

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 12th March, 1951.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 4 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. O. T. ALLDER, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, F. L. WALCOTT, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., L. E. R. GILL, F. C. GODDARD, J. E. T. BRANCKER, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E. and E. L. WARD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 20th February, 1951, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

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

Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. Andrew for the year 1950.

Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. John for the year 1950.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received Messages from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning the Bill to amend the Immigration of Paupers (Prevention) Act, 1909 with amendments; and the Bill to consolidate the Acts of the Island relating to the Colonial Treasurer with amendments.

Mr. BETHELL entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I am commanded to lay the following Papers:—

The Barbados Scholarship Regulations, 1951.

Post Office Advances for payment of Money Orders to the 31st of January, 1951.

Report of the Committee appointed to review the existing arrangements for the control of prices with particular reference to the expediency of reviewing such arrangements in the light of present-day conditions and to make recommendations thereon.

Mr. GARNER entered the House and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to continue various expiring laws.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$23,769 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1950—51, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1950—51, No. 45, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

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

REQUEST FOR LEAVE *RE* PASSING OF AN ADDRESS RELATIVE TO VACANCY FOR ST. ANDREW

Mr. GILL: Mr. Speaker,—Before the business of the day is proceeded with, I am asking leave to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor requesting that a writ be issued to fill the vacant seat for the parish of St. Andrew, caused through the death of Darry Atfield Foster, Esquire, late junior member for St. Andrew.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know if the honourable member who has asked leave to move the passing of that Address, has approached Your Honour in connection with the matter, but I am suggesting, Sir, that before the matter is dealt with by way of the passing of an Address, a small Committee might be appointed with Your Honour as Chairman, to search the precedents which took place on the death of a member. I am objecting to leave being granted the honourable member to move the passing of this Address and I am stating the reasons for my objection. My point is that I would like to have the matter cleared up and a ruling given once and for all. It seems to me that on a previous occasion an Address was passed without any legal authority as to the specific time, after the death of a member takes place, in which the writ is issued. The matter can be remedied

either by amending the Representation of the People Act or by Resolution of this House which would be binding on future Houses. It is only for the reason that it is not quite clear whether a period of three weeks or forty days should elapse before the writ is issued, that I am objecting to leave being granted the honourable member. The matter was brought to my notice by a member of the legal profession.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is for the House to make a decision in this matter. The honourable senior member for St. Andrew has asked leave to deal with this Address today and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted the honourable member. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has raised an objection.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I was surprised to hear the objection of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. I have been here for 20 years and it has always been the practice when a member dies, at the next meeting of the House if it is possible, an Address is moved by the colleague of the late member of the particular parish and passed asking His Excellency the Governor to issue a writ to fill the vacancy. In the case of Mr. Foster it was due to a feeling of respect that the passing of the Address was not moved last Tuesday. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph is a legal celebrity and he might be right. This question might take a long time to go into, and I see no danger in following a procedure which has been going on for the last 20, 30 or 40 years.

Mr. GILL: As far as I understand from the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, the question is whether His Excellency the Governor should issue the writ in 21 days or 40 days. After the Address is passed it would then be left to the legal advisers to advise the Governor as to the time in which the writ should be issued.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to move the passing of the Address was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. GILL, GODDARD, BETHELL, WILKINSON and WARD.—5.

Noes: Messrs. SMITH, BRYAN, ALLDER, MILLER, MAPP, COX, ADAMS, GARNER, BRANCKER and Dr. CUMMINS.—10.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S NOTICE

A Private Member's Notice was given as follows:

Mr. GILL on behalf of Mr. MOTTLEY: Bill to amend the Parochial Employees' Pension Act, 1944-14.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, a Bill to continue various expiring laws was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. GILL, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, a Bill to amend the Parochial Employees' Pension Act, 1944-14 was read a first time.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

THE ESTIMATES — 1951-52

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the House into Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the year 1951-52.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In moving that the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the annual Estimates, I wish to pay tribute to the person or persons responsible for the drafting of the Memorandum which accompanies the Estimates. We have

frequently in the past, perhaps more often than not, had a well-drafted Memorandum accompanying the Estimates, but sometimes, I believe, honourable members got the impression that the Memorandum accompanying the Estimates in respect of a particular year merely gave them bald figures without any indication as to the implication of those figures on the year's working or on the estimated working of the ensuing financial year. This Memorandum does more than that; besides making clear the differences between the approved Estimates of the last financial year and the revised Estimates, it draws attention both to the revenue and expenditure sides in a clear and explicit way. In addition to that, it sets out—I am speaking more especially now of paragraph 10—clearly as to what is the Government's policy for the ensuing year. In dealing with Capital Estimates, too, the Memorandum sets out in much greater detail than previous Memoranda what we propose to spend this year; at the end or near the end of the Memorandum, paragraph 15, the House has the opportunity of seeing the position with regard to unexpended Loan Balances.

While the main factors affecting this Budget are contained, as I have just intimated, in the Memorandum to which I have just drawn attention, there are some points in the Budget of which I shall take special notice. I do not propose to read what honourable members may themselves be now reading—just the mere figures of revenue and expenditure—except to draw to their attention the differences between the approved and revised Estimates and to draw to their attention again the reasons therefor.

As honourable members will see at the beginning of the Memorandum, we have an improved position as a result of the revised estimates for 1950-51 being somewhat in excess of the revised expenditure. Both show an increase, but, on the whole, there is an increase in revenue of some \$200,000. The General Revenue Balance after deducting the sum of \$403,000 revised estimate of Capital Expenditure chargeable against General Revenue Balance comes to \$4,313,000. The improved revenue position was due to a number of factors, but the more important were an increase in the actual income tax collected of \$250,000 and an increase over our estimated Customs and Excise Duties of \$228,000. I draw honourable members' attention to paragraph 3 of the Memorandum dealing with the increase in expenditure, and as regards paragraph 4, I ask them to agree that the excess of \$261,000 is not unsatisfactory as is here stated, although it reflects a smaller margin between revenue and expenditure than one would hope to be able to see in a Budget amounting to \$10,000,000.

I understand that certain honourable members are going to blame the Government for spending too much, and certain honourable members of the same Party are going to wipe out that criticism by complaining that we are not spending enough; so I leave it to the members of the Opposition to have their little fight among themselves. However, the Government is prepared to show that, strange as it may seem, they are not less than other Budget makers, and that the revised Estimates are not in any respect either under-estimates or over-estimates. I have to say, even at the risk of incurring the wrath of the honourable senior member for the City, that the Fiscal Survey is not yet ready; we have reason to believe that it is near birth and therefore the Government will be in a position in a short time to declare in its entirety what its policy is as regards future Capital Expenditure. We have, however, to remind honourable members that we shall continue the items of Capital Expenditure on which we have embarked, and which last year I promised honourable members we would undertake without indulging in any extensive Capital Expenditure in the absence of a Fiscal Survey.

Things have happened that have been to a great extent, unforeseen, and I challenge honourable members to say that they could point their finger at anything that has taken place in the last financial year and say that that is an omission which the Government should have seen. I find it difficult to-day, Mr. Speaker, for the reasons which I have just given, to outline this Budget in a way usual to the person conducting the affairs of the Government. As I say, when one lot of political thinkers—one portion of a lot of political thinkers complain that you are under-spending, and another portion of the same lot of political thinkers complain that you are over-spending, then it is better to keep quiet and see what criticisms are going to be made. In moving the House into Committee of Supply on these Estimates, I shall do very little more than draw to the attention of the House certain points which are outstanding in the Government's Budget proposals this year, and ask honourable members to study them carefully before criticizing them.

This Budget, Mr. SPEAKER, reflects an increase of \$453,000 in revenue over the revised figure for 1950-51, and an increase of \$547,000 in expenditure. This latter figure, as honourable members will see from the paragraph to which I have drawn their attention, includes a contribution of \$250,000 to Capital Expenditure and one of \$150,000 to a proposed Revenue Equalization Fund. These sums together with the expected surplus of \$166,000 as honourable members will see at the bottom of the first page of the Memorandum, represents a Budget cushion of over \$550,000. Let me remind honourable members that the House has been approving for some years now, of a contribution to Capital Expenditure, and we propose an initial contribution this year of \$150,000 to create a Revenue Equalization Fund which speaks for itself. We have been blessed in the last three years with outstanding crops, but if we have to go back to the 76,000-ton crop from which we suffered a few years ago, and if we have two or three crops like that, it would be necessary for us to draw on General Revenue Balance, which would be deplorable, or have a retrenchment Act which would be more deplorable. It is therefore necessary for us to have a Revenue Equalization Fund to provide not only for a rainy day, but against the day of disaster or drought. I do not propose to dwell on that matter. I have used the word "initial" and it is intended, Mr. Speaker, that this \$150,000 will be an initial sum. In good years more will be added in order that a substantial Equalization Fund might be built up for the bad years.

The Estimates which honourable members have in their hands propose a total capital expenditure of \$1,585,972, and it is intended to meet that sum from the following sources: Advances pending the raising of loans, \$491,384; Unexpended loan balances, \$111,898; Contribution from Revenue, \$250,000; General Revenue Balance, \$555,884; and Colonial Development and Welfare, \$176,806, making the total which I have given. If honourable members desire more details affecting any of these figures which I have given, I will be pleased to give them if they intimate that to me when they speak after I have finished speaking. I shall add further that as far as the loan position is concerned, I have given the figure of \$491,384 in connection with the item "Advances pending the raising of loans", and the proposed expenditure of that amount will bring the total amount under this item to \$1,783,390 at the end of the financial year; it is proposed to consider raising a local loan in the current year to meet this expenditure. I have already said that any revised plan of development—

I reply to those critics who are saying that we are not spending enough—will be formulated when the Fiscal Survey, which is much nearer completion than before, has been completed.

There are some points which I will mention briefly, because whether I mention them now or not, doubtless when we come to consider the Heads of the Estimates in detail, honourable members will speak on them; but it is advisable to anticipate criticism by drawing to their attention certain things, even though I run the danger of showing to honourable members certain things which they would not have discovered for themselves. Under Head III—Colonial Treasurer, Commissioners of Currency, it is proposed that during the coming year this service will be taken over by the Board of Commissioners constituted under the Currency Act, 1950, and this expenditure will thereafter cease to be made from the Island's Revenue. I think that certain honourable members might know that the Currency Note Security Fund exists for the issue of currency notes so that there will actually be some money coming from that Fund. If honourable members will look at the Head of Revenue to which I have just referred, they will see what I have just mentioned. That Head is Head IX and the information is under Item 8.

As regards the Public Market, I am sorry that the honourable senior member for the City is not here, but it might be useful to mention both in this connection and in some others that there are one or two members of this House, notably the honourable junior member for the City, who seem to have the gift of intelligent anticipation. When the Government is actually considering a Measure, questions are asked: "Why does the Government not do so and so" when we are through nine-tenths of it, and sometimes the source of honourable members' information does not give last minute details. So it is with the Public Market; the Government has been very actively considering the question of refrigeration at the Public Market, and also the question of constructing a new abattoir; therefore I wish honourable members to know beforehand that that is a matter which has not recently been engaging the attention of the Government, but for some time.

Under Head X—Fire Brigade—the question of the erection of a new Fire Brigade station will be examined in the light of such recommendations as the Fire Officer may make. We have been told that this Officer is already on his way here, he having already left for this colony. Honourable members will see a new item "Police Barracks", under Capital Expenditure, for the sum of \$6,000 to cover the conversion of the recently acquired "Club Willow" property.

The vote for "Education", Head XX, shows an increase of \$167,536 over last year's expenditure, making a total of \$1,806,116. That is a huge sum, but I cannot picture any Barbados Government not endeavouring, as people are yearning for education in this island, to spend liberally on education and trying to balance the Budget in such a way that education will not suffer. The Government is glad to be able to say that it has made provision for the supply of textbooks for Elementary schools, and extended the provision in respect of the scheme for the provision of textbooks for Secondary Schools, which scheme honourable members will remember started at Combermere and has been extended to other Secondary Schools.

Honourable members to whom I have referred are not the only persons to criticize the Government for not doing this, that or the other; a little enquiry by an itching journalist could easily have made him have his facts correctly and made him refrain from absolutely undeserved criticism of the Government as

to what it is doing and what it is not doing. I speak now on health matters. I will leave it to the honourable member on my right (Dr. Cummins) to reply in some detail on matters, if he is asked about them, affecting the General Hospital. I will state here that as far as the Health Centre is concerned, the Government proposes to have the Health Centre in Speightstown put into operation in the course of this financial year; but inasmuch as it is unlikely that the conversion of the premises which we have purchased will be completed before the beginning of October, provision is made under Head XXIII, Medical Departments, for six months only.

I have before me, Mr. Speaker, other Heads of the Estimates on which, doubtless, honourable members will spend much time, but I propose to mention only some postponed matters. As far as housing is concerned, honourable members must remember this. This Government attempted in the last session to have a proper Housing and Town and Country Planning Bill passed into law, but after we in this House had passed the Bill, the Other Place held it up. I believe, however, that on this occasion the hold-up was due to the fact that we had strong advice from the highest possible authority on housing and town planning that the Bill was cumbersome for Barbados and that we should have a much simpler Bill prepared. The Government is not unmindful of that advice, but, in the meantime, work is being given to the Housing Board which would not normally be theirs, because the functions of the Housing Board are strictly limited, as honourable members know, and the Housing Board is really doing work which a new Housing Authority would do when a new Act is passed and a new Authority is set up. For instance, the Housing Board acts as agent for the Government in respect of the Bay Estate and the Pine Estate Schemes.

I am sure that I will be asked something about the flood area. I will say that when we came here and asked for money to assist those who suffered in this area, the Government gave a clear warning that nobody who went back to that area would get any help from the Government. We are accused of doing nothing in case another calamity comes along and people get drowned. I am now replying to another bit of that silly propaganda which one sometimes reads in the "Advocate". Some people's memories are short, but a journalist's memory should not be short. There was a clear pronouncement made by the Government that anybody who carried his house to Delamere Land thinking that the Government has money to remove it to the Bay is completely mistaken; and if he thinks that the Government is going to allow it to remain there, he is again completely mistaken. Having said that, I will just remind the House that especially since the advent of a member to the Housing Board, the Board is a very active Body and it has taken over a large proportion of the Staff of the Architect and Town Planning Officer. That is reflected as honourable members will see, in the improvements under Head XXXV of the Estimates—Housing Board—for the coming year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to a matter of some moment—a matter on which, doubtless, some honourable members will probably criticize the Government greatly. In anticipating criticism I would just like to give honourable members some facts. I laid on the Table of the House at our sitting today the Report of the Committee appointed to review the existing arrangements for Price Control. The honourable member on my immediate left (Mr. Smith) in spite of being warned by me that the Government had excellent reasons for not publishing the Report as soon as it was made, nevertheless, as a good back-bencher he has drawn to the Government's attention that this Report was written for some time and ques-

tioned why it was not made public. At any rate, the Report has been laid today, and there are cyclo styled copies of it which I hope the Clerk will hand around to honourable members while the Estimates are being considered. The Government appointed this Committee because complaints were being made from all sides; the merchants were complaining that their mark-ups were not good enough and the general public were complaining that the mark-ups were too high. The merchants were complaining, as they have a habit of doing, that there should not be any control by the Government, but what they are so happy to call free enterprise is sometimes the law of the jungle. The Government does not propose to remove controls. (Hear, hear). We are continuing controls on the existing basis because under the present state of world affairs, it is obvious—I say it without necessarily, I hope, being offensive to the commercial world of Bridgetown—speaking generally, that without control one can hardly imagine that prices will not go up. Prices will go up; that has been the experience of the removal of price control in many places of the world. I repeat that the Government does not propose to remove controls. Now that hon. members have the Report of the Price Control Committee before them, they will see that in the main, the Committee, far from discovering what a large number of persons believe, namely, that the mark-ups are too high, have found that the mark-ups are not in every case adequate. Broadly speaking, when honourable members read the Report, they will see what I mean. It is to be remembered that this Report was made in July last year when perhaps it was more reasonable to think that certain goods were coming into free supply, but it is impossible in the light of certain events, to maintain that to-day. The Report of the Committee has been examined in the light of the present and potential world situation as regards commodity prices and supplies. Whereas the Committee had reasonably assumed that as time advanced there would be likely to be some recession both in prices and in supplies, international developments have resulted in increasing price trends. It is obvious also that a restriction in the production of commodities for civilian purposes will be maintained until there is some sustained improvement in world affairs and in supplies. It is almost impossible to see any relaxation of the prohibition against the use of some goods for civilian purposes; he would be a rash man who would prophesy that raw materials or even foodstuffs are likely to be in more free supply next month or next year than they are today. In these circumstances the Government considers it would be inappropriate to implement the recommendations made by the Price Control Committee. It notes in passing that the proposal for distributors to levy a service charge for retail deliveries has been implemented by some retailers as from the 1st March, 1951.

The Equalization Account will continue—within its available balances—to make minor price adjustments, but until further information regarding the present and potential financial condition of commission agents, wholesalers and shopkeepers is available, the Government is not prepared to increase the margin of profits, resulting in a further increase in the price of food and other supplies which is already inevitable in some cases, following increases in world prices. The Government will give further consideration to the present representations of retailers. In the first instance, it is proposed to examine the comparative percentage of profits as between the commission agents, the wholesalers and the shopkeepers.

That is in consolation to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who is now on my left. He knows my views and I think he knows the views, generally

speaking, of the members of the Labour Party and he also knows that you cannot go to the retail shopkeepers and say: "Let me see your books, let me see your margin of profits" and straightway formulate a policy. There are very few shopkeepers, even those in large businesses, who keep books and who do not run the hazard of finding themselves against a hard-hearted vestryman who will feel that their trade is so great that their trade tax should be equally great. In short, the Government feels that from the knowledge at its disposal from a world point of view, it would be wrong to increase the mark-ups and allow a greater profit on those items on which a certain percentage of profit is allowed; and in the case of the retail shopkeeper, it might be found necessary in checking the profit between the retailer and the wholesaler, to make some adjustment. I have stated the policy of the Government in connection with this matter because I do not wish to be misquoted or misunderstood. The Government does not consider that it should remove controls, and as far as the small shopkeeper is concerned, the Government will continue its investigation to see what adjustment might be made between the wholesaler and retailer.

That brings me to the whole question of the Government's policy as regards keeping down prices, although theoretically and as a matter of sound political economy, one should aim at the reduction or complete elimination of subsidization within a reasonable time. Here again the difficulties of not knowing what is going to happen in the outside world and therefore here, has led the Government to appeal to the House for the same amount for subsidisation as it is at present spending. That does not mean, however, that every commodity will necessarily remain at its present price obviously because from day to day we are hearing of possible increases in prices of commodities.

The expenditure on subsidisation has been, as far as practicable, maintained at the level that we agreed on for the last two or three years. The revised figure in respect of subsidisation for the coming year is \$1,097,000 as against an expected expenditure of \$1,076,780 during the current year. In order to maintain the previous level, it has been necessary to pass on to the consumer an increase in the cost price of certain commodities. The effect will be an increase in the price of Grade "E" Flour by $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound and all grades of salt pork by 1 cent per pound. The price of salt fish will, however, remain at its present level as well as the price of all other subsidised food-stuffs. That is by way of compromise between the idea of removing subsidisation and permitting an increase in the cost of goods. As between flour and rice, more people of the higher income groups eat flour than they eat rice and we do not interfere with the price of rice. Very few people, except by way of curiosity, of the higher income groups eat salt pork; while it is true that salt pork is eaten mostly by the poor classes and it would seem as if in selecting salt pork for this increased price, we have gone against the principle which I have just enunciated, on the other hand, the Government has chosen not salt fish for this increase, but salt pork; we cannot find a local substitute for salt fish. We have been told, as hon. members know, by Dr. Brown that there is not enough fish around the coast of Barbados to feed Barbadians, so that we will have to carry on with salt fish; but as regards salt pork, there is an alternative since the Government intends to intensify the rearing of pigs so that people might get pork. That is a long-term as well as a short-term policy. Surely if we encourage people to keep cattle that will increase our milk production, and if we encourage them to keep pigs, that will, in time, build up the pig population in this island, which will help considerably in providing the pork which we now import

in all instances from dollar countries. I think that that is the bitterest pill which the public will have to swallow, if it is bitter. It is not, I suggest, a bitter pill. Subsidisation will be maintained at the level of past years with the exception of the two commodities which I have mentioned.

