

2. If the answer to the above is "Yes" will Government see to it that such vacancies are filled only by preferment of experienced and certificated men at present employed by this Department?

3. Whether Government is aware that intense dissatisfaction exists amongst officers of the Depart-

ment of Highways and Transport in connection with a circular which indiscriminately impeaches the loyalty and efficiency of the said officers, in respect of the attachment of a circular of date 4.6.51 from the head of the department to the personal file of these officers?

4. When will the Garrod Commission Report (1951) in connection with this Department be laid on the Tables of the Legislature?

5. Whether the Department of Highways and Transport has sold stone dust from Government crushers to any private firms?

6. Whether any private firm subsequently resold the stone dust at one dollar and fifty cents per ton to private purchasers?

7. Whether it is true that the Director of Highways and Transport ordered the re-purchase of 500 tons of stone dust from any private firm at three dollars per ton; and whether it is true that written instructions to the Executive Engineer were given to order the re-purchase of an additional 500 tons at the said price of three dollars per ton for this Department from any private firm?

8. If the answer to questions 5 to 7 inclusive, or any of them, is in the negative, will Government state the price at which this Department sold stone dust to the said private concern, and the price at which this Department gave instructions for the said stone dust to be re-purchased?

9. Is it true that any other officer of this Department advised against the re-purchase of stone dust at the abovementioned price, and refused to buy at that figure?

10. If the answer to question (9) above is in the affirmative, is it a fact that any other officer or the Government Engineer had been reported by the Head of this Department for insubordination in respect of such refusal?

11. Is it true that the Executive Engineer is willing to instruct Overseers of the Department in land surveying?

12. If the answer to question (11) is in the affirmative, will Government cause facilities to be placed at the disposal of the said Engineer and Overseers that such instructions may be provided?

13. Is it true that two Overseers of the said Department are kept exclusively at reconstruction work, and unlike other Overseers of the said Department, are never relegated to maintenance work?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I do not know if you had much time to review these Questions which are asked by the honourable member; but the Questions deal largely with a personal matter and have nothing to do with any matter of policy. I notice that the honourable member had some difficulty in reading the Questions. I shall be very glad if you, as Speaker of this House, would give those Questions careful consideration before they go before the Executive Committee. I do not know if a copy of the Questions was made for your benefit, but I repeat that many of them deal with a personal matter which would come within the ambit of the Colonial Regulations relative to the Civil Service.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have perused these Questions and I think that the difficulty in the honourable member's reading them was due to my corrections. As a matter of fact, I heard a *sotto voce* remark about reference being made to someone's personal file, but no information is being sought from any personal file. I just say that for the honourable member's benefit.

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

Whether Government will, in view of the likelihood of the new Parry-Coleridge School being opened at Station Hill, St. Peter, as from September 1951, take the necessary steps to ensure that the Department of Highways and Transport makes adequate provision for School Omnibuses to take pupils of this School, resident in St. Lucy to and from the said School?

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

Whether Government in ordering or purchasing tractors for the use of Peasants will ensure that same are provided with the necessary equipment for levelling in order that hills and embankments on Peasant lands may be levelled and accordingly utilised?

Mr. CRAWFORD: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

Is the Government aware of the difficulty and inconvenience experienced by fishermen at Megs Channel and Skeete's Bay, St. Philip, due to the activity of coral growth in the small passages through the reef?

2. Will the Government take immediate steps to have these passages cleared in order to facilitate and make safer their use by fishing craft?

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

Whether Government is aware of the severe congestion that exists at the present time at the counter of the Barbados Savings Bank whilst customers are awaiting attention?

2. If the answer to the above question is "Yes", will Government without delay take the necessary steps to increase the staff at this Institution to ensure that quicker service in future be rendered to customers at this Bank?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

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

On the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill intituled an Act to provide for the collection and realisation of German enemy property and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. WARD, seconded by Mr. BRANCKER, the Bill to amend the St. Lucy's (Barbados) Loan Act, 1949, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. HAYNES, seconded by Mr. GILL, the Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. Andrew to raise a loan to erect suitable quarters for the Nursing Staff at the Almshouse was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. GILL, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, the Bill to make provision for the adoption of children was read a first time.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE GAS WORKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that under Rule 262 the Amendments of the Other Place to the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Gas Works Act, 1911 (1911—9) be considered forthwith.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day now stands in the name of the honourable senior

member for St. Thomas:—To move the consideration of the Amendments of the honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Gas Works Act, (1911—9).

Dr. CUMMINS: The amendments are in Clause 5 of the Bill which repeals Clause 21 of the principal Act and substitutes a new Clause therefor. As passed by this House, that new Clause reads:

"21. Whenever the Company neglected or refused without reasonable excuse, to furnish gas for any purpose prescribed by this Act, it shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings for each day during which such default may continue."

The Other Place has seen fit to change the word "neglected" to "neglects", and the word "refused" to "refuses". These are just verbal amendments which do not affect the principal of the Bill in any way. I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

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

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT in each case, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—There are also Amendments from the Other Place to the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1949. I should first like to go into the history of this Bill so as to give honourable members the background of it and of the amendment. The amendment gives the Governor-in-Executive Committee authority to increase the allowance in connection with the Barbados Scholarship from £90 to £120 in order to assist winners of these Scholarships to pay their passages and so on when proceeding to England. This amendment was passed on the 19th June and it was made retroactive as from the 28th September, 1950, in order that those scholars who proceeded to England last year might come under the scheme. It was subsequently discovered that the amendment would not effect the purpose for which it was intended and it was decided by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make the amendment retroactive as from the 1st September. That has been done by the Other Place, but it is a technical breach of the Rule which states that the Other Place has no right to interfere with the prerogative of this House in connection with money Bills. The Other Place has accompanied its Amendments to the Bill by a Message which Your Honour has read and in which it is realised that the Amendment to Clause 3 might be regarded by this House as a technical breach of our powers, and the Other Place expresses the hope that the House will see their way to concur in the Amendment. With that explanation coming from the Other Place, I am sure that the House will accept the Amendment. I beg to move that these Amendments of the Other Place be considered forthwith in accordance with Rule 262.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I will not be able to help the House in any way because I have only now got the Amendments of the Other Place before me. This particular Amendment might be all right but there might be something which I would like to draw to Your Honour's attention. We do give away our rights when doing that does not make much difference, but there is a very strict Rule under which we do not allow the Other Place to direct the means and