Just a word about the Capital Estimates, Mr. Speaker, and I am finished. To anticipate the hon. senior member for the City as regards Seawell, I shall just draw hon. members' attention to Head XXXIII—Airport before going to the Capital Estimates. It is expected that the expenditure on the Airport will be almost double that for 1950-51, the figure for 1950-51 being \$32,336, and that for the coming financial year being \$53,330. That is, of course, due to the recent developments at the Airport; but by way of some compensation, at any rate, the Government proposes to raise the fees at the Airport, which fees are very low as compared with those at airports outside this colony, even in the West Indies.

As I have told hon. members at the beginning, the Capital Expenditure is confined to those items on which we have embarked or which had been authorised. If hon. members will turn to the Head "Capital Expenditure" on page 119 of the Estimates, they will see the items under the Head "Public Buildings." These Schools, the building of which was authorised in the past, we propose to deal with in this Budget. As regards the Sub-post Office at Welches, there is a supplementary estimate; there is the Health Centre to which I have referred and there are other items which speak for themselves. We propose to carry out those works which were previously authorised and those which are sufficiently urgent as to warrant their being undertaken until the Fiscal Survey is ready. I have given hon. members the figures as to the unexpended balances of loans and it is intended to utilize these unexpended balances in carrying out capital works. If hon. members will look at the list of schools—I may say that the sum of \$11,971 which is the unexpended balance under the Education Loan Act, 1935, is being asked for in respect of additional accommodation at St. Leonard's Boys' School—they will see that a total expenditure of \$88,198 appears in the column "Revote of provision previously authorised." The unexpended balance under the Waterworks Loan Acts of 1935 and 1941 is estimated at \$75,076 at the 31st March, 1951, and it is intended to utilize this amount on additional mains and standpipes for which an amount of \$120,000 has been included under Head IV, item 3, "Additional Mains and Standpipes." Amounts of \$851 and \$24,000 respectively, remain unexpended from the loans raised under the Public Loan Act, 1928, and the Local Loan Act, 1941, and it is proposed that these amounts be used to meet the expected expenditure on housing for which an amount of \$116,000 has been voted under Head II item 5, "Housing".

I would just say here that plans with regard to rural housing are under consideration. If hon. members see under that Head a reference to Clinc-ketts, it is because a certain amount of land was offered to the Government as a playing field and it was thought a better proposition to buy a larger quantity, over some 14 acres, take off what was necessary for a playing field and retain the remainder for housing in that area. In short, it is not that St. Lucy has been specially selected because of persuasion by its members, but they were lucky that, in buying a playing field, some land was left over—I am glad to hear the hon. senior member for the City intervene because I am sure that he would use his effort to enable the Government to buy land at \$320 per acre instead of £300 per acre.

The last outstanding item I will mention—it is generally the cause of friction and complaint—is that of the tenantry roads. Hon. members will notice that the same amount of tenantry roads is provided for as last year the estimated cost of new works being \$124,000. That covers the repair and construction of tenantry roads. Hon. members will find that on page 121 of the Estimates.

The hon. junior member for St. Philip, who tabled some questions about the Constitution Swamp, is not here; I am not sure whether the answers are filed, but they are ready. Our information is that the value of the reclaimed land as a result of draining the Constitution Swamp is less than the cost of reclamation. As regards the point raised by the honourable member about the dangers to health, we are informed by the medical authorities that no epidemic can be traced to the Constitution Swamp; and, as we all know, a distinguished member of this House lived in the Constitution area for many years and died eventually over 80 or 90 years of age. The Government has been advised that there is no danger to health in respect of the Constitution Swamp; it has been further advised that the checking of the flood danger of the Constitution Swamp can be secured by the provision of suck wells higher up, and the Government proposes in this Budget to spend the sum of \$10,000 on the construction of suck wells which will help lessen the flow of water before it reaches the Constitution Swamp.

I should have said when I was dealing with Seawell, that, as honourable members will see in the Capital Expenditure, the sum of \$29,000 has been put down for electrical installations at the Airport to give effect to recommendations contained in an Interim Report as to the essential requirements at the Airport. A Committee has been sitting, as some honourable members will know, for some time making recommendations as to the requirements at Seawell. An Interim Report has been submitted to the Government and as a result of that Report, we are asking for \$29,000 for carrying out these electrical installations. As regards the new Terminal Buildings or extension of existing buildings, the Government is awaiting the full report of the Committee as to whether it should extend the present buildings or build new Terminal Buildings. As a matter of fact, the Committee has actually reported quite recently and its recommendations are to be discussed by the Government. Token provision of \$1.00 has been included in the Estimates in respect of new buildings and extensions of existing buildings and in respect of new roads, parking spaces, and so on.

I think I have covered the items that are outstanding in this Budget, Mr. Speaker, and the things which lead most to discussion and requests for information. If there is anything by way of reply when honourable members speak in a general way on the Estimates, I shall be happy to give such information; but I am sure that honourable members will wait until the separate Heads are being discussed before they ask for specific details. Before I sit down, I would like to draw to the attention of honourable members that the Government is very anxiously watching the revenue side of the Administration. Without any reflection on anybody, I say that this Government feels that the main sources of revenue should be well organized, well staffed, and, shall I say, rigid with care in the collection of income tax. Care also in the collection of death duties and in the collection of customs duties is essential if we are to find, as the years go by, revenue for the essential social services on which the whole future prosperity of this island will depend.

We feel that with last year's crop and even with the present crop and the possibility of increased im-

ports, no less than \$3,950,000 is likely to be collected in income tax and death duties. We have budgeted for that sum, but I repeat that without any reflection on any Department or on the staff of any Department, it is felt that the Department of Income Tax and Death Duties should be up-to-date. It is felt highly desirable to have in that Department the services of a highly trained Officer, and it is obvious that at present it would be impossible to run the Department as an up-to-date one should be run. It is therefore proposed to establish the special post of Inspector of Death Duties in the grade of \$2,880 rising to \$3,456. I have not been authorised to say much, but it seems that there will be available a locally-trained Barbadian to fill that post. This increase in staff will allow of one of the existing posts of Inspector to be filled by an officer who will form the Statistics Section for in the Estimates, will be attached. This will allow of statistics being prepared and studied and trends analysed which is not possible with the existing staff. It is however essential that both these officers should be properly trained in methods of abstraction, and so on, and to achieve this it is proposed to obtain on secondment for six months the services of a qualified and experienced officer from an Inland Revenue Department. The seconded officer will not only be available to train the newly-appointed Statistics Staff, and to introduce a proper system of income tax statistics, but he will be able to give general instruction to the staff of the Department. Honourable members can easily see that you are groping in the dark if you do not see what your revenue trends are. However West Indian-minded or Barbadian minded hon. members might be, they will agree with me that there is need in this generation, at any rate, for a person trained in statistics, who might take his place in the Auditor General's Office, the Colonial Treasurer's Office or the Income Tax Department and help in the way I have suggested. It is therefore proposed to obtain on secondment for six months, the services of a qualified and experienced officer from an Inland Revenue Department. The seconded officer will not only be available to the locally-trained staff, but will be able to give general instruction to the staff of the Department. The best advice has been asked from Statistical Departments in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. We have been advised that a really first-class man can come here and, in six months, train the staff in the way in which it should go, say exactly what the staff should do, see what figures are to be compiled and what analysis is to be made. Although a period of six months seems to me to be a short period, I can only say that that is advice from the highest source. If honourable members feel that this post is an absolutely essential one, but that a period of six months looks like hurrying things, I would be only glad to pass on the files to honourable members of the Executive Committee and get authorisation for extending the period to a year. Perhaps honourable members might prefer that the officer should come for six months and at the end of that period it would be seen whether he has trained people sufficiently or whether he should remain for a longer period. I may say that there are certain posts in which young men should be well trained, but it may be that in some instances it is better to second an officer out here to train the local staff than send out the local staff, from Commissioner Adams's point of view, not necessarily to England. I am told that in Jamaica or Trinidad you can get useful information as to how to run a Customs Department. It might be that some of the training could take place in other West Indian Colonies, it has been suggested by Commissioner

Adams that Nigeria is more suitable for teaching West Indians than England because of local conditions. Honourable members will agree with me that we have to be sure that taxation is properly applied and not haphazardly inflicted; we should be as willing to spend money on making our revenue-producing Departments up-to-date as we would spend it on roads or water or housing.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the House for speaking at such length and going into such details, which, perhaps might have been left until when the separate Heads of the Estimates are being discussed; but I thought it necessary in this Budget Speech to draw attention to those outstanding things to which I have referred in order that honourable members may in their questionings see that the Government has had to bear in mind, perhaps more carefully this year than in the past, items of revenue, because it might not always be our good fortune to have continued crops of 150,000 tons and over. The Government has endeavoured, by careful consideration of the revenue of this colony to keep up such social services as we have begun, without attempting to do what we cannot properly do now that we are awaiting the Fiscal Survey. I do assure honourable members that in saying that the Fiscal Survey is near to completion I am using a phrase that I have not used in this House before today in this connection. In the past I have said that the Fiscal Survey is not yet ready but we do know now that it is near being ready. I now beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the year 1951-52.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

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

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1951-52

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was debating the motion that I do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Government as provided and set forth in the Estimates for the financial year 1951-52.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—We have listened to a very interesting speech by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, and I might say that, in my opinion, it was a most apologetic speech. I think that the honourable member should pray for forgiveness for the things which ought to have been done and which have not been done; I think he should ask the forgiveness of the taxpayers. I do not know who prepared the Memorandum which is attached to the Estimates, but I must congratulate whoever has prepared it, whether it is the former Financial Secretary, the present Acting Financial Secretary, the Colonial Secretary or the Assistant to the Assistant Colonial Secretary. On this occasion we have not been honoured with the information as to who has prepared the Memorandum to the Estimates, but I have a feeling that somebody higher than all the Officers whom I have mentioned has had a large hand in the preparation of this Memorandum. As regards the things which ought to have been done and which have not been done, I would like first of all, to refer to the East Coast Road. The question as to the construction of this road has been discussed in this House on many occasions; I believe that everybody agrees that it would be a great advantage to develop that part of Bathsheba, and that would bring a large amount

of revenue not only to the Government, but also to the parish of St. Andrew. That is one of the things about which no mention has been made here this afternoon, and the next thing is the Scheme for a Deep Water Harbour. In my opinion, and in the opinion of a large number of people, a Deep Water Harbour for this colony is absolutely essential if we are to maintain our position in the Caribbean as a port where the transshipment of cargo can be done with ease. I think it is most regrettable that no mention whatsoever has been made of that Scheme; to me that Scheme should have been given very high priority, but it has been left out entirely.

We know from a recent speech by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, the attitude of the Government in respect of a Bill for assistance in the construction of large hotels. The honourable member has already told us that the present Government has no intention of introducing such a Bill. I think that that is another grave omission, and as far as dollar earnings are concerned, perhaps that is the greatest omission of all. Visitors from Canada, America and Venezuela bring a large amount of dollars to this colony; quite recently the honourable senior member for Christ Church gave us figures as to the amount which would go to our local people from these visitors.

On the question of the fiscal survey of this colony, it must be admitted that the lack of such a survey is a very great handicap to any Government. It is astounding that the fiscal survey of a little colony like Barbados with an area of 21 x 14 and with just over 200,000 inhabitants should take over three years to be made. If work of a similar magnitude were given to any honourable member sitting around this Table and it was not done after that period of time, that person would not be any longer employed. We have been waiting for three and a half years for this fiscal survey. I cannot blame the Government for that, I extend my sympathy to them. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph will remember that it was said in March, 1950, that it is to be hoped that within a few months we will have this fiscal survey. The honourable member has assured us that this survey is now in draft, and I hope that that is so. I understand that the gentleman who is in charge of this work will leave this island not very far from now.

At a casual glance you will think that this Budget is fairly satisfactory, but when you go into it more carefully, it makes you feel a little uneasy. It must be remembered that Resolutions are bound to be brought down to this House during the year for items which had been forgotten or for items which turned up unexpectedly and which are not provided for in the Estimates. This year—I speak of the year ending the 31st March next—it is hoped that such Resolutions will not exceed \$240,000. I heard notice of a Resolution given today, and I hope that Resolutions during the year will not exceed \$240,000; otherwise, instead of having a surplus of \$166,000 we shall have a deficit on the Estimates of \$73,000. I shall be told that the Estimates of Revenue are conservative; that may be so, or it may not be so, we never know. We are anticipating a large crop this year, but we have not made a good start with the crop; the tonnage of canes so far reaped is much less than was anticipated on account of the unusual and unexpected rains, and unfavourable conditions may continue. I, personally, am inclined to the view that the estimated revenue has been put down in full; if it has been put down in full instead of having a surplus we shall have a deficit. Altogether I do not think that the position is a very happy one.

If you turn to the General Revenue Balance, you will see that there is an indication as to how

we are going. If you turn to the General Revenue Balance as far back as the 31st March, 1948, you will see that the amount is \$6,358,000. I am speaking of round figures. At the end of March, 1949, it was \$5,825,000; at the end of March, 1950, it was \$4,455,000. There has been a decline all the time. It is estimated that at the end of this financial year, the amount will be \$4,313,000, and at the end of March, 1952, it will be \$3,923,000. We have been spending capital for the last year or two and I notice that it is the intention of the Government to raise capital locally to replace the revenue which has been spent during the past two years, which is a correct method. We cannot expect the Mother Country to go on advancing or lending us money. As we all know, the people in England are in great difficulties; everybody is taxed to the hilt, and therefore we have to stand on our own oars and the money must be raised here. Can we raise all the money we need in Barbados or in the Caribbean area? We will need a lot of money for capital expenditure, for the construction of a Deep Water Harbour and the East Coast Road; we will also need money in respect of the establishment of a Natural Gas Corporation and nobody knows what that is going to cost. Can we raise all this money in the Caribbean at an economical rate? To my mind, it is very very questionable whether all this money can be raised in the Caribbean area, and it is hardly fair to expect the Mother Country to stand behind us now that she is giving a tremendous amount of money for the development of industries.

The suggestion that we should have a Revenue Equalization Fund is a very sound one, particularly in a colony like Barbados where we are so dependent upon one industry. We are practically tired depending upon sugar; we have been fortunate in having average and just above average crops in this island, but it is certain that we are bound to have bad years, and when we have a bad year, dependent as we are upon the revenue derived from the sugar industry, our revenue must decline most seriously. I applaud the suggestion of starting a Fund to be set aside for days which are bound to come—days of short crops. In the Memorandum mention is also made of the reserve of £100,000 which was put aside years ago in view of any possible hurricane. That, of course, was a very wise thing, and at that time the amount of money appeared to be ample; but how far will that amount go to-day? The amount should be increased and I throw out that suggestion to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph.

I think it is our main object—and it is the main object not only in Barbados—to increase production. We must increase the production of sugar for export and the production of food for home consumption and for export. We must do all we can to encourage any industry that gives any indication of success: and the only way we can succeed is if we have the co-operation and assistance of labour. It is of no use starting schemes if you do not get willing workers, and I am glad to see that the Union of which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph is President, is doing all it can, as far as I know, to co-operate in that direction and encourage workers to take more interest in the job which they are doing. In many countries today, the workers are just time-beaters: they look at the time when they go in to work, they look at the time for luncheon, the time for tea and the time for going home. What we want is co-operation and getting people to take an interest in their jobs. I could give many instances in England and Scotland where people work for very high wages, but they take no interest in the jobs which they are doing.

Looking at the Estimates of expenditure for 1951–52, it is very striking that the cost of education is always increasing. Everybody sitting around this Table believes in education; we believe that money should be spent on education and that everybody should have the opportunity of obtaining education and reaching the top. I do not think that there is any dispute about that; but are we satisfied that the money which is being spent on education is being spent in the right way? In 1948–49 we spent the sum of \$1,159,000 on education and in these Estimates the expenditure is put down at \$1,806,000, speaking of round numbers, or nearly 18% of our total expenditure. I do not grudge—I am sure that no honourable member of this House will grudge—the amount of 18% of our expenditure being allocated to education; but we must see that the money is spent wisely. I venture to suggest that, at the moment, the teachers are dissatisfied, the parents are dissatisfied and the taxpayers are dissatisfied. It is a very important thing to see—I am sure that the “Minister” in charge will do his utmost to see—that the money which we are spending on education is spent in the correct way.

As regards “Subsidies and Controls,” we are spending approximately 11% of our total expenditure in that connection, and I notice that a large sum of this money is put under the Head “Non-recurrent.” Before the honourable senior member for St. Joseph spoke, I was wondering whether it was the intention of the Government to discontinue the subsidization of foodstuffs. I agree with the honourable member that at the present moment, it would be unwise to release all controls, but there are some controls, which, in my opinion, could be done without. It is astonishing to see that under this Head 41 persons are employed—a large number of persons to control the imports and exports in respect of this colony. I am asking the honourable member to examine that matter very carefully. I do not propose to go into details in respect of each Head of the Estimates; we will do that as soon as we go into Committee. As suggested by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph last year, I have made notes on certain Heads of the Estimates on which I need information and that might save some time in the discussion around this Table. I do think that we should have in view the gradual reduction of subsidies and controls.

On examining the Estimates, I find that Government Departments are becoming very expensive. During the past year we have agreed to all sorts of increases in almost every Department, and if you look down the list you will find that we are spending between 60% and 62% of our total expenditure in the payment of salaries and wages. It must be obvious to everybody sitting around this Table that if we have a bad year—we are bound to get it—the first thing that will have to be cut is the payment of salaries and wages. I think it is time that our “Ministers” examine the various Departments and see that they are not overloaded. I am not going to be personal, but I think now of two Departments which are distinctly top-heavy. Perhaps when we come to the items in the Estimates I will make some reference to those Departments. In closing his speech, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph made reference of having some assistance in our Revenue Collecting Departments—assistance in the nature of getting an experienced man here to work, perhaps for a year, in those Departments and train local men. I do think that in the past we have been fortunate in so far as the Heads of these Departments are concerned, but we may not be so fortunate in the future. I think it is a wise move on the part of the Government to import some-

body here, somebody who could suggest the necessary re-organization of the Departments and show where loopholes might occur. However, it is not my intention to go into each Head of the Estimates; I support the motion that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on the Estimates. (Cheers).

Mr. REECE: It is not my intention to wade through every item of the Estimates, because that is better done when the House goes into Committee on these Estimates; but I would like to say that we are spending colossal sums of money, and the question is whether we are getting the best returns for the large expenditure which we are incurring annually. In every country the size of its revenue must be determined and fixed by the value of the products of the country, and, as the honourable junior member for St. James has said, we are almost entirely dependent upon sugar. There was a time in the history of this island when we had an invisible source of production and we obtained revenue because of the emigration of people to the United States of America. Today that source of revenue is almost non-existent; we know that with the events which followed the last War, the United States of America closed its doors to immigrants from this part of the world. The result is that that source of revenue has been closed and we are now entirely dependent upon our local production, particularly sugar. That being so, we have to look carefully at our expenditure; and while I agree that we should spend to the utmost of our ability, yet I feel that we should see to it that we get the very best for our money.

I would like to say a few words about the Head, Education. We have been expending large sums of money annually on education, and as the honourable junior member for St. James has said, there is no member of this House who grudges the expenditure of money in this direction; but the question is whether we are getting the best results for the expenditure which we undertake every year on education. Is the money which we are spending on education being spent in the right manner? Would it not be wiser for us to spend more money on technical education so that our sons and daughters will be fitted to compete not only with themselves, but they will be able, when they go abroad, to compete on equal terms with people with whom they come in contact in whatever country? That question has been raised in this House time and again; even last year a debate took place here as to the question of spending money on technical education in this colony. It was suggested that the education provided at the Combermere School and other secondary schools should not only be along the present line, but the opportunity should be given to children to extend their knowledge along the technical line. I hope that the Government will consider the advisability of spending money in this direction and in the next Budget we will pass a substantial amount to be spent on technical education.

The experience of the Government in connection with the erection of school buildings has been a sad one. It is not for me to repeat what has been said about the buildings which have been erected, but the Government has to be chary in launching out in the erection of buildings in which children are to be educated. However, the Government has to face this expenditure; we have to build schools perhaps not on the elaborate scale which we considered at first, but money has to be spent in this direction. At long last the Christ Church Foundation School is being given some attention, and I hope that when I come back here after the next General Election (Laughter)

that school building will be one to which children from other schools can come and receive education. I say that it is absolutely necessary to spend money on education; we cannot spend too much on education provided that the money is spent in the proper way. The honourable junior member for St. James has said that the teachers are dissatisfied, and I know that parents are dissatisfied. The teachers who are not in the higher income brackets must be dissatisfied because of the high cost of living, and it looks to me impossible for this Government to reduce the amount of money which they are spending in subsidizing foodstuffs. As a matter of fact, in the case of a large number of middle class people and people in humble circumstances who receive small increases, when the cost of living index goes up, they find themselves in a more delicate position than before they received the increases.

I think it is high time that we consider the advisability of spending money on a Deep Water Harbour. As the honourable junior member for St. James has said, no country can exist unless it has proper harbour facilities for handling goods which come into the country. In our case, we are in the position not only of dealing with goods which are consigned here, but with goods which come here for transshipment in the Caribbean area. For that reason it is essential that we should have good harbour facilities so that ships will continue to come to this colony and we will find employment for the very many people who have to work on the wharf as longshoremen, lightermen and porters. If we do not have our Deep Water Harbour we will lose much of our trade; as it is now, much of our trade has gone to Trinidad. Because of our geographical position, big steamships plying to and from the Caribbean should come and will come here provided they are given proper facilities. That is a matter to which attention must be given; we have had several reports about a Deep Water Harbour and the figures which have been submitted in those reports are no longer any good figures because since they were submitted, the price of materials has gone up. We would have to look for a much bigger amount to put ourselves in the position in which we were formerly if we are to retain our trade in the transshipment of goods. Once you have lost anything, it is most difficult to regain it, and if we are not careful, the time will come when our port, which is the principal port in the Caribbean area, will be relegated to the position of being an inferior port. Unfortunately, we have a tremendous population; we cannot support it out of the one industry which we have, and we must look for other employment for our workers. A good port is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary in order to provide employment for numbers of our people.

Closely connected with this question is the question of hotel accommodation. The Barbadians can no longer go to the United States of America, but the Americans can come to Barbados; we have to take the money from the Americans right here in Barbados, so that it is absolutely essential for us to have the means whereby we can extract the dollars from them. Do not let honourable members think that I am looking at this question from any selfish angle or from any personal point of view; I am looking at this question from the point of view of the large number of people who are dependent upon encouragement being given to the hotel industry. It is obvious that the Government must benefit from the hotel industry; when an American spends his dollar here, that helps the entire country, and we want to be in a position to sell to the United States the things which they need. We want the American

to bring his dollar here so that we can earn it, since we have lost that invisible source of revenue to which I have already referred. That is a point which we on this side of the House will urge on every possible occasion.

Mr. Speaker, there are other matters on which I would have liked to touch, but it is not my intention to delay you any longer; however, when we come to the consideration of the various Heads of the Estimates, that will be the appropriate occasion to deal with those other matters. I certainly think that anything which tends to promote employment among our people should be encouraged, and therefore I should be pleased to see small industries set up in this colony. I am grateful to the people who have started the Knitting Mills Company and I hope that more industries of that sort will spring up amongst us. Although the workers will not be overburdened with pay envelopes on Saturdays, they will receive pay envelopes, and it is far better to receive a pay envelope with \$10 to \$15 in it than not to receive any pay envelope at all. In this colony the women are generally dependent upon the men folk and I think that any industry which employs women and gives them economic independence should be encouraged in this colony. It was therefore a great pleasure to me to notice that at long last a scheme for the emigration of women to the United States of America is under consideration. If you permit me to digress, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that it is wonderful to see the response which was made to the appeal for workers; when you saw in the Press pictures of the large number of women who queued up in order to be registered for going to the United States of America, then you realised how acute was unemployment among women in this colony. I hope that the efforts of these women will bear fruit. We are living in an age when women are standing shoulder to shoulder with men and a woman is entitled to the same independence as a man, I am sure that these women will give a good account of themselves if they are given the opportunity of going abroad.

I am not saying anything more; I know that honourable members have much to say, but I will end up by saying that we are spending large sums of money annually, and, as the honourable junior member for St. James has pointed out, our General Revenue Balance is gradually being diminished. I like to see money being spent, but I want to see it being wisely spent; I want to see the expenditure of this colony bring back something in return. I counsel the Government to be cautious and careful not only in the spending of money, but in seeing that the money is properly spent for the good and benefit of the inhabitants of this colony. As long as that is done, the Government will always have the support of members on this side of the Table.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is customary at this time of the year for the Opposition, after scanning the Estimates to offer their criticisms. Like the last two speakers of the Opposition, I shall attempt to contribute my quota to this discussion by pointing out to the Government their sins of commission and their sins of omission; and there are certainly sins of omission which can be placed right at the feet of this Government. When I first became a member of this Chamber, the answer by the Government to criticisms made from this side of the Table was that they had only just taken over a legacy from the present Opposition, and therefore they were pleading for time. I suppose that that carried some weight with the general public; but surely after being directly in power for a period of over five years, and after being partly in power for a period of eight years, this Government should

have done better. I will say that although we criticize and point out to the Government their sins of commission and of omission, we, on this side of the Table, are still big enough to offer the Government our commendation on any matter whenever the occasion arises. We commend the Government after reading the Memorandum on the Estimates and I am sure that any honourable member who is really interested in the affairs of this colony would have to read through this Memorandum a second and third time, because there is sound reasoning in it. In this Memorandum there is the suggestion of the establishment of a Revenue Equalization Fund and the reasons are given for it; whether you are a Socialist, Conservative or otherwise, if you are businesslike and if you have a real interest in the colony, whether you are in the Government or in the Opposition, you are bound to come to the conclusion that there has been some thinking at the back of this Memorandum. When you pay tribute to anything which has been done in this House, some people who are in the Government take it that you are playing ball; but I play ball whenever I like and I have no apology to make. I say that the writing of this Memorandum seems to have been the work of somebody who has been guided by some wisdom, but while we appreciate what we have seen in this Memorandum, we are still bound to offer some criticism.

I am going to strike a note somewhat different from that of other members of the Opposition; long ago I used to hear the then honourable junior member for St. Andrew, Mr. Haynes, talk about subsidizing the clothing of the working man, and I used to think at that time that the working man could still eke out his existence without his clothing being subsidized but I have given careful thought to the matter. I have had figures at my disposal as to the material used by the working man, I have been brought into direct contact with the working man, and I feel that although the Government's explanation would, in a way, seem to be satisfactory, yet if you look at the matter from every possible angle, if you view it in connection with the increased cost of living as it affects the working man from day to day, you are bound to come to the conclusion that not only is the subsidisation of foodstuffs a necessity, but also the subsidisation of the working man's clothing. Let us take khaki, dungaree, and the like, material which the working man uses; I take second place to no member of this House for coming into contact with things which the working man wears, because that is a part of my business, and it strikes me as a sin of omission on the part of the Government not to have given careful consideration to this matter of subsidising the working man's clothing. It seems to me a sin of omission not to give careful consideration to the fact that whereas khaki and the like used to be bought at 36 cents a yard that material now has to be bought at \$1.50 a yard. I say that the subsidisation of the clothing of the working man is an absolute necessity today; salaries and wages have been increased; but let us compare those increased salaries and wages with the increased cost of living. I sometimes smile when I see how the cost of living has increased: people who do not come into contact with the working man and have something to do with his financial resources, cannot realise what the position is. It is not that I must find something to say in connection with the Budget, but I say in all seriousness that I believe that something will have to be done so as to keep down the cost price of the working man's clothing. We realise that the Government has no control over prices which are fixed having regard to world conditions; but we know that in Barbados the working man cannot any longer buy a pants in which to work

at 4/- a yard. I consider the failure to subsidise the working man's clothing as a sin of omission. I would not like to think that the Government considered this matter and turned it down; I prefer to think that the Government has forgotten this matter.

There are certain commodities which must be subsidised; we know that salt fish is bound to be kept subsidised because we cannot get enough fish around our shores. We have no rivers like British Guiana, and so we cannot get sufficient fish around our shores; but whoever is responsible for the importation of this fish must take some credit for knowing something about domestic affairs, he must take some credit for seeing that good fish is brought in. You must be inquisitive if you want to know things and be able to talk about them. I cannot get away from this state of affairs because I am in the midst of it; but the type of salt fish which we have been importing is something scandalous. To whoever is importing this type of fish, I say that we must not be fed like pigs; to whoever is responsible for the importation of this type of fish, I say that our people must not be treated like this. We saw fish skins with salt on them and that was given to people to be eaten! If you are importing that sort of stuff and paying this big subsidy on it, I say that that is not good enough; we want something good imported. We spend a tremendous amount of money in subsidising salt fish and what are we getting for the money? We are users of salt fish and I go from store to store and see bare fish skins with salt on them. I would like to mention here that last Tuesday we observed with some gratitude that the Government has now awakened from its lethargy and has taken a stand in respect of the milk supply of this colony. That was long overdue. In connection with subsidisation, you will walk around Bridgetown and you will hear that the cost of condensed milk has gone up; that is an item which the working man has to buy. I observed that the Government is going about a milk supply scheme, but I raise the question to show that while the working man has got a better day's pay, the cost of food has gone up. If you cannot do anything for him in respect of food, then do something for him in respect of subsidising his working clothes. This is a question which must be near and dear to the heart of some honourable members; there are not all honourable members who see people in their Sunday-go-to-meeting; there are those who see them at work. The working man cannot buy his clothes and send his children to school and therefore his clothing must be subsidised.

As regards capital expenditure, I suppose every honourable member can see that much thought and care have been exercised in this respect. The Leader of the Opposition has made his criticism in respect of a Deep Water Harbour, and it must be obvious that that is something for the future and it must be tackled, come what may. That is a big item, but I am not going to stop there; I am going to say—this is also a sin of omission—that for a long time we have been talking about relieving the hawkers from the broiling sun and drenching rains and I regret that up to now no step has been taken to erect any district markets. Mr. Speaker, since the Government took over the Public Market and have been using it as a Spirit Bond, they have been getting good returns from it; on the other hand, the hawkers are being hunted down. Steps have been taken to represent these facts to the Government and to this day I say there are hundreds and hundreds of women offering their goods for sale under the most insanitary conditions, and a Government has been in power for five years! (A MEMBER: That is a matter for the Vestry of St. Michael). The Vestry can only make recommendations. I think that some step should have been

taken to show that you appreciate your sisters, aunts and cousins. Do you not think it is fair that something should be done to relieve the condition of these people? Look through the Estimates for capital expenditure and you will see provision made for Windows in Bay Street; because some official comes down here and talks about Windows in Bay Street—you are satisfying the whims and fancies of some Saga Boy and do you tell me that it is not a sin of omission for a Government after five years to allow these hawkers to offer their goods for sale under insanitary conditions? These people have been forgotten either directly or indirectly. Three years ago I saw all sorts of fancy things put under the head "Capital Works"; I said that the intention of the Government was good, and I felt that they should have an opportunity to show what they could do. In connection with the erection of District Markets, about two years ago I was responsible for inviting the Leader of the House to meet the Commissioners of Health for St. Michael in the Eagle Hall area, (Mr. ADAMS: And you quoted me as saying that the price of land was reasonable) because there you had hawkers offering goods for sale under very insanitary conditions. Statistics were sent to the Government with a view to improving the condition of the people who were offering their goods for sale in the broiling sun and drenching rain. Let us be sympathetic and do not look only at one set of people. I go through Busby's Alley and I see the hawkers there; I feel very strongly on this matter. I do not think that the Government would wickedly say "I do not mind how long these people remain there." I say that the Government is not thinking sufficiently about this matter. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that I quoted him as saying that the price of the land at Eagle Hall was reasonable.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation. May I say here and now that I have never been able to say what is a reasonable price for land or property? I agreed that Mrs. Hanschell's site was better than the other site; but as regards the price of land, I do not know if it was worth 6 cents a foot or \$6.00 a foot. For years I have been preaching that the Government should appoint a commission to say what the price of land should be. I was shocked when I read in the *Advocate* that I had visited this site and agreed that the price of the land was reasonable. I do not even know what the value of my house is.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am telling this House that in the interest of getting something done about erecting these district markets, I invited the Leader of the House to meet the Health Commissioners of St. Michael at Eagle Hall; I am telling this House that the Leader of the House said, in the presence of the then honourable junior member for St. Michael, honourable Mr. Gale, that he considered that the price of the land was reasonable because more money was being asked for another site. The honourable member said; "I consider this site more suitable." He pleaded for a reduction of the price, and he said that he thought that the price of \$1.00 a foot was reasonable. I am not trying to put the honourable member in any awkward position; I am just saying that a sin of omission has been committed. We will not go into the question as to how much the land was worth, but the honourable member said that the price of the land was reasonable.

While I am dealing with the question of capital expenditure, I will go on to speak of many things

under this Head. I have to commend the Government for some of the steps which they have taken, but I also indict them for a most serious sin—a combination of omission and commission—the lack of any scheme for compulsory education. Twenty-five years ago I heard every speaker from every platform in this colony advocate bringing into existence a scheme for compulsory education. I heard you, Mr. Speaker, speaking in support of such a scheme, and I consider the Government guilty of an atrocious crime in that they have not brought about any scheme for compulsory education. It is the Government's first duty to see that every child is admitted to a school even if they have to open the Churches. You say that you are building schools, but there is the adage that while the grass is growing the horse is starving. I hear it argued that if you enfranchise the people, you free them; but I say that if you educate the people, you free them. Imagine this Government being in power for five years and not bringing about any scheme for compulsory education in this colony! That is wilful and wicked; I feel that the first thing which ought to be done is to educate the people. Mr. Speaker, I went into Barclay's Bank and saw two people presenting a cheque from a plantation, and I heard the cashier carrying them along in a way which I did not like. I felt it my duty to help people who cannot help themselves; those people who were presenting the cheque could not sign their names. They said in their reply to me that they were from Christ Church and they knew Mr. Goddard. I ask honourable members who have been elevated to the position of law makers, how do they feel when they come into contact with people who tell them that they cannot read or write? They say that they have taken over a legacy from the other people, but I say that if you have not got any room in the schools, then open the churches. I repeat that if you educate the people, you will free them; you will fit them for enfranchisement or anything else. This is an age for education and this Government stand indicted before the bar for not having brought down any scheme for compulsory education. I make no apology for saying things about which I feel very strongly; you say that you have put down a lot of money for building schools, but I am a practical man. I have seen in this colony that children from the third standard up are being taught in the churches, and the Holy Communion is still administered on Sundays. Is there anything wrong about educating children in the churches? Last year when we were dealing with the Estimates I did not know what I know now. When I visit schools today I see teachers with over 80 children in a class: I make excuses for the Government even on the question of roads. The honourable senior member for St. Michael sent people to me having told them that I was responsible for the roads and I got to know that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph got into his neck and reminded him that he is a member of the Government. I told the people that the Government was doing the roads at Seawell and the Bay Estate but the honourable member said I am the man. I was saying that in the schools you find teachers with over 80 children in a class; nearly every day I get applications from people with School Certificates, and so on, and I do not send them to the Government. I am not one of those small-minded people whose hearts are like their faces; when there is an occasion for praise, I shower praise, and when there is an occasion for criticism, I offer criticism. When I read the Lord Bishop's speech in the Other Place, I wanted to know what

kind of hearts the members of the Government had. I visit the schools because I want to see things for myself. The Educational Authorities asked for 37 teachers and one would have thought that we had the biggest dearth of teachers; the Government refused to give these additional teachers, but they make provision for "Windows in Bay Street." You have been elevated to power and now that you have reached that stage is it not ungrateful to look beyond educating the people at the bottom? One of the first Presidents of Howard University was taught to read and write and he was on the way to do the balance for himself. If a person is not educated he is merely a hewer of wood and a drawer of water; you want to keep your people as hewers of wood and drawers of water because you will not educate them. I have the greatest respect for the honourable senior member for St. John who is a self-made man like me, but it took men from Codrington to teach some people to read and write. Is it necessary for somebody to tell you that you must have qualifications so as to teach people to spell "cat" or "dog?" Some of the schools are overcrowded, and it is better to teach the children under the trees. Of course you are erecting school buildings, you will soon be able to get rid of the overcrowding in the schools and then you will start a scheme for compulsory education; but imagine the Government refusing to give the additional teachers who were asked for! First things must come first; if you do not educate the people they cannot appreciate that there is a supernatural Being, they cannot appreciate the gifts of Providence. How far is the uneducated man removed from the lower animals? It is true that we have the lowest amount of illiteracy in the West Indies, but because that is so, it does not mean that the amount of illiteracy cannot be lower. Mr. Speaker, I have a few more comments to make but as the soot from the premises above is making it most inconvenient for most of us, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was debating the motion that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the year 1951-52. The honourable senior member for the City was speaking.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker.—On the adjournment I was discussing the refusal of the Government relative to the additional teachers for the elementary schools. That was obviously deplorable inasmuch as in the first place, these teachers could be found, and, secondly, it would have been a means of relieving teachers who now teach between 70 and 80 children in one class. When I discovered this about a year ago, I was at pains to discuss it with certain individuals interested in education and I was not satisfied that the refusal at the time was justifiable. I made enquiries and I discovered that there were no reasons given for the refusal; but since then it has been brought to my notice that there was some loose talk to the effect that these teachers were asked for to teach domestic science. When I heard that, I fully appreciated that that was the answer which some honourable member would like to give here; he would like to say: "These teachers were asked for to teach domestic science and it would be rather difficult to see how you could get 37 teachers to teach domestic science in 126 schools." I say that any statement of

that sort is untrue and unfounded. When we have passed away, we want it to be truly said of us that during our term as law-makers we, at least, saw to it that in the laws which were enacted in this country, provision was made whereby every child born in the island was taught to read and write. That is a tremendous problem; it is an economic problem. It is not that a mother would not send her child to school wilfully, but it is because she could not find the wherewithal to send him—the clothes. If you started compulsory education in St. Michael, we would realise that you are making some headway, but compulsory education was never started. With your parochial set-up you should be able to make provision to have children taught. If the argument is that you have no school room you can teach the children under the trees. We talk in this House about the treatment of people in Africa and we talk about the treatment of the underprivileged; but I say that charity begins at home.

The honourable senior member for St. Joseph mentioned the work which the Housing Board is undertaking outside its province, and I must admit that this Board is a Department which is doing excellent work. It is doing work which it was not created to do, and it is much better now that we can see that they have taken over some practical men and got rid of some funny people who were trying to send Barbados somewhere else. One must come to the conclusion in respect of this Board, that by using local people you are getting better results than by having imported people who feel that they know all.

There is another matter which I would like to mention and it comes under the heading of public health. It is something which I would like to see done; it is not a sin of commission, it is something which I believe even the Government would like to see put into operation. Only recently, as a result of the establishment of the parochial clinic in St. Michael, it was brought more forcibly to me than ever, when I saw the advantage being taken of a health service in a minor way, when I saw the number of people wending their way to get free treatment for themselves and their children, that if we could get such a service established as soon as possible, we would be benefiting the community a great deal. I have seen here under the heading "Capital Works" several items which I do not believe are as pressing as what I consider a health service.

I, for one, stood here and voted money for the establishment of a Sub-post Office at Welches. I have been studying the matter over very carefully, and I believe that we made an error when we decided to put this Post Office there. I consider, Mr. Speaker, that we made an error in that respect. I see a smile on the face of the honourable senior member for St. John, who, I believe, opposed that proposition. I cannot see the necessity for this Post Office when there are such pressing needs; I do not see the need of preventing a few people from walking from Carrington's Village or Belmont into the City. I consider that the erection of this Post Office is a matter on which we should go cautiously; if I made a blunder I made it in good faith, but I feel that the \$27,000 could be better spent on something which is more greatly needed. I repeat: I do not see that we should prevent people living in Carrington's Village or Belmont Road from walking to the Post Office down here; in St. Peter you have people who have to walk from the top of Boscobel to Speightstown so as to get to the Post Office. I contend that in a matter of this sort, the money could be better spent on relief measures.