ends for which money may be granted. What I mean is that there might come from the Other Place some amendments with which we agree, they may interfere with our rights, but something might be done which you cannot afford to overlook. One thing which we have never tried to do is to allow the Other Place to direct the means and ends and the actual appropriation of the money for the purpose for which it is done. I draw that matter to the attention of the House. This particular Amendment might be all right, but I will not be able to say off-hand whether it is right or not. I do not say that this Amendment is right or not because I do not know; I am appealing to the hon. member for a little more time so that I will be able to go into the matter. I have had any amount of experience in dealing with these matters; I am merely drawing to the attention of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas that it would not be wise to create a precedent to which reference might be made at some future time by members of the Other Place. They cannot change the figure here from \$240 to \$576; that is something with which they cannot interfere at all. I merely want to draw the honourable member's attention to what the law says; we do not want to give up our undoubted right.

Dr. CUMMINS: I should like to draw to the honourable member's attention that the Other Place did not change the figures; these figures were changed by this House. We deleted the figures "\$240" and substituted therefor the figures "\$576". What the Other Place has changed is the date from which the amendment comes into operation. As far as the words "not exceeding \$576" occurring in Clause 2 are concerned, I will explain this: It was found that in one or two cases the scholars who won the Barbados Scholarships went to the University College at Jamaica instead of proceeding to the United Kingdom. The University College pays for the transportation of its students, and if that is so, naturally the cost of that transportation would be deducted from this \$576. That is why the words "not exceeding" have been inserted in this Clause. The matter was brought to the attention of the Government after the passing of the Bill in this House and the Government authorised its Spokesman in the Other Place to make that amendment. Knowing the history of this legislation, the insertion of the words "not exceeding" appears to be all right to me. However, in view of the doubts which have been expressed in connection with these amendments, I ask leave to withdraw my motion for dealing with them forthwith.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE RATES OF INCOME TAX BILL 1951.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that under Rule 262, the Amendments of the Other Place to the Bill intituled an Act to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year one thousand nine hundred and fifty one and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax be considered forthwith.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the consideration of the Amendments of the Honourable the Legislative

Council to the Bill intituled an Act to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year one thousand nine hundred and fifty one and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax.

Dr. CUMMINS: The Amendments are purely the correction of an error occurring at the end of Sub-clause 3 of Clause 2 of the Bill. In this Sub-clause the words "four dollars and eight cents" appear instead of the words "four dollars and eighty cents". The Other Place has deleted the words "eight cents" and inserted therefor the words "eighty cents." I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

Mr. COX: I beg to move that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker,—This is the third occasion on which Amendments from the Other Place have been dealt with by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to-day, and up to now I have not been able to see a copy of the Amendments, which is contrary to what usually takes place. Certainly in accepting or rejecting Amendments we should be able to get copies of those Amendments so as to be able to follow them intelligibly.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the first place, the honourable member assented to these Amendments being considered forthwith and that was the time for making objections. In the next place, these Amendments are merely the changing of figures and I think the honourable member is already acquainted with what the change should be.

Mr. ALLDER: I thought I was the only member who did not get a copy of the Amendments but I found out afterwards that other honourable members have not got copies of them either. I feel that this is wrong. While it might be said that in this case it is merely a question of changing figures, the changing of a date might implicate the Government to a great extent. I hope that since the consideration of the amendments of the Other Place to the Bill to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act has been postponed, in the interim honourable members will be given copies of the Amendments to this Bill.

The question that these Amendments be now read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case, the Amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave, Mr. Speaker, to postpone the consideration of the first six Orders of the Day on the Order Paper, and to take Order No. 7 as the the next Order of the Day.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—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 Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. Cox, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE *re* EXTRAORDINARY FLOOD
DAMAGE

Dr. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$36,800 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951-52, Part I — Current as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1951-52, No. 12, which form the Schedule to the Resolution. As honourable members will see, this money is required for the repair of flood damage in respect of certain roads in St. Andrew and St. Joseph. A few minutes ago I heard the honourable junior member for St. Andrew ask questions about repairing damaged roads in St. Joseph; I do not know if the roads which the honourable member has in mind are included in this list, but, Sir, from the Addendum to this Resolution honourable members will see that the amount of \$21,000 which was provided in this year's Estimates for flood damage repairs has already been released for the completion of work which was started during the financial year, 1950-51, but which was not completed at the end of that year. There is an amount of \$20,800 required to cover the cost of outstanding damage and there is an addition of \$16,000 which is usually kept in hand so as to proceed forthwith with roads which might be damaged by floods, instead of having to come to the House for authority to get this money. There are quite a few roads mentioned in this list—Sedgepond, Chimborazo, Cane Garden and Newcastle—which are new items and there are other roads such as Spring Vale, Haggatts, Lakes Bridge, Trio path Morgan Lewis, Baxters, and so on. I am sure that the honourable junior member for St. Andrew will find in this list some of the roads which he had in mind when he asked these questions. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Why are we not given information in the addendum to the Resolution? What are we voting on today? The honourable member has read out some roads so quickly that we could not write them all down. We cannot very well be expected to give proper attention or anything like proper discussion on the subject when we do not know how much has to be spent on all of these roads or on each of them. We could have known that quite easily because there must have been some estimates made for these roads and surely the information could have been put in the addendum. One has to see that any road in his parish is not overlooked when he feels that it needs attention. I heard an honourable member say that it would take the whole of this amount to deal with Lakes Diversion. I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to tell us how the \$21,000 provided in the 1951-52 Estimates has already been released, to whom it has been released and for what, and what part of the \$20,800 is to be allocated to each of the various roads.