There are other members of the Opposition who want to speak in connection with these Estimates and therefore I shall not say very much more. There are things which are near and dear to honourable mem-

bers of this House and to the people of this country. I praise this Government when the occasion arises, and I indict it when the occasion arises. Years ago when you went around this country you heard from the lips of members of the present Government that we want compulsory education; we want people to be taught to read and write. Whatever else this Government might have done to uplift the social standard of the people, it will remain a blot on the Government that after being in power for five years, they have not brought about a system of compulsory education. If the Government had come down here with a scheme for compulsory education, they might have had to leave aside something else; but I say that the absence of any scheme for compulsory education is the strongest indictment against this Government. They can provide money for sending people to the West Indian University, they can provide money for Harrison College and they can provide money for Combermere School; but there is a blot against them in that they have promised that if they got in power they would bring into effect a scheme for compulsory education. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, that is near and dear to my heart; I see the need for it every day. You vote money for the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, you vote money for the West Indian University, but at home you stand to shame with people who cannot read or write. I sit down by saying that, in my opinion, the Government should forego things like the erection of the Sub-Post Office at Welches in favour of the more fundamental things that matter to the people. I repeat that when I have to commend the Government, I do so; and when I have to indict them for any sin of omission or of commission, I also do so. I do it in the hope that it would make the Government see the error of their way and turn to the things which they have left undone, and to those which they know they should really have done.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker,—When those who are not practically affected by a policy criticise it, that shows that those who are affected by it should be hostile. I rather thought that the Opposition would have sat down without uttering a word of objection in relation to the Estimates. I feel, Sir, that I shall be reminded of what is known as a timid soul—a soul that attempts nothing and therefore gains nothing. I would have expected to see a different kind of Estimates coming before this honourable Chamber from the kind we had in the last year and the year before. To say, Sir, that I am disappointed is realistic of my feelings. I have noticed, Sir, that it is necessary, if the problems from which we are suffering are to be removed, that our approach to the matter should be greater and more determined. I am saying that when world problems have presented themselves, any country which does not take the opportunity to pull itself forward will never go forward. World conflict is causing demands on manpower internationally, and that opens the way for some of our people to make greater earnings by which the Government gets a greater amount of revenue; and that revenue can only be obtained if the Government adopts a policy which an intelligent Government should adopt in getting more revenue from the source which is capable of providing it, to be spent in the interest of those who are in need of an improvement of social conditions. I have noticed, Mr. Speaker, that Customs and Excise Duties have been increased by a slender margin above Income Tax. We have reached the stage where the prices of commodities have gone up and, as a result, duties are fixed for imported foodstuffs and other items on the basis of the cost which the manufacturers charge: that lays the bulk of taxation heavily on the consumers many of whom do not have the means of a proper existence. I feel, Sir, that taxa-

tion should be laid particularly on the land, and income tax should be laid for the provision and maintenance of any social services which any country might be embarking upon. It is not true to say that we have a surplus of \$166,000 odd dollars, because in saying that it shows that the cost of living has been carried up for the consumers to an unreasonable extent, thereby showing, in my opinion, an unreasonable increase in Customs and Excise Duties. I had hoped that the Estimates for this financial year would have been more socialistic in their make-up, because I feel that unless we make a bold bid to collect the revenue which we always wanted to improve the social facilities which the island was always in need of, we will never be able to remove the deep-seated evils which have always been with us. We should not allow any opportunity which we have of removing these evils to pass us by. I have heard some criticism from the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and I must say that some of the points which he made were rather liberal in their nature, especially coming from him; but what I expected to hear would not have come from that side of the Table, that is, an increase in Income Tax in the higher brackets. Now no one can fail to observe that if increases in Income Tax were made in the higher brackets it could not be said that such increases were unjustifiably imposed. Sir, you must observe that some businesses rather than being contracted are being expanded to an extent that you could not call it less than a taking over of other businesses. Within the last ten years, Sir, the gulf between wealth and poverty has been so widened that it gives one the impression that something should be done to narrow it down. Honourable members might not agree with the view which I am expressing, but I have failed to see any difficulty being experienced by big business; what I do see is that small traders are gradually being eliminated because of the present system. Whether it be a question of controls or something else, I have not been able to decide as yet; but there is an obvious evil which permits big businesses to be taking over each other and be more secure than the smaller traders. If one were to throw his mind back to a few years ago he would recall that there were a few middle-class people who manufactured aerated drinks; today that trade is being taken away from those people and it is being done by the big combines. That is a fact which we must take into account since we have to look back on the past; I feel that opportunities are becoming more limited and that, with the increase of difficulties, you have also an unreasonable increase of wealth concentrated in the hands of the few. If these things continue, your problems are going to become greater and greater, and eventually they must be considered as being insolvable. I feel, Sir, that many of these evils have their basis in the fact that we have not yet decided to get down to the fundamentals of our communal life and have them effected. All future prospects seem to be based on emigration; although that is an important factor in our future planning, yet it is not the only solution to our social and economic problems. Any country should plan its set-up on its internal resources so that a reasonable provision should be made for the maintenance of the population and if emigration does come about, it should be considered as supplementary to the benefits which the population gets internally.

There is another problem, Mr. Speaker, on which many opinions seem to vary and many people seem reluctant to face it boldly; that is our population problem. I have noticed from reports that our population increases by over 6,000 annually. That means that in the next five or ten years the situation must become more acute, and I am wondering whether

the Government should not consider the possibility of introducing the study of Eugenics in our schools. I feel that the population should be regulated so that the wrong type of people should be prevented from procreating their species as promiscuously as they are now procreating them. Honourable members might sneer, but a country has to face its social problems; I say that the time is ripe for the Government to sponsor a scheme of birth control mainly by education under health services in the schools. When you see an expectant woman at a tender age and from the lower group, that must impress you that the people who are increasing the population are the wrong type of people. I do not want to prevent people from enjoying the natural benefits of life, but I still feel that some intelligence should be applied to whatever is done. I hear a voice say: "sterilize them," but I do not want to go so far. I still say that it would be a matter for far-sighted individuals who know better to try to teach and inculcate in those who do not know much, the right way to plan a family. I say, Sir, that too many young women are leaving the schools every year without any hope of gaining employment, and that only means an increase in the already existing problems which we have. We cannot educate the population without making provision for the promotion of such an important system of education. While I am on that point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I have always felt that because of the adaptability of the Barbadian to anything when he goes abroad, he makes himself efficient as a worker and that being so, I feel that Barbados should be the supplying centre for technical workmen not only in the West Indies but further afield; and whatever you might spend on education and you did not include provision for a technical college at which potential emigrants would qualify, you are doing nothing. What I have observed, Sir, is the limited number of technical workmen alongside the large population which we have, and no expenditure can be considered too much if the money is intelligently spent on the setting up of a technical school. The cost of living goes up higher when the artistic change is only held in the hands of a few of our workers.

I say, Sir, that the population pressure makes housing more difficult and I had hoped to see a greater provision made in the Estimates whereby not only agricultural workers but other people in the lower brackets would be assisted by way of loans. However, regardless of whatever housing plans you might resort to in future, housing must be retarded if you do not apply yourself to a land policy. There are many people who have a little means of buying their own homes, but because of the difficulty of getting land on which they might put their houses, grown-up sons and daughters are forced to live in the already small houses of their parents; they are forced to spend what little money they might have been able to save and that does not help them to improve their position. The Government have always said that they intended to make it possible to bring about a scheme for the redistribution of the landed area in this community, but, in my opinion, they have failed to make the scheme more practical than it has been. The Government have failed to take over the estates of absentee proprietors who are at present in England disposing of thousands of acres of their holdings; they have failed to tell these absentee proprietors: "If you have so much land that you are forced to dispossess yourselves of so many acres of it in the Mother Country, well we have a population pressure which forces our problems to become greater, and therefore we are asking you to release those acres which have been bequeathed to you and which you do not know anything about." It would be nothing wrong to ask

them to do that, but the matter needs greater boldness; it needs the consciousness of our responsibility, otherwise, God help the future of this colony and posterity. On many occasions in the past, suggestions have been made in and out of this House; here is an opportunity to solve your land problem. It does not mean that you are expropriating unreasonably the holdings of somebody who has sacrificed his energy, sweat and toil to obtain those broad acres which we have seen in our colony and which in some cases, are owned by people who have not toiled for them. Those acres were acquired at an early time in the history of this colony and some of the present owners who are not now in the colony do not know where those acres are, and annually thousands of pounds find their way out of this colony into the pockets of persons in other places. Such persons are already too rich at the expense of the resources and sustenance of this colony which are very small as compared with what the colony, is expected to offer by way of maintaining a heavily-pressed population. Sir, not only have we failed to stop these sums of money from going overseas annually, but we are perpetuating a system whereby persons are permitted to come in here in a day like this and buy up several acres of our limited land area, not for the purpose of intensifying our food production, but for the purpose of planting all sorts of things where real food crops should be produced. Whatever honourable members might feel as regards the freedom of a man to invest his pounds as he cares to do, the policy which I have just mentioned is a wrong one. If these wealthy people want to buy our land we should see to it that they put it to the use of increasing our food production so as to reduce the high cost of living which is consequent upon the importation of stuff for which our hard-pressed population has to pay. That is only a means of subsidising labour elsewhere which is highly paid and which is in a better position than we can ever hope to be. For instance, just a few weeks ago we have been unable to get a tin of condensed milk on which many a poor mother depends because she cannot afford to buy fresh milk daily; and even if she were able to buy it she would not get it because of our limited supplies. If you look at the Customs Report you must observe that we are spending thousands of pounds annually on the importation of this item, condensed milk, and its by-products. What is more, under the nutrition scheme for Elementary Schools, the Government was calling for tenders for the supply of 80 tons of powdered milk. I know as a small trader that powdered milk is being sold at \$1.00 per pound, sometimes more, and on that scheme which is nothing to do with what the whole population consumes, you can see what a large amount this Government is spending under that one head.

Now from the time when I first came into this House, I have suggested every time we discussed the Estimates, that there is the necessity for spending a definite sum of money which would assist in building up a large peasantry, because, regardless of the number of acres which the large plantation owners control, they are not bent, although it should be so, on producing food for the maintenance of the population. I have heard it mentioned on several occasions by big landowners that it is better to buy a pint of milk than to keep a cow; and it is better to buy an orange than to rear an orange tree. All these things show the necessity for the Government to maintain a strong hand in demanding that those who own and monopolize an area in any colony must and are expected to produce the food on which the population must exist, if they do not want to come under State ownership. That is what the position should

be; but instead of that, we have noticed in a Message which has been sent to this House, that we have been asked to provide a certain sum of money for the purpose of putting down a pasteurising plant, and provision has been made for the machinery. Now we all know that if orders are given for machinery to-day, we have to wait for two or three years before that machinery is delivered by the manufacturers; and besides that, I feel that we are approaching the matter from the wrong end inasmuch as if the policy which has been intimated in the Message to this House were to be carried out, it means that you are going to have the plant set up before you have the increased supply of the raw materials in connection with which the plants were asked for. I feel that the first thing that should have been done is to provide sums of money from which loans could be made to every worker, every peasant proprietor who shows his desire to obtain such loans for the purpose of buying stock. As a young chap being reared in an agricultural district, I often saw workers grazing cows on afternoons—cows which are given to them to be kept for part of the increase or cows which they bought with their savings. By that method you have been able to build up a section of industrial workers; that industry of the worker is still there, but it is suppressed by the difficulty of getting room for expansion especially in the country districts. Those points have been made over and over again, and even now that the Government is implementing the suggestion of setting up a plant which would preserve and dispose of any surplus milk which we might have, we are still without any provision for the cultivation of that peasant proprietorship which has been asked for, and by which you would be able to get a greater increase in the production of the raw material, so that when this plant is set up you would have something beneficial to work upon.

There is another question to which I would like to refer, and it is this; since this Labour Welfare Fund is being made available to the workers, it has shown up the congestion which exists in the country areas. In making up some reports I have found that as many as ten persons occupy a house of the size of 12 x 8, and it is fortunate that the average Barbadian does not spend the most of his hours indoors, but he goes indoors when it is time to sleep, and that has really helped us to keep down the incidence of disease. Be that as it may, you cannot close your eyes and expect things to adjust themselves, because the position is going to become more acute. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are some people who have a little money, and who would be willing to build a little house of their own; but they are prevented from doing so because they are unable to get any land at all on which to place it. I must express my feelings on this matter when I notice that in the Estimates provision has been made for the purchase of some acres of land in St. Lucy and the explanatory note reads that this land is for rural housing. I cannot console myself with the integrity aback of this action. It is not that I feel that the housing programme should not be carried to the country districts, but I have not been able to know of any beginning being made in connection with the purchase of any land in St. Lucy. That causes me to feel that just a couple of weeks ago a similar suggestion as to the purchase of land was made legislatively, and I do not think I am divulging any secret when I tell you that the Head of the Administration had intimated to me that he was not against that suggestion.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. Your Honour has not stopped the honourable member, but he knows that he is breaking the rule. He should not

use the name of the Governor for the purpose of influencing the debate, and that is exactly what he is doing.

Mr. ALLDER: I feel that the blame is to be laid on us here, and it is unfortunately so; because we, the Labour Party, have always proposed a certain policy. I have in my hand a leaflet which puts before the public the policy of my Party which is in power (Laughter) and it speaks of a re-distribution of the landed area so as to help those dispossessed persons to own some of the land in this colony, which would help them to feel that they are true citizens and so on. As regards housing, it says this:

"The League has a well-planned Slum Clearance and Housing Scheme for the whole island, city and country alike, by which it will remove the broken down shacks in which the people are now housed, and abolish the system whereby general decay in health and morals quickly and inevitably sets in."

The presentation of that leaflet to the public preceded the asking for the purchase of a tenantry in a rural area with a pressing population. The honourable senior member for St. Michael has made some disparaging suggestion about asking the owner of this tenantry to sell it cheaply. I must disclose that when I was about to introduce the Address in this House asking the Government to buy that tenantry I telephoned the owner of it and he told me that if the assessors made too high an assessment of the land—the Government has made it legal for assessors to make an assessment of land when it is to be sold—he would not sell it. Whether he meant that or not, he told me that, and the honourable senior member for the City, who expects to sell the tenantry, told me not long ago that the owner is willing to negotiate with the Government over the sale of this land, to sell it to them as cheaply as possible, because he does not wish the public to feel that he is exploiting the Government or any other person who might be purchasing this land. The honourable senior member for St. Michael is still asking me "What price". Well, the price could not be as much as what this Government has paid for land in this colony, especially as recently as these socialistic principles have been preached. This tenantry could never cost as much as what less than a quarter of an acre of land just a couple of hundred yards away from here cost; that cost more than what Bulkeley Estate cost when the present owners bought it. I do not mind the sneers of certain honourable members who should be gathering some commonsense which I know would help them to shoulder their true responsibility, because it seems as if they would not be affected however rotten the state of the community might become. I think I have seen the fate of irresponsible persons who say that they want to pull the people forward; they are so irresponsible that they fail to hear the humble opinions of persons who sit down and try to study by what means the colony and its population can be relieved of the present conditions which, I feel, no people should be forced to suffer to-day. They feel that they alone have knowledge, that they alone are sensible as to the course of action which would tend to keep things in check. Nature abhors inaction.

I have expressed my willingness to forget those who I feel are responsible for not buying Rosegate Tenantry because they have caused me to believe a policy which they have pronounced as being theirs, and which, I was impressed, meant to extend any scheme which they initiate in the metropolitan parish to the rural parishes where the people suffer greatly. And that suffering could not be worse than it is in the parish of St. John. That might sound like parochialism, but I cannot help it. It is because I have studied the problems of that parish thoroughly, and they remind me forcibly of a relic of slavery. I

have found that the bulk of the land is owned by rich planters who refuse to release one foot of it, and I felt it a God-send when the present owner of Rosegate Tenantry intimated that he wanted to sell it. A man like this, who, I am told, practices religion, would naturally be willing to release himself of such a fertile bit of land. I have spoken with some of the occupants of this land, and they tell me that they have been able to get an average of 30 tons of canes per acre. I feel that these people should be encouraged by the Government securing for them their present holdings; to refuse to do that without any excuse is just an attempt to penalise somebody.

As regards the question of taxation, I feel that many people who should be paying income tax escape paying it. That is a fact. I believe in equitable taxation; the individual who cannot afford to pay more than a half penny should pay it, and the individual who can afford to pay a pound should pay it. I feel that the Income Tax Department definitely needs some overhauling. I have noticed, Sir, that during the last financial year, large sums of money have been spent, but too few people of the population have been able to benefit from the expenditure of those sums of money. I notice that we have spent in the vicinity of one and a half million dollars on Seawell; when the Resolution in that connection was first introduced in this House, the public received it with a certain amount of enthusiasm, feeling that within a few weeks' time many people would have been able to get employment. But the result was that I have failed to see any woman buy an extra dress, or chair for herself, or an extra pair of shoes for her child as a result of her husband or her son being employed on this scheme which cost us so much. It shows, Sir, how cheap money has become. However, it was the general feeling that the Agreement which was entered into with the Contractors at the time lacked in certain demands, inasmuch as it was not stipulated how many of the workers to be employed were to be of Barbadian origin, or how many were to be of Trinidad origin. The result was that many lorry drivers and other employees were brought up from Trinidad at the expense of local persons who would have had the opportunity of earning some of the money which was spent up there. Hopes were thrown to the wall in that respect, but it is advisable for us to be very particular in any future scheme which might call for capital works. Not only should such schemes be brought about, which would be for the benefit of the community, but we should make sure that a greater income is distributed among the workers. In this connection I must agree with those previous speakers who have expressed disappointment at not seeing a token vote, at least, being put down for the construction of a Deep Water Harbour. In my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, the construction of such a Harbour must mean much to the colony, and especially the unemployed. We cannot go on from day to day in the uncertain position of having to compete against Trinidad, and I am told against St. Lucia, in respect of getting ships to come to our port and discharge their cargo out of which we get revenue. This is an age of competition, however, and the country which does not compete and offer its wares to the world, must take second place.

There is another important factor which we have failed to consider fully, and that is the question of industrialisation. I always felt that Barbados, because of its organized and orderly labour forces, its pressing population and the adaptability of its workers, should have afforded us to become the Hong Kong of the West Indies. We do not have that large land area on which we can depend for our maintenance, and it is a waste of time our thinking that we can

maintain our ever increasing population on the production of the limited land area which we have. Unfortunately for us, other colonies like Jamaica, Trinidad and Demerara have gone ahead of us, and in respect of every possible industry that you can think of, they have already initiated schemes. That makes us consumers instead of producers, and although they are making or forcing us to be consumers, they are closing their doors against our nationals who might be able to go out and take part in the promotion of the industries which they are setting up to our advantage. The beer industry, the textile industry, the cement industry, the glass industry—all those industries are not put on the credit side of Barbados, but on the credit side of other colonies under the guise of a unified West Indies. That is what is happening; that is what we are getting in all the talk about federation. I believe in being practical; I cannot find it possible to appreciate things theoretically. I have heard many remarks made as regards the large expenditure which we have carried out, to the effect that there have not been any beneficial results to the people, and that is true. We must realise that it is true; our educational set-up has been put back and it has been so harmed that we might be unable to recover from the effects. All that has come about through one man and that officer has left the colony with a very cordial farewell. He was given three months' pre-retirement leave with salary and his name was entered in the social columns of the leading newspaper; but he has done harm and the fault is not his. I believe that greater scrutiny should be maintained in these Departments by the "Ministers" who are responsible, but the "Ministers" have often tried in this House to defend Heads of Departments. There is one other suggestion which I would like to make; I have visited the Catholic Church in Jemmott's Lane and I have noticed that the Government, who has been in control of a lot of Army huts at Seawell and the Garrison, has allowed those huts to be sold at ridiculous prices. I have also noticed that the Catholic people have been able to acquire a couple of the huts and they have been able to erect a very good school aback of their Church; that school offers ample accommodation for an increased number of children. I have suggested that expensive stone and mortar does not mean an increased standard of education, and therefore in a tropical climate the cost of our buildings should not be allowed to detract from the general extension of our educational facilities. Besides that, I have noticed that some private secondary schools are forced to turn back as many children as those who are turned back by some of the Government secondary schools. That might be admirable for the individual teacher who is so enterprising as to start a secondary school, so great are the demands for an extension of school facilities; but it is not a proper thing to be attached to the fair name of any far-seeing Government whatsoever. Therefore, if school facilities are to be improved within a short time there are many Government buildings like the Girls' Infirmary in St. Philip which could be used. This Infirmary now has less than nine inmates—as a matter of fact, there are more officers attached to that Institution than there are inmates. Every improvement in the facilities for schools is done in St. Michael, but that does not help to bring down the cost of living for the majority of pupils who come from the outlying parishes; because at least if the cost of travelling to and from school for the children who come from the country were to be removed, that would mean a lot of help to the parents who only try to follow the usual custom of society by sending their children to these schools in Bridgetown. I feel that any scheme for the decentralization of the social services would help to solve

the problem of congestion and overlapping in the metropolitan parish. The Government owns a block of buildings in St. Philip and they are all closed down. I am wondering if the members of the Government observe things when they are driving around; the Government already spends a decent sum of money on the Lodge School and the demand there is very great. I can say that no advantage can be taken of any boy because of the difference in pigmentation; no excuse, unless on reasonable grounds, can be given for not boarding a coloured boy. I say that with the expenditure of a few thousand pounds, you could extend the present buildings at the Lodge School so that children who live in the adjoining parishes would be able to ride or walk over to that school easily instead of having to come to Bridgetown. Not only could the Lodge School be made as attractive as ever, but it could be used as a dollar earning Institution because of the fact that people from other places are willing to send their children to this School to be educated; and if the American dollar means as much to us as I have heard honourable members say it means then we should try, by all means, to get as many of these dollars as possible. My suggestion of extending the present buildings at the Lodge School is more easily workable than the suggestion of setting up a new secondary school in any area of the country which school might be within just a few miles of the Lodge School.