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

Mr. ALLDER: I do not know how much it is intended to spend on the Newcastle Road, but in 1949 a large portion of this road was damaged by a landslide and the road was stopped several months ago. They have done a good job there, because they had to remove all the foundations several feet deep

and the defective condition of electrical circuits in and begin to build them back up. Last year another landslide took place in the same area—the road leading from Newcastle to St. Joseph was damaged—

and I think that that road is still blocked. It has been blocked for several months. When you take into consideration what you are going to find on this road within two or three years, you will realise that some alternative road should have been found. It has been said that the land in this area is definitely movable; as soon as you have a good rainfall the road moves or the pipelines are broken in several places. The suggestion has been made that in order to get away from this recurrent expenditure every year for effecting repairs to this road, a detour should be made down Newcastle Hill out by way of Martin's Bay and end by Foster Hall or by the fishing village at Bathsheba. I have been informed by an official that that suggestion is under consideration. I am not in a position to know what is really intended by the Government as far as this road is concerned, and I do not know if this Committee can be informed about the matter by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas; but I would like to know what is the intention of the Administration as regards the suggestions which have been made as to the diversion of this road.

Dr. CUMMINS: In order that honourable members might understand this whole matter I will have to go back to last year when the Executive Committee approved of the release of the amount of \$52,520 as a special reserve for extraordinary flood damage. In 1950-51 the Executive Committee approved of a release amounting to \$52,520 from the amount of \$53,720 provided as a special reserve for extraordinary flood damage. Expenditure from this sum amounted to \$50,875 at the 31st of March as follows; Saunders \$4,294.98; Lakes Bridge, \$5,622.86; St. Simons and St. Judes, \$6,281.50; Sedgepond, \$2,840.89; Bruce Vale, \$3,604.08; Constitution River, \$4,615.39; Purchase of Greenheart \$503.03; Baxters Bridge, \$2,209.73; Palmers, \$1,070.83; Atlantis Bridge, \$2,401.70; Melvins, \$1,060.41; Bruce Vale (Erosion) \$1,416.36; Walkers, \$3,129.84; St. Sylvans, \$3,663.26; Baxters Diversion, \$3,603.48; Spring Vale \$1,783.42; Chimborazo, \$1,446.26; Cane Garden, \$872.77; and Mount Dacres, \$374.25 making a total of \$50,875.04.

Some of these works were not completed by the end of the 1950-51 financial year and other repairs have been necessitated through damage done by the unusual rainfall in February of this year. The release of the amount of \$21,000 provided for 1951-52 under Head XXXII of the Estimates, Item 43, is therefore requested for the following purposes: Sedgepond, \$4,000; Baxters Bridge, \$3,500; St. Sylvans, \$2,500; Chimborazo, \$2,000; Cane Garden, \$800; Newcastle, \$2,500 and St. Simons and St. Judes, \$5,700.

The release of this amount of \$21,000 will exceed the total provision for flood damage for 1951-52, and it might be advisable to make provision now for the reserve of \$16,000 in anticipation of the heavy season. I have therefore given the roads and the amounts which have been spent and the amount which is now required.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR ITEMS *re* CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$17,400 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951-52, Part II, Capital,

as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1951-52, No. 13, which form the Schedule to the Resolution. As honourable members will see from the Schedule, there are two items. The first is the purchase of land adjoining Shrewsbury Boys' School, for which the sum of \$400 is required. As is mentioned in the note:

"It is proposed to purchase an area of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acre adjacent to the Shrewsbury Boys' School, St. Philip, for use as a playground for the School. The site is at present leased at the rate of \$16 per annum and is the only space available for playfield and garden purposes. The owner is now willing to sell it and, if purchased by the Government, it will become a valuable amenity of the School."

With regard to the other item, an amount of \$17,000 is required for expenditure in connection with the Central Livestock Station at the Pine Plantation. Of this amount, the sum of \$2,000 is required for the purchase of a Farmyard manure loader and spreader for dealing with the manure which accumulates and which it is difficult to get removed by hand labour. The use of a wheel type tractor and four cane carts is suggested in the removal of the manure. There is a note from the Director of Agriculture in which he points out that there is a necessity for these implements to deal with the problem of the removal of farmyard manure. He points out that the problem is now becoming increasingly difficult owing to the fact that the number of heads of livestock has been increased as the full complement of animals is approached, and, consequently there is a great deal more farmyard manure to be handled and disposed of than was the case years ago. As set out in the note.

The increase in the cane crop cultivation over the past five years and especially the record crop which has recently been reaped at the Pine Plantation has shown the urgent need for the following items of additional equipment at the Pine Plantation and the Central Livestock Station in order that the efficiency and the revenue-earning capacity of the Plantation might be increased:—

Transport

1 Wheel Type Tractor			\$ 5600
4 Cane Carts			6,400

\$12,000

Farmyard manure loader and spreader			2,000
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Irrigation

Pipes and Fittings			2,400
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Contingencies			600
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Total			\$17,000
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I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ALLDER: I do not know that any other plantation or dairy in the island has a farmyard manure loader and spreader for which we are asked to vote the sum of \$2,000 in this Resolution. The honourable introducer has stated that the reason why we are asked to supply this item is due to some uncertainty of getting hand labour to deal with the manure. This plantation is a Government plantation and the Government is responsible for directing the activities of the population.

Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of order. I did not say anything about the uncertainty of getting hand labour to deal with the manure. I said explicitly that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get the manure removed by hand labour.

Mr. ALLDER: Well, the honourable member said that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get

the manure removed by hand labour. What I want to say is that in every department of Government they are telling you that the population is increasing so tremendously that the means of the colony to maintain the population are becoming short. We are always trying to devise ways and means to provide employment for the unemployed, but it appears to me that the Government is travelling faster than private enterprise in putting more people out of employment where this particular implement is concerned. Some time ago there was a movement to deter the mechanisation of the sugar industry in this island; today we are seeing it being carried to a further extent by the Executive Committee. I daresay that some technical adviser has advised that this particular implement must be acquired. Now we have to run our colony and we have to think in terms of how many people will be put out of employment by the use of this implement; we cannot think in terms of profits in preference to opportunities for a greater number of the population. I have gone all over this island, I have seen estates being worked and I have always been accustomed to seeing several thousand tons of farm manure being administered to the land by means of manual labour. If I can remember correctly, many a man or woman was able to get a good earning as a result of removing manure and dropping it by the hundred. Although the sugar industry has been mechanized tremendously in recent years, I have not been able to see on any of the large estates any device which loads farm manure and takes it to the land and spreads it; there has always been an adequate number of labourers to do that work. We must not try to dispose of the use of labour in industry because we will have our problems; when you employ a device to put people out of work you are still obligated to look for some means of maintenance for them, if not in the Prison, in the Almshouses or somewhere else. The Government should be the last persons to employ implements for the displacement of labour; they should rather try to encourage opportunities for labour. Although it might be somewhat beneficial from the point of view of profits to talk about mechanizing an industry yet you have to consider whether you are going to allow machines to displace men to the extent that instead of the island going forward it is being pushed backward. All these things have to be considered. I would certainly like to see this Committee refuse to vote this \$2,000 for this farmyard manure loader and spreader. This \$2,000 might bring \$4,000 in profit within a period, but how many souls are you putting out of work in that manner? Private employers are expected to take the lead in such matters not the Government. The fact is that as soon as the Government puts this farmyard manure loader and spreader there, every platform owner might think in the same terms; and when labour is displaced he has the argument that he is following the Government. I beg to move that the amount of \$17,000 under this Head of the Schedule be reduced by \$2,000.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to refer to the amount of \$400 for the purchase of the land which is to be used as a playground for the Shrewsbury Boys' School. In the note to this item it is stated that this $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land is at present leased at the rate of \$16 per annum, and it is the only space available for playfield and garden purposes. In other words, this $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land is all the space available to Shrewsbury Boys' School. I want to suggest to the Government that this $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land is totally inadequate even for a playing field, and now that the matter has been brought more or less forcibly to the attention of the Government, some step should be taken to acquire more of the adjacent land for the

purpose of playing field. Shrewsbury has approximately 300 children and the provision of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land for a playing field and garden purposes is such an abnormally small amount that one wonders what playing can be done. In England, I understand that the policy is to have at least an acre as a playing field for about 30 children; so that if Shrewsbury were an English school it would have approximately ten acres for a playing field. I am not suggesting that we can afford to follow the English standard completely, but even judged by our own standard and by some of the playing fields which are available to some other schools it would be readily seen that $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land for the purpose of a playing field for this school is hopelessly inadequate. I do hope that some attempt will be made to acquire some more land which is adjacent to the school in order to provide the children with a greater facility for playing.

With regard to the Central Livestock Station at the Pine Plantation, it seems to me more or less significant that both the honourable senior member for St. John and myself should have risen simultaneously to offer a few observations on this matter of the proposal to purchase this farmyard manure loader and spreader. The reason is that many of the problems which appear to be bothering him as indicated by what he has said, were also engaging my attention. A certain amount of mechanization in respect of agriculture in this colony is more or less inevitable; if we are to increase our production and produce agricultural products at prices competitive with those which are produced elsewhere in the world, if we are to improve our standard of efficiency to the maximum extent, it follows as a matter of course that a certain amount of mechanization must and will take place; but, Sir, this farmyard manure loader and spreader should be regarded as an unusual machine. I doubt whether there are many of those machines in this colony. I, personally, have not heard of such a machine, and while there might be a few of them in the colony, I am of the opinion that it is a machine which we should do without at this stage. The other day I noticed that some estates in St. Philip had imported some mechanical equipment for cutting sour grass and heaping it up and loading it on a lorry. Grass cutters are fairly usual in the island now, but machines which are actually cutting grass and loading it on lorries are unusual; I regard that particular piece of machinery as being unnecessary and it will contribute in a great measure to the unemployment which is so rampant in the rural areas. To my mind, this machine for loading and spreading farmyard manure is in the same category as that which I have just mentioned. While your ploughs and your tractors might be almost indispensable, thinking in terms of agricultural production, for what I know in this colony, I cannot support the claim that it is so difficult to get people to spread farmyard manure that the Government farm has to get machinery for the purpose. On private estates what the owners have to do is to offer people a little incentive for removing and spreading the manure. If you pay a little extra for removing and spreading manure, so far as I know, people will willingly and cheerfully do it. It is somewhat distasteful work; unless you really love the soil, you do not want to get near manure. There are people who like the soil so much that they like to smell the manure because they appreciate its value to the soil. Private employers who have small or large amounts of manure are getting it thrown out by offering workers some little incentive. Workers will be dissatisfied if from year to year they do work for the ordinary wage and get no share in the profits

which they produce; in other words, it is the experience of quite a few plantation owners that if they give liberal plots of land to the people who work for them to cultivate for their own benefit, those people do work like spreading manure more easily than in cases where they are given the ordinary wage. The Government has had an example of that already. At Dodds Plantation this year, the Manager had great difficulty in getting the cane crop reaped because there were no labourers attached to the plantation, and he had to depend upon whomsoever he could get to cut his canes. This year the Attorney at Dodds had to ask the Government to consider leasing a portion of land at the estate to half a dozen workers in order to attach them to the place and so as to assist him in getting work done more easily. The Government will find that the same difficulty which it had at Dodds it will have in respect of any other agricultural project which it undertakes if the workers are just getting their wages and no share in the profits obtained from the enterprise. At the Pine Plantation where we have this dairy farm, there is a certain amount of agricultural land, and if the Government made a few acres of this land available to the people who work at the dairy or on the Estate, a lot of the difficulty as regards labour will disappear. We have to view this particular matter not so much from the point of view of necessity but from the point of view of the example which it sets to other agricultural undertakings in this colony. There are farmyard manure loaders and spreaders of varying sizes, I presume, and plantation owners will have an excuse for using them and the few people who now spread manure for these plantation owners will be put out of work. No doubt the manager at the Pine felt justified to some extent in asking for this implement, but we have to look further than he looks. In other matters the Government has not seen fit to follow the advice of people at the Pine, or if they did so, they followed it so long after the advice was given that much of it was lost. I am of opinion that this particular matter before us needs a little further consideration. This particular machine which is being asked for at the Pine, is not a machine for increasing the milk production at the Plantation or improving the condition of the animals or anything like that, and can you imagine that in a country like this where there is much unemployment, it can be truthfully argued that given proper wages and proper incentive you cannot get people to throw out the manure which has collected in the stockpens of the Pine Plantation?