The members of the Opposition have made a suggestion in respect of the Constitution Swamp; it has been suggested that a few suck wells should be dug and they would take off the flood water. However, in my opinion, that would be a waste of money inasmuch as millions of gallons of water go down that area, and shortly after the beginning of a heavy rainfall the suck wells must be filled and you will have the difficulty from which you have been suffering all along. I would prefer to know that whatever might be intended to be spent for the improvement of this area, it would be spent under the scheme for the construction of a Deep Water Harbour. I do not know if it would take as small an amount of money as we can afford to reclaim the land up there, or if the land would be so valuable as to reimburse us with the amount we spend on it. I feel, however, that there are more pressing things to be done than the Constitution Swamp and that this question has been played up too much.

It has been said years ago that because of the attachment of the Anglican Church to the State, the Church Authorities have not been able to carry out their functions unhindered. I have the tendency to agree with that proposition, and I hate to know that popular things are only played up for political reasons. Long before I had the honour of being a member of this House, I had been hearing about the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church, and I am told that this is the only British possession where such a system exists. I agree that if the State were relieved of the large expenditure on the upkeep of the Anglican Church, the money could be used for the purpose of improving our social services. That would be more beneficial to the colony, because no matter how many Churches you have and no matter how many times the preachers implore their audiences to be moral, they cannot be moral unless their economic and social conditions can be improved; and the greatest instrument by which the population can improve itself is the moral instrument which can be found in the home. That is where you get the basis for people becoming cultured. The amount which is spent on the Anglican Church is increasing gradually and we should reach some saturation point; I

think that we should relieve ourselves by a gradual process of disendowment and disestablishment of the Church. That is one of the things for which I had hoped to see provision made in the Estimates.

Another matter is that of our Agricultural Department. That Department costs us a lot of money to maintain it and I fail to see the benefits accruing to the community as a result of the upkeep of that Department. It is true that that Department helps the sugar industry, but as regards giving encouragement to a scheme for food production, I fail to see the results in this direction. I suppose some honourable members might feel that the setting up of a couple of Agricultural Stations here and there in the colony is sufficient encouragement to food production, but what I want to see is definite action being taken by the Legislature; I want to see a law put on the Statute Book providing a sufficient amount of money whereby we can obtain the means for the production of more food. That will mean providing an opportunity for the employment of more of our population and also preventing as much money from going out of the colony into the pockets of overseas producers as has been going in that direction. We want to help people to produce their own food; there are people who may have a lot of land, but they do not want to cultivate it because they can purchase commodities in the market and carry up the cost of those commodities to the small people who have not got the means to buy them.

There are more points which I have to make and I prefer to make them when we come to the various Heads of the Estimates; but I must say that we have been warned of a possible increase in the cost of living as a result of the cost of certain subsidized items being carried up a half cent and a cent per pound. I disagree with that inasmuch as we have not been able to offset that difficulty by the local production of the items involved. I feel that increasing the cost of these items should be left out until doing that will not fall heavily on the consumer. I was glad to hear the Leader of the House mention that the Government intends to subsidize the keeping of pigs, but I was not able to hear what policy is going to be adopted in so doing. It would be a good idea to subsidize the keeping of pigs because I have always felt that the extra area of land which is not cultivable should be used for the rearing of stock, and we would be able to get meat in a larger quantity than has been the case in the past. That is one thing for which, if it is implemented, I would express my gratitude; and

besides that, I hope that the question of an intensive scheme of food production will be gone into. We should not depend upon the pasteurizing plant which might come into existence within the next two or three years; we should start now and make loans to workers who would in turn be able to produce a great proportion of the food upon which the population depends.

Mr. MAPP: It is nearly midnight and while I do not want to take up much of the time of the House, yet there are a few points which I want to make in connection with the Budget. This is not a Budget which we could term as a very optimistic one, but the honourable Leader of the House has mentioned some of the things which the Government is considering, and one of those things is the question of the fiscal survey. Last year Professor Beasley did not see his way to produce this survey, and little did we expect that it would not have been produced this year. As the position is, this fiscal survey has not been forthcoming, and I think we are assured that it will soon be produced. I feel that if the production of this survey is delayed until the crop season is over, with the increasing cost of living and the Government being unable to plan some scheme, then I say that the outlook is very dark indeed. I think that we would be well advised to go ahead with the production of the fiscal survey. In these Estimates it will be seen that almost 20% of the expenditure is allocated to "Education", "Medical Departments" come next and it is the Capital Estimates which reflect the Government's policy. In the Capital Estimates provision is made in respect of housing, but I frankly am disappointed that the Government could not see its way to spend even more on housing in the country areas. Last year a definite amount for housing in the rural areas was included in the Estimates, but, so far, what has been done is almost negligible.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I hope that I am in order. I want to move the adjournment of the House because everybody is tired; the adjournment takes precedence over everything. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, the 13th instant, at 3 p.m.

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

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th March, 1951.

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

Present:

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

Prayers were read.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES.

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

DOCUMENTS.

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

Financial Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the month of February, 1951.

Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of Christ Church for the year 1950.

LEAVE TO THE AUDITOR OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from Mr. P. D. McDermott, Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, applying for leave of absence from the 12th of April, to the 12th August, and asking that Mr. Lewis be allowed to audit the books. The letter reads as follows:—

Barelay's Bank Building,
Bridgetown,
Barbados, B.W.I.
12th March, 1951.

K. Husbands, Esq., M.C.P.,
Speaker, The House of Assembly,
Public Buildings,
Bridgetown.

Dear Sir,

I wish to apply for leave of absence for the period 12th April to the 12th August, 1951, when I shall be going on leave to the United Kingdom.

In my absence the Trinidad partners will be looking after my business and my Chief Clerk, Mr. Lewis, will carry out an Interim Audit of the Books.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

P. D. McDERMOTT,
Auditor.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that the Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank be granted leave of absence in accordance with his request from the 12th April to the 12th August, and that the Chief Clerk of his firm, Mr. Lewis, be appointed to audit the books of the Bank in the interim.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—It might be considered a trivial matter to some honourable members, but may I just draw your attention to the manner in which this letter has been addressed to you? This gentleman should know better than to address this letter to the Speaker of the Barbados House of Assembly in the informal manner in which he has done it. Some people in this country do not know how to do things; this letter is addressed: "K. Husbands, Esquire, M.C.P." and ends: "I have the honour to be, Yours faithfully." That is not good enough and I take the opportunity of pointing that out.

The question that leave of absence be granted Mr. McDermott and that Mr. Lewis be allowed to audit the books was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE ESTIMATES 1951—52.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume debate on the motion that I do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the year 1951-52. On the adjournment on the last occasion, the honourable junior member for St. Thomas was speaking.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,—When the House was adjourned on the last occasion, I was attempting to draw attention to the fact that the Budget is not an optimistic one, that the Government was fully realistic about the matter and in their Memorandum they have referred to the delay with regard to the Fiscal Report to be submitted by Professor Beasley. On that point I cannot help

agreeing with the Leader of the Opposition that this Fiscal Survey seems to be unduly long in forthcoming. While the Leader of the House was very definite in saying he was sure that this Fiscal Survey would be ready in the very near future, that we would see it almost tomorrow, so to speak, yet, Sir, taking into account the circumstances and conditions under which we exist in the West Indies at present, I can only say that hope deferred truly maketh the heart sick. I cannot help stressing the fact that an Organization like the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization should be aware of our difficulty in the West Indies; in this colony there are grave conditions obtaining and there are weighty problems in respect of which the Government must rely upon the officers and experts of that Organization for assistance in its attempt to discharge the duty which devolves upon it—the duty of approaching these problems in a bold and active manner. I need hardly stress the fact that delay is dangerous and the longer we delay in making proper plans to meet the situation, the heavier our responsibilities and our problems will become. I can only hope that we will see this will o' the wisp Survey produced in the very near future.

Now, Sir, it has been interesting to listen to some of the comments from the other side on this Budget. We have had such a term as "colossal expenditure" applied to it; the Government has been attacked by some people for spending too much money on one hand, and on the other hand it has been asked by the same people to actually allow income tax exemption and free importation of materials for hotels and of items connected with the tourist industry. They are saying that the Government is spending too much, and yet they are asking the Government to let foreign capital come in, so that the little revenue which could be obtained from these capitalists must not be obtained and the already slender resources of the Government must be depleted. Well, Sir, I do not think that the public of Barbados will view such an argument with any concern, because, fortunately for us, the proponents of such an argument are not in the Government today; but I can hardly envisage a more anti-social argument than that we should help the hotel industry to such an extent. It is alright to say that the national income should be increased, but the policy of this Government is not only to see that the national income is increased, but that it is properly distributed. If the national income is increased and it is not equitably distributed, then the last state will be worse than the first. Should we help capitalists to come in and then find that the slum areas around these tourist resorts are the worst in the world? Ask anybody who has travelled to Jamaica and he will tell you what the position there is; no country should attract dollars in any manner. You should get the most you can and when it comes, see that it is properly distributed. I cannot see that the policy advanced by the other side can assist us in that respect; that policy will only make matters worse. We have heard the cry that taxation has reached saturation point, but we have not seen that cry borne out. If we compare some figures in relation to the number of income taxpayers between 1942 and 1949, we can see that the policy of this Government has been reflected in a better distribution of the national income. The figures for 1949—50 show that in the £200 bracket the number of persons paying income tax was 2,594 as against 1,202 in 1942. That means that there was an increase of 1,392 persons paying income tax in that bracket in these seven years from 1942 until 1949. In the next bracket—the £400 bracket—there was an increase of 248 persons over those seven years. There was a

surprising decrease in the £600 bracket, a decrease of 150 persons who paid income tax over that period, but that decrease was partly made up for by increases in the other brackets from £600 to over £5,000. That will show, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a more equitable redistribution of income in this colony during the years from 1942 until 1949, and I need hardly say that that is due to the policy of the Labour Government in maintaining its income tax rates on persons and companies in its fight for better wages for the people of this colony. That is a fight which we must continue in spite of cries of heavy taxation and the cries that industries in this colony cannot bear any more income tax at all. The honourable Leader of the House has said that the cost of certain items—Grade "E" Flour and salt pork — would be increased in the very near future; we know, Sir, that the price of clothing has increased in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world, and, of course, prices will be advanced here as well. The prices of shingles and of other items have already been increased, due mainly to devaluation of the pound sterling, and that is going to result in a big increase in our cost of living which is tremendously high at present. I might state here that the British Government has increased the amount paid for sugar by \$2.10 per ton this year, and owing to the efforts of the Barbados Workers' Union, part of that increase will go in the wages of labourers in the sugar industry.

I have it in mind that the Fiscal Survey is yet forthcoming, and although that is so, I still ask in all seriousness what is going to happen to the people who are not directly employed in the sugar industry, people who are employed in the Government Departments in this colony and who are employed as clerks in the stores in Bridgetown? Surely Sir, if we claim that this colony depends on sugar and its by-products for the existence of the inhabitants, and that due to devaluation and control policy of the United Kingdom Government there has been an increase in the cost of living, that increase must be offset by increases on our exports. I should like to say that if those exports receive such increases the only way we can pass on those increases to the people in the form of wages or social services is by way of increased taxation.

When Mr. Benham was here in 1942, he found that sugar, fancy molasses and rum accounted for most of our national income. The production of sugar that year was 81,000 tons, but in the past two years it has been twice that amount, over 160,000 tons. This year another big crop is expected, again twice as much as was obtained in 1942, and what is the position concerning the taxation of those industries which some people would have us believe are so heavily taxed? The position, Sir, is that the excise duty on rum—I remind honourable members that that is not a duty which is passed on to consumers in this colony. I say that because I heard one honourable member say that our customs and excise duties are somewhat heavy for the people of this colony. However, the excise duty on rum in 1942 was 12/8½d. per proof gallon; in Jamaica it was 23/4 and in Trinidad it was 25/-. That is in respect of one of the by-products of the main industry which this colony enjoys, and I say again that the tonnage then was only half of what the production is now. Recently there has been a great cry that this colony cannot bear any more taxation as I have already said, and the public is told that the increased cost of living is due to the present taxation policy, which is a joke. Sir, regard being paid to the cry that there should not be any increased taxation will adversely affect the people of this colony; it is a cry which should not be noticed by the Government. I

feel sure that when the Fiscal Survey is obtained, the Government will not hesitate to ignore that cry and do their duty to the people of the colony. If you compare the bonuses paid by certain firms to some of their employees at Christmas time last year and the year before last, with what they paid before, you would think, Sir that this was not Barbados. Some Government servants have met and told me that they should get a job with some private firms because the salaries and bonuses paid by these firms are far above the salaries paid to Government servants in the lower brackets. I repeat that the only way in which we can distribute the increased income which we are now receiving as a result of the increase given by the British Government for sugar is by an increase in taxation. As has been pronounced by the honourable Leader of the House, when the going is good it is clear that we should collect as much taxation as possible; that is a sound policy of taxation so as to offset bad years. In order to keep up their social work and in order that the standard of living of the people should not drop, the Government will have to increase taxation when the going is good. It is a sound policy to increase taxation in good times otherwise what will happen if a hurricane or drought hits this island? In that case we would have to grin and bear it tremendously whereas in good years we could have increased taxation so as to meet any eventuality. The cry of overburdening taxation is only an attempt to put the Government in hot water.

There is one point, Mr. Speaker, which I would like to stress with regard to one of the proposals as outlined in the Memorandum accompanying the Estimates, and it is in connection with the contribution to be made to the Capital Estimates from current revenue. I have heard the argument raised by a member from the other side in a previous Budget against a contribution being made to the Capital Estimates from current revenue. The contribution was reduced from \$250,000 which was made in 1949-50 to \$100,000 in the current year and now it has been put back at the figure of \$250,000. I remember well that a member of the Opposition said that the Government was juggling with figures, and that this contribution could well be taken from General Revenue balance or from loan funds. It was apparent at the time that the policy of the Opposition was to keep down current expenditure, because when revenue is taken from past years and current expenditure is kept down, there would be no question of raising additional taxation. Now, Sir, I am throwing out the suggestion that the policy of contributing this amount or an amount to this extent from current estimates or a contribution to capital expenditure from current revenue should be watched very carefully; but the policy of contributing something from the past, something from the present and something from the future is theoretically sound. We know that it is a sound policy that generations to come should help pay for something that they will enjoy, especially if it is productive of revenue which could be used to offset the interest which has to be paid on that loan. The argument that you should only take something from the past and the present as a contribution to capital expenditure, is, in my opinion, not a sound one, because, in reality, the past is the present. I say "in reality" because we of the present generation have contributed to the past; it is a fact that if you take much from current revenue to spend on requirements for the year, if you put much out of current revenue against capital expenditure, you will find that you

will have to forego some of the social requirements that should be provided for out of current revenue. If you start with the theory that only the past and the present will have to contribute to capital expenditure, you are going to find yourself faced with the difficulty either of having at some future date to find vast additional sources of revenue to meet current expenses, or of having to reduce current expenses to suit what might be diminishing current revenue. That is why I throw out the warning that the policy of contributing to capital expenditure from current revenue should be watched very carefully. To my mind, it is far better to provide for capital expenditure by way of loans or out of revenue balance rather than from current revenue because there are many things that can be done out of current revenue with an amount such as this \$250,000. There are many schemes which have been suggested; schemes have been advanced recently by the West Indian Teachers' Conference in British Guiana and schemes have been advanced in times past in this place—schemes which should be considered by the Director of Education. There are also matters in connection with housing and when you consider the amount which is required for these schemes it is better to borrow money to deal with them than have to make the contribution from current revenue. I hope that the Government will re-examine its policy in that respect.

On the question of education, I would just like to say a word or two. I remember that an honourable member—I think it was the honourable senior member for St. John—made a suggestion which had already been referred to by the honourable Leader of the House, and at least the Government should carry it out; it is that you do not need any expensive buildings in which to teach children. In fact the honourable member said that you can teach them under the trees. Criticism has been made about the non-introduction of a system of compulsory education, but doubtless, Sir, the effects of a system of compulsory education must be studied from the angle as to how many children will be admitted, the financial effect on the parents of the children and the number of schools that will be required. As to the matter of age-grouping, that is a matter to which I have already drawn the attention of the Government; I cannot see that it is wise to continue such a policy when you know that the essentials by which this policy must be worked out in the schools are lacking. In reply to Questions which I tabled, the Government said that the teachers or the majority of them, were in favour of retaining this system of age-grouping. Well, Sir, I can only say that the majority of the teachers are still supine, they are still too weak-kneed to tell the Director of Education what is really in their minds; they will meet you outside and tell you one thing, and probably when they get a circular from the Director of Education, they will tell him another thing. It is a fact and a remarkable coincidence that since this system of age-grouping has been in vogue, the number of children from elementary schools, who have passed primary to second grade exams in one year can be counted on the fingers of one hand. That is something remarkable if we take into account the position which this colony has reached in the realm of education and our reputation for standards of education. Those facts are unchallengeable, and I say it is a remarkable coincidence that this state of affairs has taken place after this system of age-grouping was introduced. The teachers who replied to the Director of Education that the

majority of them are in favour of retaining age-grouping are afraid to speak their minds; but they should tell the Director of Education what the facts are. I have spoken with headmasters who are as responsible as any others in any part of the world and who have as much love for education as any others; I have spoken with the Secretary of the Caribbean Teachers' Association and none of these teachers has denied that without the prerequisites of proper staff and accommodation in the schools, this system of age-grouping would never work properly. It is a known fact that when we had the previous Director of Education, a certain official at the top threatened to resign, and the teachers in this colony would have been glad if he had resigned. He did not resign and today he is far from resigning because his advice is taken in respect of everything. His advice should be ignored. You were a teacher, Mr. Speaker, and I was one; we have worked in the profession and we know the people that we were up against and who this Government is up against, and I say Sir, that if this colony is to go forward educationally, there are some officials in that Department who should be weeded out at the earliest possible opportunity. I look forward to the day when we can have a Minister in charge of that Department, who can go into it, turn it upside down and root out the old material. You cannot hope to put new wine in old bottles; I say that if we want to get proper results for our expenditure on the Department of Education, we have to turn it upside down. Can you imagine a Director of Education asking for certain information concerning mental capabilities and other things apparently only from an academic point of view without any hope of ever putting such information to any use? There are certain requirements, certain duties, certain burdens which are put on headteachers when they do not have the enlightenment to carry them to their proper conclusion; they start at the wrong end first. I hope however the points which I have raised will be attended to in the near future.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat while Mr. MAPP was speaking.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,—I shall not be long in speaking. I want to make a few points in connection with this Budget and I would like it to go on record that I am somewhat disappointed about certain things. As a matter of fact, I was hoping that the Government would have shown a greater display of enterprise since we have had successful crops. From the speeches that were made yesterday, everybody on the other side of the House seems to be very happy, especially towards the imaginary one responsible for the preparation of the Memorandum accompanying the Estimates, but I think that the Government will have to exercise much caution having regard to the fact that if we should run into a bad year, it will be really difficult to cope with the situation. I am convinced that the display of the Opposition in accepting this Budget is because of a selfish attitude, and I feel that the Government should take hold of the bull by its horns. I feel that we still have the answer to economic slavery; we need to obtain more revenue from taxation and I think that this money is still available.

I ask the Government to examine this question of education. The mishap in connection with the Architect and Planning Officer, Mr. Crowe, has, to some extent, deferred our plans where education is concerned, but right now the Government should embark on a scheme of compulsory education in St. Michael. In this parish, by the time we get two of these major schools, we could bring about compulsory education. It is our policy, it is true, that

compulsory education should apply to the island generally, but I am sure that it would take a tremendous amount of engineering to have it applied to the island as a whole. However, I repeat that in St. Michael, right now we could embark on a system of compulsory education.

On the question of the supply of textbooks, I should like to mention that children attending the schools are faced with the problem of getting these textbooks. Sometimes a whole term passes before the children get their textbooks and I am asking the Government to consider obtaining these books from any place whence they can be obtained and so help the school children. I think that that has now become the responsibility of the Government.

Relative to the matter of taxation, I certainly feel that we could add another 30% or 33% by way of Income Tax in this colony, and as regards Death Duties, I am wondering if the Government is not concerned about imposing higher rates. In other countries I think very much more is paid and the Government should look in that channel for increases. The question of a greater tax on companies is one that has been hanging fire for a long time in this colony; I am wondering if the Government is not concerned about a greater collection of taxation from companies and the collection of a luxury tax. There is also the question of a tonnage tax on sugar exported from this island, a channel which is only a seasonal one, but it is a channel through which the Government can add another million dollars to its Budget. That is only a suggestion and as far as I am concerned, it is a matter about which, if I had my way, I know what I would do.