As to whether it would be cheaper or not to operate this machine than to pay manual labour, I am not prepared to say; but this matter has to be viewed from several angles, not the least of which is its effect on the policy of other dairy farmers and agriculturists in the colony, not only as it applies to farmyard equipment, but other unusual agricultural equipment. If the Government is setting the example of getting unusual equipment for the dairy farm at the Pine Plantation, there is no reason why other plantation owners cannot get unusual equipment for their agricultural operations. It was by no means insignificant that the honourable senior member for St. John and myself rose at the same time to comment on this matter; I myself intended suggesting that we should delete the amount for this farmyard manure loader and spreader in order to give the matter some further consideration, and to enquire a little more carefully into the actual position at the Pine before we commit ourselves both to the expenditure and the policy which it involves. I beg to second the motion of the honourable senior member for St. John.

Mr. DOWDING: After listening to the last two honourable members who have spoken, I think it my duty to say a few words in connection with this Resolution. First of all, I would like to say that I love the soil, I love the smell of the manure and I also love the people who till the soil. (Cheers). Anyone sitting around this table, regardless of whether it be a milch cow, a sugar factory or anything else, knows that the efficiency of the milch cow, the sugar factory or whatever it might be, is judged by its production. As far as I know, this machinery which we are considering is not a unit; there are two separate items and there has been a misprint. The manure spreader is absolutely necessary to any dairy which also has land under cultivation. To my knowledge, one of these machines is already in the island, there is another on order and yet another is shortly to be on order. For anybody to suggest that the plantation owners will wait and watch what is happening at the Central Livestock Station before they adopt methods which will increase production, is ridiculous to say the least; there are several plantations in this island which are already way ahead of the Pine in their methods of cultivation. I can assure the last two honourable members who have spoken that no plantation owner who has his eyes on increased production, is going to wait and see what is happening at the Pine. As the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has said, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get labour for handling manure; apart from that, when a dairy is in operation it has to operate all the year round, and if you were to wait to get this work done during the crop season and with a crop such as the last one when there was such a scarcity of labour that many a manager had to apply to the Labour Commissioner to help him out, that would be detrimental to the manure itself and to the future yield of the fields in tonnage per acre and therefore detrimental to the labourer who reaps the crop. After the expenses of the Pine Estate for the past year have been gone into by the persons concerned, they have come to the conclusion that by increased expenditure they can further increase the production by installing machinery of this sort; I therefore cannot see why honourable members should be opposed to this proposed expenditure. This machinery is nothing new; it is already in the island. More of it is on order and such machinery is largely used throughout the world. When one really thinks of the people concerned with the onerous task of handling manure—well, the occupation so well known to the planting community as that of the basket carrier is to-day practically extinct. There are no young people coming on in that line of work today and I do not blame them; I feel that that is a task which much better suits to be handled by machinery. In order to carry out the necessary production methods it is necessary that manure be applied to the canes at certain times, and that is another point which has to be taken into consideration. The greatest difficulty has been experienced by plantations, such as the Pine, which have dairies attached to them, with regard to getting manure applied to the fields when they want it applied in order to get the best results. I sincerely hope that honourable members will consider dispassionately the few remarks which I have made from this side of the Table and that they will also consider the further remarks which will probably be made by the honourable introducer of this Resolution. Personally, I think that the acquisition of this machinery is something worth while.

Dr. CUMMINS: On behalf of the four members of the Government, I want to say this: When this matter came before us in Executive Committee, our reaction was somewhat similar to that of the honourable senior member for St. John and the honourable junior member for St. Philip. We could not take the matter lightly; we sent back the matter for further information and we were assured by the Director of Agriculture that this apparatus was necessary. First of all, as a result of the increasing number of animals at the Pine Plantation, there is an increasing difficulty in getting the manure removed, and they were warned at the Plantation by the Sanitary Authorities about the manure remaining on the spot for any longer period than it should have remained there. This question about the amount of labour on the estate being affected by the use of the machinery did present itself to us, but in view of the force of the argument adduced by the Director of Agriculture, we decided to acquire this machinery.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable member has answered himself. This matter was re-considered and they considered the alternative of employing more people on the estate, which is the proper solution.

Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of order. I did not say that we considered employing more people on the estate; what I said was that the question as to the amount of labour employed on the estate being affected by the use of the machinery was present to our minds.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sorry I did not catch that point. What I am submitting is that if the number of heads of cattle at the Pine has increased with a consequent increase in the amount of manure, you need more employees. I know that the place is extending, but if twelve people were attending to thirty animals, and you now have forty-five animals, you should employ six more people. If it were difficult to get labour in the colony, one could understand the use of this machinery; but on all sides people are talking of birth control and so on. The honourable junior member for St. George has admitted that this is a new type of equipment; there is only one of these machines in the island at present, there is another one on order and another about to be ordered. One is certainly justified in saying that this equipment is unusual equipment, and as far as necessity is concerned, I do not see any reason why the Government should be the second owner. Distributing manure is not done by means of baskets to the same extent today as it was done 10 or 15 or 20 years ago, and the honourable junior member for St. George knows that all right. We used to see a gang of people running with baskets on their heads, but the distribution of manure is not done like that now. At the big dairies the manure is carried to the field by means of motor lorry; you can see the biggest dairy in Christ Church sending out manure to the plantations by motor lorry, but the distribution in the field which is done by baskets is nothing like what it used to be in the past. I should like to see the profound sympathy of the honourable junior member for St. George extend itself a little further and provide people with some sort of unemployment allowance when they are thrown out of employment as a result of these machines being brought in. The honourable member knows that while the introduction of machinery at these estates has been done on the ground of increasing production, it has undoubtedly put people out of work for a great period during the year.

Many people who worked for five days a week only get two or three days' work now; the utility of these machines is indisputable, but so far as it competes with agricultural workers, that is where the case is unanswerable, making allowance for our population problem. Implied in the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas in respect of this particular type of machine, is the fact that if you increase your staff at the Pine, you will take care of the situation. I am submitting that the matter is still open for further consideration both by the Government and by ourselves. The honourable junior member for St. George would have us believe that during the crop you cannot get any manure thrown out at all, but he knows better than that. He knows very well that people who cannot cut canes are only too glad to find some work to do on the estates even if it is throwing out manure. If a lorry carries the manure to the field, the people who cannot cut canes would distribute the manure. If I were in the position of the honourable member on my right who introduced this Resolution, I should have to get more first-hand information in connection with this matter before I agree to the proposal with which we are faced. There are many other plantations which are much larger than the Pine, and the owners of those plantations have not got any farmyard loaders and spreaders; they are still using manual labour to handle manure. Unless the Government has been absolutely convinced that they are losing a fortune at the Pine or that in some way or other the production at the Pine is being interfered with by not getting this machine, they are not justified in undertaking this expenditure or in acquiring this machine. There is only one farmyard manure loader and spreader in the island and the owner of it has not been mentioned; but it is totally wrong for us to put one of these machines at the Pine. There is too much unemployment in the colony, and incidentally I have just as much sympathy if not more, and more love for the agricultural workers than the honourable junior member for St. George could ever hope to have. The honourable member loves these workers so much that I wonder if he ever asked himself the question why, although we get the same price for sugar as other colonies, the workers on the sugar estates are getting less for agricultural work than the workers are getting anywhere else in the West Indies. (A MEMBER: That is not true). The honourable member is so sympathetic and kind towards these workers that I sincerely hope he will take some steps to assist those who are now unemployed during the dry season as a result of the introduction of machinery at some plantations. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas has said that the members of the Government in this House were loath to adopt the suggestion of putting this machine at the Pine, and I want to suggest to him that the matter needs further consideration, that they are definitely setting a bad example and making a bad mistake in asking the House to vote this sum of money for the acquisition of this machine.

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

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, supported by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the House was adjourned for half an hour.

On re-assembling:

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee of Supply, a Resolution for \$17,000 was being debated, and the honourable senior member for St. Lucy was about to speak.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman—I was about to say that I was surprised to hear the remarks of the last honourable member who spoke. It seems that he is not in touch with what is happening in this island. Government must have had some intimation from the Director of Agriculture as to the conditions existing at the Pine which cause him to reach the conclusion that he has reached. From what I know of the whole system of handling manure in the island, it is one of the most difficult things to get done in the agricultural set-up to-day. Workers claim that it is very dirty, and they do not like the idea of touching that particular stuff. I would like the honourable member to realise that manure at a dairy is very much dirtier than manure at an estate, and people seldom like to handle it. One must bear in mind also that you must have manure moved around the dairy at certain times as the Regulations tell you to move it, and it may not be always convenient to get people to move it. I feel that the Government is wise in trying to get a machine to handle it. In the first place it is more economical, and secondly where the farm is concerned, the manure will be more beneficial to the land if it is spread out as the machine will be able to spread it out. When you use baskets you do not get the same results that you get with the machine. The honourable member is only talking through his hat to catch votes. People who listen learn something about what is going on in the island. He made a statement that agricultural workers here get less than in any other West Indian Island.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I never said that, Mr. Chairman. I said that there are other West Indian islands in which they get more money.

Mr. WARD: I will take his word for it that that is what he said. If the honourable member does not know what he is saying he should listen. You do not get old men working with manure. Probably the honourable member will be able to tell us how he ran his estate. I know as a planter the position that the Government is in. I know that it is difficult to get people to handle manure. That is one of the reasons why the estates are getting rid of the livestock that they used to keep. As a planter who has been dealing with this sort of thing for a long time I can tell you that handling manure is out of date. The women who carry the baskets of manure come out with clean clothes and go back back with them dirty, and they resent that. I feel that the Government is wise to get this machine. As far as I know, there is only one machine of this kind in the island at present, and if the one which the Government gets is successful, all those who keep dairies will follow the Government's example. I am sure that the labourers will appreciate it, and will be glad that they do not have to handle the manure any more. I was sorry to see the honourable member make such a silly mistake when he said that you can always get people to handle manure. We used to use trucks to move it, but the trucks had to go through the fields to get rid of it sometimes, because you could not get people to carry it as in days gone by. To hear the honourable junior member for St. Philip say that you have machines for

cutting grass, but you do not have machines for loading it—

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman—The honourable member must have been listening with his ears hermetically sealed. I distinctly said that you had a machine for cutting and loading grass. The whole point of my argument was that we had a machine for loading it, and it is not necessary.

Mr. WARD: As far as the Government is concerned, I am not here to boost them in any way. The Director of Agriculture must have gone into this problem thoroughly. He must have realised that there is a difficulty in getting manure handled. I think that the Government's plan to get this machine is a wise one in the present set-up. I am not saying any more. It is not wise to give information unless it is necessary.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman—When it comes to agriculture, I am supposed to deal with some of these matters. I always try to refrain from having to reply to the honourable senior member for St. John and the honourable junior member for St. Philip for obvious reasons. Both of them find it very difficult to speak the truth.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—I am not going to have any member like the honourable senior member for St. Peter tell me that I find it difficult to speak the truth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Unless the honourable member is objecting he should not speak.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable member in the course of his remarks asked the honourable junior member for St. George why he did not try to get better wages for the agricultural workers, because the agricultural workers of Barbados get less wages than agricultural workers in the other islands of the British West Indies.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Let the Reporter read back what I said.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Reporter can read it back a thousand times. That is what the honourable member said when he was trying to pick at the honourable junior member for St. George.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman—I too must object to what the honourable senior member for St. Peter said about my being a liar. I would like him to say at what time and place I told a lie.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am going to deal with both honourable member one after the other. Even when some people are on oath they find it difficult to speak the truth. The honourable member knows that the Government—

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for St. Peter has accused me of not speaking the truth. In explanation of that allegation he claimed that I said that the labourers in this country are the lowest paid in the British West Indies. His statement is incorrect. I said nothing of the kind. I am asking that he be made to withdraw that statement.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I will not withdraw any statement. There are other honourable members who heard the honourable member say what he did. The Reporter who is here now was not in the House then.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I remember the honourable junior member for St. Philip did not say that the labourers in Barbados were the lowest paid.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like you to say, Sir, what was his statement when he asked the honourable junior member for St. George why he did not try to get more wages for the labourers. He did say it, Sir, and I say it is a lie. There just had to be an inquiry into the wages paid to agricultural

workers in Jamaica. We pay 2 per cent more than they do. The honourable member said what I said that he did, and he wants to deny his words. If a man cannot speak the truth—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Reporter to read back what the honourable junior member for St. Philip said.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman—I do not know if that is within your authority. I think you had better refer the matter to the Speaker.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: As far as I am concerned, the Reporter can read it back or he cannot. Every honourable member will still know what the honourable junior member for St. Philip said. He repeated it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Are we going to have what I said read back?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Ask the honourable member to repeat what he said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will call on the Speaker to rule in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN left the Chair and reported the matter to the SPEAKER.