I should like to say as regards Government Departments, that some of them are certainly overcrowded and top-heavy, carrying four or five kingpins at the top. Take for instance, the Auditor General's Office. You have Mr. Gittens, a perfectly efficient man, a man who has been functioning in that office for some time as Auditor General; but I notice that he has been forced into the second position. In the Income Tax Department, it is fortunate that we have Mr. Clairmonte and we also have Mr. Osborne who is a trained man, but he is going to be forced into the second position. I think that the Government should carefully examine what is happening in these Departments. Look at what has happened at the Department of Science and Agriculture! I say with some compunction that whereas the Government used to collect something like \$7,000 a year in respect of sugar samples, now that has gone to private enterprise. I do not know that that could happen with any Government except that of Barbados; my feeling is that while we are losing about \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year in respect of sugar samples we have lost a very efficient man in that Department—a man who has been seconded by the Government to private enterprise. We want to encourage certain things, but at the same time other things happen that we do not seem to be able to explain. I have been searching in my mind how it could happen that a man who has worked in a department for several years—he is a genius in the department—and now you find that he has been seconded by the Government to private enterprise, and this private enterprise is costing the Government \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year. Sir, it does leave some room for doubt and for anxiety when you realise that a member of an important Government Department—one of the experts—has been seconded from that Department to private enterprise. Well Sir, as I have said, if I had my way in the Government, I would have Mr. Gittens appointed Auditor General. This man has been employed in that Department

for some time, he has convinced the Government that he is a capable man but he has been shifted to the second place. Somebody is coming up, and I suppose he is an Englishman. I hope that the Leader of the House will explain the position because I do not seem to understand it. I say that we have been fortunate to have Mr. Clairmonte as Income Tax Commissioner, and now we have Mr. Osborne, a young man who has been trained, one who is full of life and energy, you find that he is going to be forced into the second position. I feel that there is the need of a reduction of some of the people who are highly-placed and this is the time for us to go forward with that.

This is the third year of a successful crop which we have had and I feel that the Government should realise what we have to do; we have to consider the building of schools and bringing about compulsory education. We find that the City is expanding and places are being crowded by businesses and you might soon have to sell the Cathedral because that might be more profitable to enterprise. Honourable members might not agree with me, but that is my individuality and that is how I feel. I am only asking the Government to consider what I am saying; I know that I am utterly powerless. I certainly feel that right now the Government could raise half a million dollars by way of land tax. Why should there not be a land tax? We have come here on the votes of the people in the gutter, and I feel that now we are here we should find ways and means of helping those people. We should increase the rates of income tax in the higher brackets and I would say that right now the middle class man is suffering. I hear a little laughter but I repeat that new businesses are being opened and we could raise more money from income tax overnight. I am not criticising the Government; I realise that the Government has to be cautious, but you can be over-cautious. I feel that at least this is one good year when we could have made anything like a twelve-million dollar Budget. As has already been said, there is no token vote for a Harbour Scheme put down in these Estimates. I might state here that in England in 1946 you found a Labour Government coming into power displacing a Tory set-up which felt that there should always be a Tory set-up; and what is happening to-day in this colony is that Heads of Departments are criticizing the Government which is a Labour Government! I might also state here that I would like the Government to conduct an enquiry relative to the Department of Highways and Transport; the roads which are being done to-day with eighteen rollers happen to be less than in an age when there were only four. I want to say that we were brought in here on the votes of people some of whom were shot in the streets during the riots because of opposition to Conservatism; we were brought in here out of bloodshed, and I feel that a Budget of 10,000,000 odd dollars is Conservatism underlined in red ink. (Laughter). Look at the Opposition; when this Budget goes to the Other Place you will find that the Leader of the Government will be considered as the best man in the world. That is what is going to happen where we have had three successful crop years and new buildings are going up and businesses are on the increase. Why should the Government not tax race tickets? Instead of people winning \$22,000 they could win one-half of that amount.

We were brought in here to destroy the old tradition. We are land hungry in this colony and land is being sold in Barbados dearer than it is sold anywhere else in the world. I am of the opinion that a serious effort to bring about a land tax such a tax would add another million dollars to our revenue. You

will hear of a person having died leaving £40,000 and all the people who have produced that money will die in the Almshouse. I feel that the Government should abolish the Almshouses and the time has come when we should not have any Prison. Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am unduly emotional in the way I speak about these matters, but that is how I feel about them. The least you should expect from a Civil Servant is that he will seek to carry out the Government's policy, and if, perchance, that Government is changed, he will seek to carry out the policy of the new Government; I say that by the way. However, it is easy to see that instead of bringing down a Budget for \$10,000,000 this Government could have brought down one for \$12,000,000 or \$14,000,000. We should have been handling a Budget for \$14,000,000 so as to bring about greater relief to the people; as I have already said right now we could handle compulsory education in St. Michael and in a few months later, it could be handled in the country districts.

MESSRS. REECE and DOWDING entered the House and took their seats while Mr. MILLER was speaking.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker,—This is Election year and I suppose a lot of excuses can be made for some of these speeches. I wondered if the honourable member who has just sat down really understands the figures about which he was talking. Is he really suggesting that the Government should tax race tickets by 50%? Another honourable member, the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, suggested an increased tax on rum, an item which has always been considered as the poor man's privilege, but I do not think that he realised what he was saying. When the honourable member was speaking, he thought that the excise tax of 12/6 per gallon on rum was paid by the refiner, but that is collected from the poor man. The honourable member quoted the figures with respect to Jamaica and Trinidad which are double those in respect of this colony, but I could not but think that he was suggesting an increased tax on what has always been considered as the poor man's privilege. The honourable member also quoted figures in relation to income tax showing an increase in the number of income taxpayers; but what does that indicate? It indicates that salaries have been increased. There is the question of the rising cost of living and what has been done about that? However, I will come to that question in a short time.

I want to commend the Government for the new proposal of rural housing. The sum of \$240,000 has been earmarked for that purpose and I saw that they have already secured a site in the parish of St. Lucy. I commend them for that and I would like to see the scheme started as soon as possible. I have always claimed that the best form of re-housing people is by the Government securing land, laying it out properly, putting down the necessary lavatory facilities and allowing the people to build their own homes on the land which would be retained by the Government. That is, I presume, what the Government has in mind in respect of the rural areas. I would also like to see the Government set aside a large sum of money for granting housing loans to people, not necessarily agricultural workers who are assisted from the existing Labour Welfare Fund, but to other people as well. The Government could add a small interest of 1% and in years to come people would have homes of their own. The ultimate aim of every Barbadian is to acquire his own home; we are still an enthusiastic people, we will remain so for a long time to come. It is a good thing that we have people of that type and they should be encouraged by the Government. With the rising cost of living and the high cost of building material, it is impossible for workers to acquire their

own homes; a house which could be purchased for \$200 before the War now costs in the vicinity of \$600 or \$800, and people do need help of a capital nature so that they may attain their life's desire.

I now move on, Mr. Speaker to the subject of price control. Nearly every honourable member has touched upon other Heads of the Estimates—Education, Housing, Water, and what not—but today I will confine my remarks to the question of price control and to the Report of the Price Control Committee which was tabled yesterday by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. I take it that these Estimates show what the policy of the Government for the ensuing year is. In 1949 a Committee was appointed to investigate the question of mark-ups in relation to existing conditions. That Committee included Dr. Saint who, for many years, has elevated Barbados to a very high position and earned the respect and confidence of the entire public; when I say "the entire public" I mean from the Government back down to the very last man in the street. During the War years Dr. Saint was appointed Competent Authority and he is an able man at figures. Other members of the Committee were Mr. McDermott, a qualified accountant, and Mr. Dash, who has spent his time in the West Indies also in an official capacity. After a very long interval these three gentlemen made their Report to the Government—some nine months ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read out some of the findings of the Committee. I presume that every honourable member has read the Report, but I will read paragraph 9 which states:

"Some distributors represented that, under present conditions, prices were being controlled not only for the purpose of protecting the public from possible malpractice but also to keep down the cost of commodities to the consumer at the expense of a reasonable profit to the trade. The Committee appreciated that there was some truth in this complaint."

When this Committee was appointed, I do not know what the Government had in mind, but from what has taken place since then, I feel, and the commercial body feels, that they had in view a reduction of the mark-ups on profits. The Committee went very exhaustively into the question and they found that on existing profits, salaries and wages in many of the commercial undertakings were low and could not be raised. Paragraph 8 of the Report says:

"The Committee realise that the consumer is being adversely affected by an upward trend in the cost of living due to world conditions over which neither he nor local authorities can exercise any real control. The distributor has had to meet a steady increase in operating expenses and, in order to assist the employee to meet the increasing cost of living, has increased salaries. It must be admitted however, that in many cases, it appeared to the Committee that the salaries, including bonus of the clerical staff in the middle and lower grades, were by no means adequate to meet the present-day high cost of living."

Mr. Speaker, salaries and wages have been increased so as to meet the increased cost of living. Why should any one section of the community have to bear the burden so as to relieve the high pressure on others? Any section of the community is as much entitled to an increase due to the increased cost of living as any Government official or anybody else. I know it will be claimed that the merchants have made more profits by reason of mark-ups, and reference will probably be made to the Vestry Returns. These Vestry Returns are trade Returns; no allowance is made for depreciation in respect of certain things or for bad debts. We have in many instances em-

ployed people at a figure above £600, but we are only allowed the figure of £600. Over the last five years we have actually been cutting down on the mark-ups on foodstuffs. As regards the commodities which are considered as essential commodities the gross profit in 1948—49 was 6.6%. When the War started and the prices of commodities were fixed in 1940, the average gross profit allowed then was 10% and that was considered a reasonable profit out of which we could pay all our employees a reasonable wage. Owing to that fixed mark-up, on a bag of rice costing \$4.48 the profit made was 87 cents. Today it costs \$13.08 and the profit allowed is 48c. or a percentage profit of 3.54, which is a gross profit. It must be remembered that we have to pay clerks and porters, other expenses have to be met and we are expected to run our businesses on the existing mark-ups. I was most surprised yesterday when the honourable Leader of the House said that the policy of the Government for the ensuing year would be to disregard the Report of the Price Control Committee because they are disregarding the Report of the Committee after it has been under consideration for nine months, and telling us that far from increasing our profits they are going to appoint another Committee to see how they can take away some of the already low profits to give to the shopkeeper. Mr. Speaker, the shopkeeper is in the same plight today as we are. The Committee in their Report state that the Commission merchants have asked for a minimum of 2% which means that they are getting less than that now. It has been clearly stated by a good authority that no Government can run the business of feeding people in this Island as cheaply as the Roebuck Street merchants and that is quite sound. No one realises more than I do the necessity of keeping down the cost of living; but to keep it down at the expense of a particular section of the community is unjust and unfair. Fortunately for me, I have other activities, and I am not so selfish as to plead my own case. I am in public life and I am not for myself alone. I would like to state that the Commission merchants have to spend money in sending cables so as to catch the markets whether in Canada, Australia or New Zealand, and it has been proved to me that as much as \$45 has been expended by importers in trying to catch these markets. The wholesalers in Roebuck Street and Baxters Road and the shopkeepers are suffering and we do not know where the present policy will end. It has been claimed that no cases of bankruptcy has been noted for the last number of years, but is it that the Government wish to see cases of bankruptcy before they take any action? I think it is time that something be done. I will tell the Government that they are pursuing a dangerous policy because the commodities which are brought in cannot last any longer than six months.

The shopkeepers are not satisfied over the present state of affairs; they are holding meetings and the next step, I understand, is that they are going to the Governor. The wholesalers are not satisfied, they will also hold meetings and go to the Governor. I wish to see every section of this community bearing its burden; the rising cost of living will cause headaches to any Government but the problem cannot be solved at the expense of only one section of the community. If we are to abate this high cost of living we must get a greater price for our commodity; the one commodity that we have is sugar, and the price of it is controlled by the British Government. Nobody here is to be blamed for the high cost of living, and what I claim is that we should not sit here and disregard the Report of the Price Control Committee by not taking any action on it. I submit that some

action should be taken on this Report; I am telling this House that there are clerks and porters in Roebuck Street and Baxters Road who will get an increased allowance if the Report can be implemented. I am hoping that the honourable Leader of the House will go back to the Executive Committee in connection with this Report and come back here and tell us that they have reconsidered it and given it due regard along the lines I have stated; the position is not as rosy as some people make it out to be.

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

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 5.30 p.m.

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

ADDRESS *RE* VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. GILL: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relative to filling the vacancy in the General Assembly caused by the death of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew.

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

Mr. GILL: As I have mentioned, this Address is in connection with the filling of the vacancy in the General Assembly caused by the death of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. It reads as follows:—

BARBADOS.

To His Excellency Sir Alfred William Lungley Savage, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-chief of this Island.

May It Please Your Excellency:—

A vacancy having occurred in the General Assembly of this Island owing to the death of Darry Atfield Foster, Esquire, Junior Member for the parish of St. Andrew,

We, representatives of the people in the General Assembly assembled, pray that Your Excellency-in-Executive Committee will be pleased to issue a new writ for the election of a member to serve in the General Assembly for the parish of St. Andrew in place of the said Darry Atfield Foster.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. GILL: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1951—52.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was debating the motion that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Government as provided and set forth in the Estimates for the financial year 1951—52.

Mr. GARNER: I am not enamoured with the amount of money which we have to spend for the ensuing year, nor am I very happy about conditions as they are in Barbados to-day: but at the same time whatever else I may say after what I am about to say now, I realise that this Government has taken over a legacy which has had its roots in this colony

economically and otherwise for over 300 years, and the Government has not been able to emancipate itself mentally or to redeem itself financially. That perhaps leads to this present-day saturation point which we see here today. I look aghast at the faces of some hon. members and I realise what their inner feelings are: I am in sympathy with them because I share some of their views, and I know that those of us who are really socialistically inclined and who want to see the people of Barbados take on a new lease of life, are confronted with miserable effects over which we seem to have no control or even a ray of light. Be that as it may, whether it is a question of a legacy having been handed down to this Government, or whether they are steeped in the traditions of the past, that is no business of mine being a back bencher; my business is to whip the Government to make greater progress. We, as Labourites, have been elected on a certain ticket and the people expect certain things of us and if we fool them we will, in turn, fool ourselves. We have a duration of three years in this House and sooner or later we will have to give an account of ourselves. Whatever we do for the people will redound to our credit, and the things which we fail to do will be put on the debit side.

Having prefaced my remarks in this way, I want to say that certain things which have come down in the Budget have given me great concern. I had hoped that after my beseeching and praying, the Government would not only have given a token vote, but they would have got down to business in the matter of the provision of a secondary school in St. Philip to serve the adjoining parishes. That is a very necessary provision to make but the Government have not seen their way to make it, and I feel that I should register my disapproval in the matter. The question of education is a burning one to-day and I think it is about a year now since the hon. Leader of the House made specific plans to really get something done educationally in this island. I am pained to see how our money is being spent on education in this island: As I look through the Estimates I see that "Education" is taking the largest sum of money from the Treasury, and no intelligent member of the community could tell me that we are getting proper results from the system which obtains today. It is about time that we **face facts and stop pleasing our friends** whether they be Governors, Directors or what not! We, as Labourites, have given powers to Directors who have become dictators and we have no say in the matter. When it comes to the Department of Education, we are practically throwing away money: the results in education to the boys and girls of this colony today are almost nil. I say that as a responsible citizen; boys and girls coming out of the Elementary Schools today know nothing. They do not even know the three "R's" correctly, let alone something else; it is a disgrace when we think of what we are getting for the money which we are spending on education. People are not sitting down to hard work: they talk about Erdiston but I do not know what they are doing there. On the last occasion on which I spoke on education, some of the teachers got up against me: well, they will have to get up against me again. The fault is not so much with the teachers because we have some ardent workers; but the methods which they have to carry out in the schools are not workable. Age grouping in these schools should be stopped at once (Cheers); the Barbadian mentality does not lend itself to it. We have neither the teachers nor the room for it, and the sooner we see about this matter, the better it will be for us. Mr. Speaker, it is a disgrace for any Government to let the practice of age grouping continue: I call upon this Government now to see to it that ere long this practice of age grouping be

abolished. (Cheers). We are spending quite a tidy sum on education and you can ask anybody who is interested in the welfare of this island, what is happening. When I was a boy among others at school we had no time for play: we looked forward to the time when the Inspector would come to the school and give us a rigid examination. Today you do not find any such thing; the children do not look forward to the examination as we used to do; to-day there is a system which allows the children more time for playing on the pasture. After the children leave the schools they have time to play at home: but they should be made to study seriously while they are at school. If you travel about the parishes, day after day you find school children playing on the pastures, but these children should not have as much time for play as they are being given nowadays. The Director of Education should be made to know that we are not satisfied with the results which we are getting from the Elementary Schools. If age grouping is wrong, why don't people say so and let it be stopped? What are we going to do in order to see that the children benefit from the money which we are spending on education? You cannot get good citizens if they have not got education; if a man is an agricultural labourer you have to give him education. If we are spending money on education, we want to have the best we can get for the money; and if the high-falutin Englishmen come here with their high-falutin schemes, we have to break up those schemes. If boys and girls get even a 7th standard education and have commonsense, they have a good education. We want men with vision, men who intend to do hard work to make boys and girls what they should be; that is the reason why we have not progressed. Everywhere you hear people telling you that you are backward and they cannot entrust you with this or that. All the Commissions which we have had here have stated that we are backward, and that means that we have not got education; we have got to get results for the money which we are spending in respect of education. When we come to deal with this particular Head of the Estimates in Committee, I am going to ask the support of hon. members in something which I am going to do; one cannot get ahead unless he has education. If I may digress for a moment, I asked a sixth standard boy a simple question and I nearly shed a tear when I found that he could not answer it. I asked him if I had three dozen eggs and gave away thirty-six how many would I have left? And he could not tell me! That boy was in the sixth standard. (Laughter). Hon. members are laughing, but this is no joke. We are spending the highest amount of money in the Estimates on this branch of our service and it is time that we call a halt as regards whoever is carrying on this age-grouping scheme, because it cannot pay. I speak with emphasis on this question because it burns my heart to think that the people have reposed confidence in us, we are trying to root out the other people and we do no good for those who have sent us here. If the people have reposed confidence in us and we are successful in rooting out others, we want to go one better than they. I mean no offence about that; if we are removing Conservatism, we have to be either socialistic or communistic. I do not know anything about Communism; I am a Socialist. If we want to do something for our people, the Conservatives can still be our friends, but we must have a policy so that they will respect us. The Conservatives know the circumstances which existed in the past and do not let us go back to the past; we have to do things for ourselves, and foremost among those things is the matter of education which is bearing on my soul. I say it is time that we start something in connection with this matter. When I first

heard about adult education being carried on in Barbados, I expected to see schools opened at night and teachers earmarked for teaching adults. I cannot understand what is meant; I have not seen any schools open at night, I do not know if French or Spanish is being taught or what; I want to see something done in my parish. About three Saturday nights ago a young man came into my store and spent 36 cents; he tendered me a five-dollar note. I gave him back \$4.64 and he was giving me back a dollar because he figured that I was giving him back a dollar too much. (Laughter). Hon. members are laughing while Rome is burning. We want night schools for people such as that young man; we want to teach adults how to read and write and sign their names. At election time some of our good friends are ashamed when we ask them to sign their names; one fellow told me that he could not sign his name because his hand was cut, and another fellow said: "Sign it for him, he cannot dance." (Laughter). Can we countenance that state of affairs when we are spending so much money on education? I condemn and protest against the continuance of this system of age grouping and superannuation in our schools. I ask fellow hon. members to call a halt to this vicious system; we want the children to get education for the money which we are spending.

I had hoped to see at least a token amount for the provision of a sanatorium in this colony. As Churchwarden in my parish I come into contact very often with many cases of contagious disease, and we are not really equipped in the outlying parishes for dealing with such cases. We are not really equipped for dealing with cases of T.B. and other contagious disease; we are trying to make room so as to accommodate them, but I think it is time that we should have a sanatorium in this colony. The time has long passed when we should go on like this; this Labour Government should erect a monument to which everybody can look and posterity will thank them for it. This Government should erect a sanatorium to which people from the various parishes can send their sick people, and that would be a standing monument to the Government. It will be written indelibly on the minds of posterity that the Labour Government in such and such a year erected this monument. We have to do work; we have to do something because the people of this colony must move forward progressively. We are committed to a task and the things which we know are needed should be tackled at once; it is time that we sink our little differences and get down to business. We cannot go on as we are going on; we have to float a loan so as to carry out certain things. If Great Britain is really our mother she will have to do something for us. As we know, millions of pounds will be spent by the British Government in the preparation of arms. We on this side of the world do not interfere with anybody and we really do not understand what war is; it is true that we have been warring for over 300 years, but when we see all this money being spent we wonder how they could spend all this money. They are rich in wartime but nothing is done in time of peace. I say that something is wrong with the leaders of the world; if I were in the Government I would do something. The British Government fixed the price of our sugar not long ago and since then the price of our goods has skyrocketed. As regards money from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation, high-falutin people are paid big salaries and that is how that money is being spent. We want to see something being done for our money; it burns my heart when I think of the problems which confront us as a people in this colony; we have either to swim or sink. Nobody will get away from me and I do not catch up with him;

nobody is going to eat butter and I go into the garbage bin; if there are ham and eggs about the place I am going to have some of them too.