His Honour the SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been drawn to my attention by the Chairman of Committees that the honourable junior member for St. Philip has denied making certain remarks which the honourable senior member for St. Peter has reported him to have made; and that the honourable junior member for St. Philip has requested that the Reporter read back that portion of his speech. If I were to grant permission for the Reporter to do that, it would be creating a precedent, and nothing would have been achieved by it. One honourable member has emphatically denied saying what another honourable member insists that he said. Even if the Reporter read it back, I cannot guarantee what would be the feeling of the honourable member who is making the charge. I am clear as to what would be done if any of the honourable members had requested the Chairman of Committees to make a note of what had transpired. But in the absence of that I do not see what can be done. One honourable member has as much right as another to object. Neither has asked that the other withdraw anything.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I did ask, Sir, that the offending words be withdrawn. The whole matter has apparently not been reported to Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has not been reported to me. Again I say that asking the Reporter to read back portion of a speech would be creating a precedent to which I do not want to commit myself. I do not see that any useful purpose would be served by it. If the request for withdrawal of the offending words had been noted, I would have known my position.

Mr. CRAWFORD: With all due respect to you, Sir, I asked that the remark be withdrawn. The allegation was that I find it difficult to speak the truth. That was based on a claim that I said on the floor of this House earlier to-day that the wages paid to agricultural workers in Barbados are the lowest in the West Indies. I said absolutely nothing of the sort. No one with the slightest respect for himself would say that. I would like the Reporter to read back what I said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Tell me what you said.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I said that there are agricultural workers in the West Indies who receive higher wages than agricultural workers in Barbados. I am prepared to repeat that. That is entirely different from saying that our agricultural workers are the lowest paid in the West Indies.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I call on the honourable senior member for St. Peter? Did you understand the honourable junior member for St. Philip to say that?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable junior member for St. Peter is famous for correcting himself. In replying to the honourable junior member for St. George, the honourable junior member for St. Philip asked him if he had so much love for the workers why he did not use his influence to try and get better wages for them, seeing that our agricultural workers are the lowest paid in the West Indies. I went over to the honourable senior member for St. Lucy during the debate and said that it was not true. A voice said *sotto voce* that it was not true.

Mr. WARD: I understood the honourable junior member for St. Philip to have said what amounted to that. I did not worry to quarrel with him because it did not make any difference to me. But I did understand him to say that our agricultural workers are the lowest paid in the West Indies.

Mr. CRAWFORD: And I immediately denied it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see no point in continuing this argument further. As long as you have denied it you have satisfied yourself. You need not hope to convince anyone else. The honourable senior member for St. Peter seems to be quite sure about what he heard, and so is the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. I do not think it should matter to you as long as you have denied it, and especially since the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has stood on the floor of the House and said what he has just said I do not think that you can ask the honourable senior member for St. Peter to withdraw anything.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for St. Lucy withdrew his remarks after I made my denial. I rose to a point of explanation and explained what I had said, and the honourable senior member for St. Lucy withdrew his remarks.

Mr. WARD: I said that if he said that it was not true, I would withdraw my remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Lucy withdrew his remarks for reasons best known to himself. I do not see any point in continuing this argument. Resume debate with equanimity, and without personal references.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to say with your permission, Sir, that the statement itself is of secondary importance to me. But under Rule 129, no member may use offensive or unbecoming words in reference to other members of the House. With regard to the statement by the honourable senior member for St. Peter that the honourable senior member for St. John and myself find it difficult to speak the truth, if that were true, it would be unbecoming and if it were not true the honourable member would have no chance of knowing it.

His Honour the SPEAKER left the Chair and the CHAIRMAN resumed.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman—I also wanted to draw your attention to Rule 129 with reference to what the honourable senior member for St. Peter said. I am going formally to ask that the honourable senior member for St. Peter be made to withdraw the remarks that he made with reference to me. I certainly, Sir, do not appreciate those remarks, and I am asking that Rule 129 be observed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman—the Government has been accused during the debate on this Resolution of trying to put people out of work. You can clearly see, sir, when you study this Resolu-

tion, that the honourable members who are accusing the Government—

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—I am taking a further opportunity of drawing your attention to Rule 129.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking now to the Honourable Senior Member for St. Peter. The honourable senior member for St. John has made an objection to your remarks made to him. He is asking that you withdraw those remarks.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I will ask you, Sir, to draw to my attention what were the remarks that I used to the honourable member. You have heard a lot of remarks being passed around tonight. I have not called anyone a liar. I have been called one. Those gentlemen who like to call other people names are the first to "appeal for light." I would like to know which of my remarks were unparliamentary and offensive.

Mr. ALLDER: The honourable member in his speech implied that the honourable junior member for St. Philip and I often resort to lies.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member did not say that.

Mr. ALLDER: He said that we find it difficult to speak the truth.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I move, Sir, that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. WARD: I beg to second that.

The motion was put and carried, the Committee dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. GODDARD, Mr. GILL, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. DOWDING, Mr. WARD and Mr. MOTTLEY. (7).

Noes: Mr. ALLDER, Mr. MILLER, Mr. Cox, Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. BRANCKER (5).

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committees has reported progress and asked for leave for the Committee to sit again.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT *RE* FARM INSTITUTE

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker—There is only one thing more that I wish to deal with, that is the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 15/1951 relating to the establishment of a Farm Institute for the Eastern Caribbean in Trinidad. I am therefore asking leave to deal with No. 10 on the Order Paper.

Mr. DOWDING: I am objecting to this Report. It has my name as being present at a meeting held on June 29. That is a mistake.