I must say that I am grateful to the Government for continuing the policy of subsidisation. I congratulate them on that; it is of much benefit to the people of this colony. However, while we are spending a considerable sum of money on subsidisation, the policy has got to be extended; because we are subsidising foodstuffs and certain people do not eat certain things until there is a scarcity of those things. For instance, some people do not eat salt meat until there is a scarcity of that item. Everybody is benefiting from subsidisation and if everybody is paying for subsidisation, nobody should scruple. I agree with the honourable senior member for the City that something should be done about the subsidisation of the working man's clothing; there is something in that because the cost of the working man's clothing has gone up. Things have changed completely and we have got to work out ways and means to solve the problems so as to help the people of this colony. I repeat that the policy of subsidisation is something for which I am grateful to the Government for continuing. That brings me to another point—the plight of the shopkeeper. The shopkeeper is the one who has to do with the distribution of the foodstuffs. There is a long story about this matter, but I shall be as brief as I possibly can. The shopkeeper has been the burden bearer throughout the centuries; the conservative planters hardened their hearts against paying economic wages and it is only God's grace that people did not die from starvation. Many a shopkeeper has died in an Almshouse after he and his family worked for all the years; he lived in debt and died in debt. Some shopkeepers give their children a meagre education, but they die in debt. A shopkeeper has to get a piece of land and rear sheep, pigs and goats, he has to do something so as to get by. When I say that a shopkeeper is a smart man, I mean that he is an intelligent man; he must have some initiative so as to get on. In the old days there were not as many people in the business as there are to-day; in the old days the merchants let you get in debt and let your family know what is happening after; nowadays they hide under the guise of christianity. Mr. Speaker, I have read a part of the Report of the price Control Committee which was handed to me yesterday; I have not had the time to absorb it, but I know that the honourable Leader of the House has said certain things which I had to question. Something was said about the intention of taking away a part of the wholesalers' profit and passing it on to the shopkeepers; I want to beg the honourable member hard not to break up whatever goodwill there is between the shopkeeper and the man who really keeps him in business.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation. I am afraid that the honourable member did not quote me correctly; what I said was that the Government will review the position as regards the allocation of profits between the commission merchant, the wholesaler and the retailer. Speaking for myself, the first mentioned man ought not to exist, but that is not an expression of Government policy.

Mr. GARNER: I am very glad for the explanation, but I am not any wiser. I do know that something is wrong as regards the shopkeeper in Barbados. I have spoken at length on this matter already; I do not think that this is the proper time to speak on it, but I should like to say that lucrative employment is very scarce in Barbados, and everybody who can get \$600 thinks of going into business. If you go to the Colonial Treasurer's Office you will see how many liquor licences have been issued this year or last year

as compared with 1939. Whenever you have too many businesses, cut-throat competition takes place; if there were not so many shops, business people would do better and there would not be any need for competition. But with so many businesses being opened, with a liquor business in every nook and corner, that has brought a strain on business; and it will cost the people of this colony more because the wholesalers are not always going on as they are going on to-day. There is the question of the system by which goods are bought and the expense involved in the delivery and receipt of them. I am not fighting any case for the wholesalers; I am stating the case as I know it to be. Mr. Speaker, I say that if they were to take away some of the wholesalers' profits and pass them on to the retailers, that would make it twice as hard for the shopkeeper to exist; there is such a thing as goodwill which you cannot buy with dollars and cents. Most of the shopkeepers are in debt; some time ago I was associated with some people who wanted to start an organization which would help shopkeepers and they could not even buy five bags of rice together. An association such as what they wanted to form would call for money; you cannot start an association which calls for money, with hot air; you must have some cash. What I feel is that we are living in a fool's paradise; we have no other produce to sell but sugar, the British Government will not pay us what we rightly expect and the people cannot get enough money to spend. That is the core of the whole thing. You expect to receive an increase in the price of sugar but you do not want to pay more money for your services. This is no electioneering speech; I am speaking facts. You will have to pay for the services which you get. Nowadays every man so long as he has money wants to maintain two or three homes; and he wants a car to take him to and fro. He must be told that he has to pay for services and that the shopkeeper has to live. I say that every man, so long as he is getting a monthly salary, wants two or three homes to maintain; he goes to the poor shopkeeper and expects to get goods. The shopkeeper can only make 5% on his goods and the debt collector charges him 20% for collecting debts. These facts must be told because people have to pay for services. I remember taking 3/- from my pocket to pay Dr. Parris and he said that 3/- was the fee, not for me, but for those who could not afford to pay 4/-. I did not mind paying him 4/- because, blessed man, he could really diagnose. Nowadays I am charged \$2.00 as the doctor's fee and you cannot pay a doctor if you do not get any profit from selling your goods. I think I have given the Government an inkling of what must be done; the public must pay for the services which they get because the shopkeepers carry a tremendous burden on their hands. The honourable junior member for St. Joseph can bear me out that at the end of the year if the shopkeeper is not alert, he will find that he is thousands of dollars in the merchants' books, not because he is a big businessman but because the goods have gone on credit. Although sugar is a local commodity, I am ashamed to say that I lose on every bag of sugar. If I give 13 ounces to the pound I could make some profit; but I cannot do that. In the same way that a man can figure out his salary, so much for Mary and so much for Susan, which is his business, when he comes to buy a pound of sugar he ought to be told that the shopkeeper has to cater for him and the shopkeeper has to make some sort of profit because he has to exist. I am willing to co-operate with the Government in everything; I am at their beck and call and if they want to form a Committee I can give them of my knowledge. I have been in this game for all my life and if you want information, see me and I will put you right; but

let us be bold and courageous and let us rise above electioneering. We have to let the people see that we really want to do something for them; we cannot merely make electioneering speeches. It is time that the Government be told what the back benchers expect them to do. I feel that we will not do them any harm if we tell them what we expect of them. As soon as a nation gets to the top it sits on its laurels and that might be the case with the Government. The things of which I have spoken should be remedied and I want the Government to consider seriously the erection of a secondary school in St. Philip. That is long overdue; it is of no use building all the secondary schools in St. Michael thereby sending up the cost of living, because you make it contingent on the people in the country to use the bus service. The Government should see that a secondary school is erected in St. Philip to serve the adjoining parishes. What they have to do is to get the facts as to the number of children from the parish of St. Michael, how many private schools are in the parish and how many pupils they have. I will not say what I really know, but I will say that when parents send their children to secondary schools they expect that some culture should come from the schools. From what I have seen at the schools, there is not much hope and things are coming to an unhappy past. I find that in some of the schools no culture is given for the money which parents spend in the education of their children. The schools should always impart culture to children. I say that for this reason; if you send a most ignorant white man among people, they will bow down to him but if you send a black man to those same people they do not feel satisfied; they do not feel that he can do the best for them. People have not yet learnt, and they must be taught in our schools, to respect authority. I have an Address in respect of which I will deal with that question exhaustively that is part of our tradition and custom, but I will leave that alone now. If I were a dictator I would do a lot of purging; there comes a time when you must have a purge. Did not God cast Satan out of Heaven and send him flying down here? What is wrong with a purge? We want to learn to speak as men; if somebody is wrong, tell him that he is wrong; do not tell him differently. I want the honourable Leader of the House to know that anything which I have said here I have said it in good faith; I am always willing to help this Government, but, at the same time, I want to caution the honourable member that he must do something tangible so that the people will not only sing his praises, but they will pray for his special entry into Heaven when he leaves this earth. I want the honourable Leader of the House to know that there are things which must be done in this colony, things which are absolutely urgent and we who intend to help him do not intend to walk by custom or tradition. If he intends to pursue the policy which has been enunciated by custom, he can mark me as being absent, so help me God. Let us be energetic, militant and original; no old time politics will do. We have something now to carve and we must carve it whatever it costs. The honourable Leader of the House promised last year that he would see about this matter of education. I realise that he was a little busy but he cannot always be busy. We have people who will sabotage education in this colony and the Leader of the House has got to do something about that; it is within his power to do something about it. You cannot always please your friends; if I want to say anything I say it, I do not stifle my conscience. We are here for doing serious business; we have to do the work of redemption, of reclamation, and it is not a matter of making sport. We want the civilised world to know that we, in this little corner, are think-

ing in terms of emancipation; we want our existence to be secure. We read of the success which people are making in other parts of the world and I say that success will follow you if your leadership is militant, vigorous and healthy. Think of what it means to have people following you and have no confidence in your leadership; they can only have confidence in your leadership if you depart from the old ways and take new steps. Originality must count for something; we must have originality.

I consider these Estimates to-day as just following in the old line; the honourable Leader of the House feels that he must safeguard and protect the Treasury, but there is something which is greater than dollars and cents. There are things pertaining to human dignity and human welfare which need to be tackled and they will cost money, but if we tackle them correctly the money will come. What is needed for any individual or people or family or race or clan or group or nation, is the will to do something. About eight or nine hours ago I was in bed, but I had the will to be here; I moved according to my will and I am here. If I did not have the will to be here I would not have been here; we are here in this little corner because it is our will to be here, and the moment it is our will to do something better, God will help us. Whatever you will you will get; even if you will for jail you will get it. (Laughter). Beyond that, I am saying I realise that the Government is cautious; they are safeguarding the purse of the Treasury. That brings me to the point where all you do locally, you will still have to join heart and hand with me in my African campaign for expansion. Year after year you will have demands which you will not be able to meet because of restricted resources; year after year the problem of population will increase, we will need greater social and health programmes and the finances of the colony will not be able to pay for them. There is an old saying that if you want to get out of debt, you get in debt; that is true, and I say it as a businessman. If you get some liquid cash you will see what will happen. (Laughter). Honourable members are laughing, but they will have to join with me in solemnity in letting the British people know the facts as they are. The cost of living in this colony has risen higher since the last increase in the price of sugar and we need a new price for our product. I compliment the Government on the matter of housing loans; if it were not for that, I do not know what some people would do. That is one of the good things that they have done, but the British people must be brought face to face with the facts. They fix any sort of price for us and it is unreasonable to do that; they have to fight wars and we have to foot the bills.

I think I have contributed my quota to this debate and I hope that what I have said has not fallen on deaf ears. If I think so, if I think what I have said needs repetition for the Government to keep it in their minds, I will go on talking all night. I want a move onward in the matter of education; if you have to tell the Director of Education that you do not agree with certain things, he must be told so, because the results which we are getting for the money which we are spending on education are not sufficient at all. We want to know that the problems about which I have spoken will be taken seriously, and the Government will be bold enough to tell the members of this community how they and the mercantile community stay. I would be the last person to know that any group of wholesalers or agents are fleecing the buying public, and say nothing about it; but seeing and knowing the facts as I do, I have come to the conclusion that the only thing to do is to let the public know that the services are costing more, just as the Government have to pay

more for the services in administering the various Departments. I agree with many of the points raised by the honourable senior member for Christ Church; he seems to be an able man in the business and I do not think that he has exaggerated any point. Of course, there are times when his point of view and mine must clash, but in connection with this subject I am here to report that he has not exaggerated the story. While I appreciate the efforts which the Government is making to subsidize foodstuffs further, I hope that they will come to some favourable conclusion when they have studied the Report of the Committee which sat in connection with this matter of price control. I can assure you that the shopkeepers do want to have an adjustment in connection with the matter; we are faced with a problem which needs a solution. I think the chain store system in this colony will kill the individual shopkeeper and I hope not to be alive when that day comes. I would not like to be in the business when that day comes because if you allow the wholesale man to go out in the outlying districts and get the retailer's profit, what sort of society will you have? That is making the rich richer, and the poor poorer. Even in America they have curtailed the activities of the chain stores; from what I have been reading, one-half of them have gone.

I have spoken at length and I wish the Government well, but I am disappointed at this Budget. As a Socialist I would like to see innovations and I hope that when the next Budget comes around and we lay our plans, we will see something better; I hope we will see a different Budget. I am hoping that, because if I am to join forces with this crowd of Labourites, they will find me very stormy if they bring down this sort of Budget again. We must have some new things and if we do not succeed at first, we will have to try again. Mr. Speaker, you are the product of your will as you stand in that exalted Chair and people salute you; it was your will to contest a seat in the House of Assembly, it was your will to give up the sweet or bitter things your occupation gave you and you are rewarded. The reward for doing good to the people of this colony would be just as good to the Party and the Leader as the honour which has been bestowed on you. You have been among the big wigs and everybody knows you as the Speaker from Barbados. I say all those things to say this; where there is no will, the people perish. We must have a will behind what we are doing. I do not see any use in blaming the Government in an outright manner; they are trying to safeguard the money in the Treasury, but that is not good enough for me or the people. They must be honest to themselves and let the British Government know what is happening; there are certain things to be done and we want money to do those things. We want money for the purpose of building schools; there is a Public Health Bill before us and the cost of operating it would be too much and therefore it has not been implemented. We do not want the British Government to feel that we are happy. The honourable Leader of the House is in an exalted position; he knows the things about which I am talking but he thinks hard to displease people and he feels annoyed when we talk against him in these matters. However, we are sorry for him, but we have our people to please; we want to assure him that all methods are not positive and you cannot always achieve things by appeasement. In a picture I saw Chamberlain, with his umbrella, in the appeasement role and Mussolini and Hitler were standing together; the latter two came to bad ends because they bit off more than they could chew. I must say this; I want one and all to know that I have different views from people around here: I would have told the British Government ever since that we want

living space and that this place cannot support the people. We are trying to make ten million dollars do what we really want forty million dollars to do; we are asking people to live here and we have not got the economy to maintain them. We have to depend upon the sugar economy but that cannot maintain the standard which we have partially built up during the War; we are trying to do the impossible. A case has been made out for letting the British people know that it is time for a change to be made. I see that honourable members are not taking any notice of what is being said and things will go on in the same way all the time and we will go on criticising; we want a proper policy to be made for the coming year. Mr. Speaker, I am taking my seat and I wish the Government God speed in the coming year.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am not sure as to what is the feeling of the House at the present moment; I do not know whether it is preferable that we should adjourn at this stage or not. (A MEMBER: Move the adjournment). I gather it is the feeling of the House that we should adjourn at this stage and I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

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

On re-assembling.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was debating the motion that I do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on the Estimates for the year 1951-52. The honourable junior member for St. Lucy was about to speak.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—There are a few comments which I have to make on this Budget. I would like to underline the views which the honourable senior member for St. Philip has expressed particularly with regard to age-grouping in dealing with the subject of education. The honourable senior member for St. George who spoke earlier in the afternoon said that this Budget is Conservatism underlined with red ink; well, I would put it somewhat differently—it is caution underlined with green ink. I would endorse everything that has been said in connection with age-grouping; it is a fact that after a most careful and lengthy trial in this colony, the system has proven to be a failure. Sir, we are in the hands of experts up to a certain point; but experts or no experts we have our commonsense and intelligence with which we were born and endowed. When we were advised that age-grouping is the best thing for us, with characteristic Barbadian tolerance we gave it a trial; we have been trying it from 1945 until 1950 and it has proved to be a failure and undoubtedly unsuited to local conditions. When the honourable senior member for St. Philip said that he proposed to take a certain step later on—by that I understood that he would be moving a reduction of the vote under the Head "Education" to indicate our disapproval of the scheme and our intention that it should be abandoned—you can rest assured that he will get the support of everyone who has been studying this system of age-grouping and its results to the people who have been trained under it. Having underlined the views which have been expressed on the question of age-grouping, I will say with a certain amount of concern that in glancing through the Estimates I do not see anything in connection with the Address standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph as regards the abolition of the system of age-grouping. If the honourable member is of the same opinion now as he was then—perhaps he is even stronger in his opinion as regards age-

grouping now than he was when he gave notice of that Address, realising that he has the support of a large number of members of this House who are not justified in continuing this experiment. While I am on this question of education, I will comment, as I do every year, on the matter of nutrition in elementary schools, and remind the Government that the supply of milk and biscuits is very good in its way, but what the children still need, and are looking forward to getting is a hot meal. In so far as secondary education is concerned, if the Government offered free secondary education, they should at least provide a number of scholarships for pupils; in other words, they should institute a system of providing scholarships for every child who has passed through an elementary school and has shown himself to be worthy of, and likely to profit from, a secondary education.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a few other Heads of the Estimates which should be touched upon, as well as matters which must necessarily involve expenditure and in connection with which there is the usual cry: "Where is the money coming from?" The honourable junior member for St. Philip has mentioned in this House that the assistance which we are getting from C.D. & W. is assistance for which a very large percentage goes in the payment of officials from the United Kingdom who come out to the West Indies and who, undoubtedly have a good time. They seem to be able to provide an ample number of cocktail parties for their friends, but that is not enough to help the people of these colonies. When we read of millions from C.D. & W. being spent by the people and for the people of these colonies we appreciate how much goes back to the U.K. by U.K. personnel who are sent out here and who indirectly propagate the gospel of the Mother Country. One cannot honestly ignore the fact that the income tax rate for those in the higher brackets is far short of what it should be; we still find persons with certain incomes leaving the U.K. and making a settlement in sunny Barbados because the income tax rates are lower in this colony than in some other places although much more money is needed. We must let it be understood that we are prepared to support an increase in the rates of income tax for those in the higher brackets so that more money will be available for the obviously necessary schemes of social improvement. Of course, as a corollary to an increase in the rates of income tax in the higher brackets, there will be a little more in respect of estate and succession duties. All these things are necessary and I defy any honourable member to justify a lower rate of taxation in this colony than in some other places, bearing in mind the fact that we are behind the United Kingdom where social advantages are concerned.

There are two obvious sources of additional revenue. Let the Government bear in mind that if they settle the rates of income tax putting them on all-fours with the rates in the United Kingdom, they will pass this Chamber. Of course there is also the question of considering proposals for the disendowment of the Anglican Church; under the Head "Ecclesiastical" we are being asked to vote \$94,536 of which the sum of \$85,056 goes to the State-endowed Church. That sum, Sir, would help to effect social improvements; it would help to effect certain necessary improvements in the running of this country and it would help the Government in providing additional sources of revenue. Then, Mr. Speaker, there is the question of the liquor licence which we made £10 per annum for the small trader. The little rum shop keeper in Sugar Hill or Marchfield or Pie Corner cannot afford to pay more than £10, but the big wholesalers like those at the bottom

of Broad Street, or those at the corner of Palmetto and Roebuck Streets are paying the same £10 as the little retailer. If we made the big wholesalers pay a licence of £500 or so, that would increase the revenue of this country so that we will have the money to provide a hot meal for elementary school children and greater opportunities for secondary education for worthy products of the elementary schools. Really, Sir, these people who are making money in Bridgetown are laughing at the Government; they call honourable members of this House by their christian names, and they can buy every plantation in Barbados that is for sale. They say: "You are making suggestions but you do not mention where the money is coming from." Well, I have mentioned some sources of revenue which can be tapped—higher income tax rates, increased death duties, adequate increases according to the sliding scale which I have been advocating from the time I became a member of this House, and a graduated system in respect of the liquor licence, the small man paying £10 and the big man paying £500. There is also, as I have said, the question of the disendowment of the Church which should be a matter of urgent consideration by the Government—a matter in favour of which they would secure a majority of members in this Chamber.

I agree with those honourable members who have pressed for the construction of a Deep Water Harbour; it is a source of embarrassment that this colony which boasts of being in the forefront in the West Indies, has not got a Deep Water Harbour up to now. We all realise and appreciate the necessity for a Deep Water Harbour; in this regard we had an expert out here—Sir Douglas Ritchie—who made a report, but we are no nearer to having a Deep Water Harbour than the time when that official came to our shores. Little Grenada, big Jamaica and other islands in the West Indies have Deep Water Harbours, but here we have to depend upon boats so as to get ashore. It is a very short-sighted policy if it is felt that the expense of constructing a Deep Water Harbour will be great; because nothing is more worthy of a long-term policy than the construction of a Deep Water Harbour so that ships could berth alongside the shore. That would be an encouragement to people to visit Barbados, among other things, instead of going to other places where there are Deep Water Harbours and where they do not have to go ashore in small boats. I do hope that the plans for the construction of a Deep Water Harbour has not been pigeon-holed or lost or put aside in the desk of some official in this colony. I am certain that you, Sir, like myself, look forward to the day when we will have our Deep Water Harbour so that people can walk from ship to shore, and not have to rely on a little "Moses", although we revere that name.