Dr. CUMMINS: I intended to draw that mistake to the attention of the House. I intended to ask leave to delete the name of H. A. Dowding and insert the name of J. A. Haynes, Esquire. Mr. Haynes sat with this Committee and agreed with this Report. By mistake the name H. A. Dowding Esquire crept in.

Mr. DOWDING: This document was laid on the table of the House, and it is incorrect, I fail to see how we can deal with it at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member objecting to having his name signed to the Report?

Mr. DOWDING: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Thomas says that it is nothing more than an error. That does not in any way invalidate the Report. I am going to give the honourable member leave to amend the Report.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I also have an objection. I was never asked to sign this Report, and

therefore I do not consider it a proper Report either.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has never been the custom for the individual members of a Committee to sign a Report. The Report is signed by the Chairman.

Mr. HAYNES: I always sign them.

Mr. SPEAKER: As far as I have been led to understand, the custom is for the Chairman of the Committee to sign the Report. Even if the error of a name crept in, I think that a mountain is being made out of a mole hill. The question now before the House is that this be the next Order of the Day.

After the declaration of the Speaker that the Ayes have it, a division was called for.

The question was put to the vote and decided in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. MILLER, Mr. COX, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. BRANCKER. (8)

Noes: Mr. GODDARD, Mr. GILL, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. DOWDING, Mr. WARD and Mr. MOTTLEY (6).

On the Order being called—

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the consideration of the following Report:—

The Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a draft reply to His Excellency's Message No. 15/1951 relating to the establishment of a Farm Institute for the Eastern Caribbean in Trinidad have the honour to present the following Report: 3rd July, 1951.

H. GORDON CUMMINS,
Chairman.

REPORT

The Committee held a meeting on the 29th June, 1951 when the following members were present, namely:—

Dr. H. G. Cummins
F. E. Miller, Esquire, and
J. A. Haynes, Esquire.

The Committee considered His Excellency's Message and suggest that the following be the Reply thereto.

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 15/1951 relating to the Establishment of a Farm Institute for the Eastern Caribbean in Trinidad.

The House agree to participate in the scheme under the revised conditions, provided that not less than two further student places be allocated to Barbados.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker.— I am surprised to see the antics of my friends on the left. I explained earlier that the name Dowding was a mistake, because Mr. Dowding did not attend the meeting of the Committee. The honourable junior member for St. Andrew attended, and agreed with the Report as it is here. For the benefit of the honourable junior member for St. Andrew I will explain that an individual member of a Select Committee does not sign a Report unless there is a minority report. Now the principle of the establishment of this Farm Institute was agreed to sometime ago by this House. Originally, Barbados was called on to contribute a capital cost of \$14,668, and \$4,188 recurrent cost. British Guiana having refused to join the scheme, the cost of building the Institute

remains the same, but the individual governments have been asked to pay more. The Revised cost for Barbados is now \$20,520 capital expenditure and \$6,039 per annum. For that reason the Select Committee recommend that not less than two further student places be allocated to Barbados. That would bring the number to not less than six, whereas we are originally allocated four. I have little further information on the matter. But I am quite sure that the honourable junior member will be pleased to hear that only yesterday we were informed that the Colonial Office has approached the British West Indies Sugar Producers Association and asked them to participate in the scheme to the extent of £8,515, but because of the absence of the Chairman the Association could not deal with it. But it is felt that that Association will participate, and so we might be in a position to revert to the former conditions. I beg to move that the Address do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker,—I regret very much that the House has seen fit to consider a Report that is incorrect both from the fact that it says that a member attended a meeting that he did not attend, and also from the fact that I fail to see how any honourable member that is appointed to a committee and takes his duties seriously can be satisfied that his signature has not been appended to the Report.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must point out to the honourable Member that he must not make any reflection on a vote of this House.

Mr. DOWDING: I do not intend to do that. I was chosen as a member of this committee, Sir. I attended at the time at which a meeting was called. I waited for 15 minutes and up to that time there was no quorum. So in fact, Sir, little has been accomplished by this Report. As to the actual matter with which the Report deals, no evidence has been taken either from any of the officers of the Department of Agriculture, or any other agricultural body, or any person concerned with agriculture in this island. I personally am not in favour of going into any scheme of an agricultural nature outside of this island which could be easily set up within our shores. This scheme has already become more costly by the refusal of British Guiana to join it. British Guiana has perhaps had a lot of experience with the failure of this type, or similar types of schemes of an agricultural nature in that area. But at any rate, the type of agricultural scheme which I would have liked to have the opportunity to review in select committee would be a scheme whereby this amount of money could be expended at, say, the Pine Agricultural Station for the purpose of teaching people right here in the island the methods which we use, and the improvements which can be made in agriculture here. I cannot agree, or I cannot see what benefit the people of this island are going to get from an establishment of this nature in a neighbouring island. That, Sir, is my view, a view which in my opinion should be discussed. I hope that although I have not had an opportunity of placing it before the Select Committee, that the members of the House will give it some consideration before they adopt this Report.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker—I would like to say a few words on this matter. I am somewhat disgusted at what is going on in this House, and the remarks of my colleague, nor do I understand what is alarming the honourable junior member for St. Andrew. All day we have been hearing about agricultural production, and now that we have a scheme whereby we can improve our agricultural methods, I do not see why we should have a fight about it.

If we get an additional two student places, we will be in a better position than we were in originally.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman—I was a bit surprised when I heard the honourable junior member for St. George speak of this Address. When I first dealt with this matter it was agreed upon by the House. Now, what are we faced with? British Guiana would not enter the scheme because it will not be sited in British Guiana. We cannot allow inter-colonial jealousies to prevent us from reaping the benefits of this scheme. I hope that those members who are agriculturists will realise that this is something that will focus the attention of the community on the scientific side of agriculture. It is proposed that planters, managers of plantations etc. can send students to this institute, and that will make for a better agricultural policy.

The question that the Address do now pass was put and carried on the declaration of the Speaker that the Ayes have it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will call on the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker—I do not know if honourable members feel like returning to the Resolution with which we were dealing a little time ago. If they do not, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week at 3 p.m.

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

The question was put and carried *nem. con.*, and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.