I observe no sins of commission in this Budget; there are all sins of omission, whether deliberate or otherwise, I do not know. Whether the Government was not sure that this House would be willing to pass an increase in the rates of income tax, death duties, and so on, I do not know. Some time ago I tabled a question with respect to the provision of free medical services; I think the Government replied that the matter was being given consideration and it was referred to the United Kingdom Government. There is no reason why we should not make a start and put such a scheme in force.

A question which is always uppermost in my mind is that of nationalisation. Reading between the lines in this Budget—and I think I have read very carefully—we can see nothing about this question of nationalisation. We still have the Telephone Company making a lot of money and similarly the

Electric Company and there is also the Transport service. I would have liked to see something which would suggest that the Government is actively working along the lines of the nationalisation of one or all of these undertakings; any Measure which is introduced in this House for the nationalisation of these public utilities will be passed. The Government need not be afraid of such a Measure being passed in this Chamber; the people of this colony have been looking forward to some Measure in respect of nationalisation being passed. The majority of the members of this House have expressed themselves to the electors as being in favour of nationalisation, and although I am not suggesting that we should go into anything willy-nilly, yet I am suggesting that this question of nationalisation is one which deserves the most pressing and urgent consideration of this Government. If some Measure with regard to nationalisation were to be brought before this House and we dealt with it on its merits and passed it, we will see what will happen after that.

Then there is the question of Old Age Pensions, and again, Sir, I press for a reduction of the qualifying age. The question will be asked: "Where is the money to come from?" But I have shown whence the money can be obtained—deep down in the pockets of those who are in the higher income group brackets; the money is there and you only have to put your hands in the pockets of those people. We have accepted the principle of a younger retirement age in respect of our Civil Servants, and it would be fair and reasonable to apply the same principle in respect of our Old Age Pension Scheme. If it is compulsory for a Civil Servant to retire at 60, obviously we should reduce the qualifying age for the receipt of Old Age Pensions from the present figure of 68 years. I contend that the age from which a person should begin to receive his Old Age Pension should be the same as that at which one has to retire from the Public Service. There is no reason why there should be any difference between the age at which a person has to retire from the Public Service and that at which one should begin to receive his Old Age Pension; I mention that for the serious consideration of the Government. The honourable senior member for Christ Church was telling us about the increased price of items. An increase was made some time ago in the amount of the Old Age Pension, but it is reasonable to consider a further increase in the amount of this Pension because we have accepted the principle that these old people are the care of the State and they must be looked after. We cannot pay them an amount which is negligible and almost not worth while; I submit that any proposal which comes before this House for an amendment of the law to provide an adequate increase in the amount paid to these people will and must be passed by this Chamber.

There is a further point on which I will sound a note of warning to the Government and it is in connection with posts in the Civil Service. There is a tendency today to provide highly specialised posts, posts with high-sounding titles and displaced United Kingdom personnel from Burma, Ceylon or Pakistan might find themselves in sunny Barbados; therefore let us sound a note of warning to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Governor of this colony that if there are such persons seeking employment in this colony, persons who are no longer on the pay roll in places such as those I have mentioned, we can find local personnel to fill local posts. We must let personnel from Burma, Ceylon or Pakistan know that they will not be welcomed here if we can get suitable local people or West Indians to fill posts. We have had experience that whenever a post with

a good salary is created in this colony a Barbadian could never get a look in, unless he happened to be a favoured Barbadian from one of the best families, "best" being in inverted commas. I counsel the members of the Government to let the Secretary of State know in advance how we react in this colony towards imported personnel. We have had a very unfortunate experience during the past five years. We have had out here one or two people who have been excellent people and for that we have nothing but praise. We, Barbadians, are not an ungenerous people nor do we fail to be highly critical when we come across people whom we find to be most unsuited to local conditions, people who, before they leave Nigeria or Hong Kong, feel that they are coming to a place where they can deal with the natives as they like. Anyhow, when we come to consider the particular Heads in the Estimates, I will deal with these individuals who have not fitted in, and who are not likely to fit in, with our ways and ideas.

I listened to the honourable junior member for St. James, the Leader of the Opposition, on the question of a Hotel Aids Bill, and I gather that he was advocating that the Government should take steps to introduce legislation along that line. I will sound this note of warning to the Government; if the Government is going to introduce such legislation, let them make it plain that they will not tolerate any racial discrimination as exists in respect of hotels in Christ Church. Such a thing must be stopped or we will have to pass legislation to deal with it. Mr. Speaker, you must have heard of a distinguished gentleman who was refused accommodation at an hotel although there was accommodation and he went to another place where he was received with open arms. If the Government help these hotels, there must not be the beginning of thinking or dreaming about any discrimination at these hotels. Honourable members will remember the instance in respect of discrimination in which an hotel proprietor had to pay some damages to Leary Constantine. In the event of an Hotel Aids Bill being introduced and passed in this colony, I hope it will be made plain that if any attempt is made to carry on discriminatory practices, the necessary legislation will be rushed through this House to prevent any such happening.

There are just one or two other Heads of the Estimates to which I would like to make reference. Obviously we have to meet on three days until the end of this month to deal with these Estimates, but, I take it, we would like to finish our second reading speeches this week. On the question of the Prisons, we have been reminded about the conditions as to the housing of juveniles and horror has been expressed at the fact that people of the age of 21 find themselves at Glendairy; I would commend to the Government the establishment of a Borstal Institution in this island. Such an Institution is an absolute necessity in this island and I hope that when the Government sees the Report of a distinguished traveller to our shores, they will not hesitate to come to this House for the money for the establishment of such an Institution.

I will not speak at any length on the question of equal pay for equal work and the lack of reference either directly or indirectly in this Budget to the principle which, I gather, the Government has not accepted; but it is a matter which, I submit, the Government should consider. I do not see why female teachers should not receive the same pay as male teachers; if a woman does the same work as a man, there is no moral justification for paying her less than you pay the man.

There is one further point I want to make, and it is in connection with the Head "Legal Depart-

ments." Happy as I am to see that we are no longer encumbered by the antiquated system of the Grand Jury, yet there is no proposal to amend the existing legislation so as to give jurors a more adequate remuneration than what they are now receiving. You know, Mr. Speaker, it used to be said that it is a great honour to sit on the trial of one's fellowman and indeed it is a great honour to do so. It also used to be said that it is a great honour to find ourselves in this Chamber, and there again it is a great honour conferred on us; but we still found it necessary to draw a stipend from the Treasury. The jurors would feel satisfied in drawing something more adequate than they have been drawing since 1891; they deserve something more than \$1.54 per day which was found to be adequate in 1891 for that distinguished position which they hold. I commend this matter to the Government for their consideration in the near future.

If one makes a remark or proposes anything, and subsequently the Government brings it forward, it is said that the Government had the particular thing under consideration long before the proposal was made. Well, I hope the Government is considering the question of single member constituencies.

Before I give way to the next honourable member who would like to discourse on this Budget, I will make reference to the little housing scheme which is proposed at Clineketts, St. Lucy. I should like to say that I understood that the owner of the land would sell all of it or none of it, and I was grieved when I heard that the price which was originally £50 per acre had gone up to \$320 per acre. Anyhow, \$320 per acre is not too much to pay for this area which will provide a site for the Half Moon Forte playing field and for a housing scheme. I can assure the Government that the money is being well spent in the purchase of this land which will be very much appreciated.

Mr. ADAMS: I regret that I have to reply, but there are one or two points to which I shall refer. I shall reply very briefly, because I am afraid if I reply to some of the remarks made in the course of these two evenings, I might do incalculable harm to the future fortunes of the Labour Party. Before I reply to one or two points which have been made, I have to remark on the nature of the criticisms which I anticipated, some of which wiped out others. Apart from those who were merely ranting, there was the constructive criticism of the honourable junior member for St. James and the honourable senior member for St. Philip; but even in the midst of criticising this most realistic Budget I have seen since I have been a member of the House, those honourable members had to say that they realise the position of the Government. While criticising the Government for not undertaking more expenditure, both those honourable members had to say that the world is in a critical state and our resources are slender. That is why I say that this is the most realistic Budget I have seen in the 15 or 16 years since I have been a member of this House. The Government's task is not an easy one especially this year and we have got to consider reasonable means of raising revenue. I should like to say that I started life in an elementary school and I am what I am today because of the system of education which existed and because I had a far-seeing father. What sort of human being would I be if, after I have reached the stage I have reached as Leader of this Government, I did not do all I could to make it possible to give a chance to other people to do likewise? The attention of the Government has been drawn to some public opinion; I am now speaking specifically about age-grouping and superannuation in schools. Questions are asked

of the Government, they are sent to the Department concerned for draft answers and the answers are sent to the member of the Executive Committee responsible for that particular portfolio in the House. Those draft answers were sent to me and they were of the nature to indicate that the Department of Education was advised that, on the whole, age grouping was working satisfactorily. I was asked whether I agreed with the answers and my reply was that I agreed with them provided that the teachers through the Inspectors say that what was stated is a fact. The Inspectors reported that the great majority of the teachers felt that the scheme was successful; what could the Government do having regard to that reply? The Government has replied that age grouping raised many other problems connected with education, staffing, and so on; that was stated in the answers given to the honourable junior member for St. Thomas. Only a day or two ago I had time to pay attention to a long report sent to the Department of Education quoting the result of an investigation of the teaching and the standard and ability of pupils of 13 plus in every elementary school in this island and a similar group at Combermere. I may say that that report makes me think seriously; it will entail a complete reconsideration of the Government's attitude in respect of teaching in Elementary Schools. Let honourable members criticize and make suggestions by all means, but a Government has to consider, in respect of forming or not forming a policy, the information which it has at its disposal as to the necessity for a change or a continuation of the existing policy. What one deplores is the making of just ranting speeches which, if they amount to anything, are unworthy criticisms of the Government and a complete, absolute betrayal of the Government, and sometimes a shocking disregard for what is said in confidence. We all know that the honourable senior member for St. Philip is intensely sincere in what he says and in his desire to help the underprivileged; he is not actively a member of this group, but I feel sure that he is anxious to help the Government and he votes with the Government when he feels that the Government is on the right path. I wish to tell the honourable member, however, that he is completely wrong if he thinks that there is any reason on earth for me to appease the British Government or to please them. I do not owe anything to the British Government and I am not asking anything of them; I owe my position to the voters of this colony. They are the only people whom I have to please (Cheers) and whose interest I will regard. I have not asked the Colonial Office for any job; I have never encouraged any suggestion of taking a job, and it is not a question of feeling that the British Government has to be pleased or appeased.

I need not do anything more than refer to the two honourable members who made the most constructive speeches, and who themselves realised the difficulty of the Government and that we have to depend upon sugar and sugar alone. When the honourable Leader of the Opposition said that we should ask for forgiveness for having promised to construct the East Coast Road and the Deep Water Harbour, he answered himself later on in his speech. He said that he knows that we will be bringing down Supplementary Resolutions during the course of the year, and he referred to the General Revenue Balance from over six million dollars at the end of March, 1948, to nearly four million dollars with which we will end up in March, 1952. The honourable member spoke of the difficulties of obtaining a loan in the Caribbean area and the difficulties of the British taxpayer. We have not turned down the proposal to construct the East Coast Road and the Deep Water Harbour, and if honourable

members do not see items of that sort budgeted for this year, they have got to remember that time has elapsed since we had the figure of 3½ million pounds in respect of the Deep Water Harbour and the figure would probably be 5 million pounds nowadays. The matter is being investigated having regard to the added costs today and some more accurate figure than that which was given two years ago might be arrived at.

As regards the question of "Subsidies and Controls," I congratulate the honourable senior member for Christ Church on what he has said; the honourable member always gives me the impression that he thinks before he speaks, and that he thinks deeply before he puts forward his point of view. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Philip did not appreciate all he was saying when he said that he agreed with the honourable senior member for Christ Church; I take it that the case put up by the honourable senior member for St. Philip was that the retailer was not getting adequate returns but that you should not take anything back from the wholesaler. My personal view is that the commission merchant is a parasite in the commercial world; we are too poor to have so many middlemen and the business of the commission merchant should be done by the wholesaler. I reassure honourable members and the retail shopkeepers that the Government is continuing its investigation as to the allocation of profits between these three sets of distributors—the commission merchant, the wholesaler and the retailer. I must congratulate the honourable senior member for St. Philip for being courageous enough to say that if the distributor is not getting a fair profit you will have to pay more for your goods. I think the Government must take some credit to itself for keeping the figure for subsidisation at what it is for this year; the cost of flour went up and that of salt pork also went up. The Government wonders sometimes how sincere is the attitude of some of its critics; you must have noticed, Mr. Speaker, that while the honourable junior member for St. James congratulated the Government on its attitude towards subsidisation, the "Advocate" newspaper was at pains to put in the most emphatic way that the Government was making the cost of food dearer. That was the only thing the "Advocate" could find to headline; but the Government will walk warily, listen carefully and keep its powder dry.

I regret that the honourable senior member for the City is not here; he made one of the worst speeches that he has ever made in this House. Shouting at the Government does not worry it; the only effect of that is to make the Government laugh. Apart from repeating the suggestion which, I believe, was made some years ago by the honourable senior member for St. Philip about subsidising the working man's clothing, the honourable senior member for the City ought, on sober reflection, to be ashamed. On the question of District Markets, the honourable member knows that the Vestry can select sites for those markets and the Government will purchase them. I repeat, whatever might have been misunderstood about preferring one site to another site as being suitable for a district market, I made no attempt to say whether \$60 or \$10 or any price was reasonable because I do not know.

Before I sit down, there is something which I should like to correct. It is a common thing to throw bricks at the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization, and I would like to point out that salaries in respect of that Organization are paid out of the British Treasury. Whatever may be said about giving cocktail parties or anything else, honourable members will remember that the British taxpayer is paying for them, not the local taxpayer. As regards the point made by the honourable senior member for

Christ Church about making loans to artisans, the Government has already answered a question by the honourable junior member for St. Joseph in that connection: the Government is considering a scheme whereby loans will be made to artisans just as it has already agreed on making housing loans to members of the Civil Service including policemen. (Cheers). We are hoping to have loans running in respect of fishermen, artisans, peasants concerned with the sugar industry and Civil Servants. Only the professional classes will be able to borrow money from the Government for building purposes. The honourable senior member for St. George has again said something which he knows to be untrue namely, that Heads of Departments ignore the Government. If the Head of a Department attempts to sabotage the Government and it is known to those who support the Government, it is a matter for them to let us know. This Government dictates policy and the Heads of Departments have to carry out that policy. If ever I go out of politics, I will go out because some members of this Party are gradually pushing me out; they are clinging like dead men around the neck of this Government instead of co-operating with the Government. I am not adopting the role of liquidator, but I make an absolute appeal to the members of the Labour Party to criticize the Government when it is going wrong, but not, to use their own words, to sabotage its efforts.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on the Estimates for the year 1951—52, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Estimates for the year 1951—52, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

HEAD I—GOVERNOR

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I am asking leave to postpone the consideration of this Head. I promised the honourable junior member for St. James to discuss with him certain items, and although we have had a certain measure of discussion, there are certain things which I desire to discuss with him and with members of my Party before we deal with this Head. I am also asking leave to change the amount in respect of item 5 "Domestic Staff" from \$5,782 to \$3,930. The amount \$5,782 was printed before we discussed the Supplementary Resolution in respect of this item which Resolution was passed, and the amount of \$3,930 represents that to which we agreed as the contribution of the State to the wages of the Domestic Staff.

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

HEAD II—COLONIAL SECRETARY

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$6,150 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD III—COLONIAL TREASURER

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$26,292 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD—IV—AUDITOR GENERAL

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$1,511 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD V—HARBOUR AND SHIPPING MASTER

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$56,539 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD VI—CUSTOMS

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$103,306 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD VII—POWDER MAGAZINE

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$100 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD IX—PUBLIC MARKET

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$20,363 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: The amount in respect of item 25 "Cleaning" has been increased this year by over \$1,000. That seems to be a tremendous increase and I should like to know the reason for such an increase.

Mr. ADAMS: I somewhat anticipated that question because it has been asked before. Last year we had to vote \$1,000 for wages, brooms, soap, and so on, by means of a supplementary vote, and this amount represents what we voted last year plus the supplementary vote.

The question that the sum of \$20,363 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD X—FIRE BRIGADE

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$13,609 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. GODDARD: I should like to ask whether it is true that the Fire Brigade Officer is expected shortly.

Mr. ADAMS: We think that a very good choice has been made as far as this Officer is concerned, and he is expected to arrive at the end of the month.

The question that the sum of \$13,609 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XI—LIGHTHOUSES

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$2,292 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XII—REGISTRATION OFFICE

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$13,070 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XIII—LEGISLATURE

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$12,714 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: As regards item 21, "Reporting & Printing Debates of Legislature", the printing is still being done by the private Company and I would like to know if there is anything which the Government would be prepared to disclose this afternoon as to the future printing of the debates of the Legislature. How long is it likely to have this private Company charging these exorbitant rates for printing the debates of the Legislature? Are we up to date as regards the printed volumes of our debates or is this private printery keeping us back? In connection with the Librarian & Confidential Secretary under item 6, I appreciate that his salary has been put on an incremental basis, and that our Messenger under item 14 gets an allowance. However, I would throw out the suggestion that this allowance for the Messenger is very inadequate considering the fact that after doing his day's work, he has to remain until the next day working for us. The amount of \$4.00 per month is next to nothing and I suggest that it be increased; the Messenger deserves more than \$4.00 per month as an allowance. As regards the Marshal, we have not considered putting him on an incremental basis or providing an allowance for him; I think we must consider giving allowances for overtime. I think our Reporters are more or less satisfied since the last increase they received although the senior Reporter should receive further consideration in the near future.

Mr. ADAMS: As regards the first question, the Government, even more so than members of the House, are well aware of the advantages to be gained from having a Government Printery. (Cheers). We are aware of the long delays experienced in having the printing done by the private Company, but the outlay for a Government Printery is tremendous. I hope what I am going to say now will not encourage the "Advocate" to delay the printing further, but on the 30th September, 1949, we gave the Crown Agents the figures in respect of printing and asked for an indication of the machinery which would be required for establishing a Government Printery and an estimate of the cost. The Crown Agents did not reply for some time; I think that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy asked about the matter and we hurried up and sent a cable to the Crown Agents and we also sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking for similar information. We also made enquiries of West Indian Governments which have printing presses

of their own. The Crown Agents replied but their replies were not as helpful as they should be as they wanted more information as regards the material we required and so on. Subsequently at our request, the Government of St. Lucia, among other Governments, sent us an estimate as to the cost of our requirements. We have in our midst, Mr. Wilson, who was the Superintendent of the Government Printery in St. Lucia for many years, and he has been giving us some information. Whereas St. Lucia suggested that we would have to spend about £7,000, Trinidad suggested that it would cost us between £5,000 and £8,000 to establish our own printery; and since that time the establishment of the printery will cost us more. I appreciate what the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has said about the allowance for the Messenger; as long as there are speakers like the honourable member in this House, the Messenger will not get home until midnight. I suggest that if they are many nights like this one, an allowance of \$48 a year for the Messenger is inadequate. I shall pass on the honourable member's suggestion and see if it will bear fruit.

The question that the sum of \$12,714 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XIV—LEGAL DEPARTMENTS

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$39,823 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: There are several items under this Head about which I would like to get some information. In connection with item 31 "Revising Officer" the sum of \$960 is to be voted and the Representation of the People Act provides for the appointment of such an Officer annually. I should like to know if, when the appointment of the present holder of the office was made, an advertisement appeared in the Press calling for applicants. The public is perturbed in connection with the manner in which this appointment was made. It seems that Solicitors from certain firms are favoured with certain appointments; the former King's Solicitor is a member of a firm of Solicitors and his successor was appointed from the same firm; similarly, the former Revising Officer is a member of a firm of Law Officers and the appointment of his successor has been made from the same firm. There is nothing against the appointment of Mr. Bynoe, there is no one who is more gentlemanly than he; but is it a fact that in connection with this appointment, no advertisement was inserted in the Press calling for applicants? Relative to item 53 "Purchase of Law Books", that seems to be confined to keeping the Attorney General's Library up to date, but it is equally necessary for the Police Magistrates to have up-to-date textbooks at their disposal. However willing members of the legal profession may be to lend Police Magistrates their textbooks, the Government should not take any pride in that; the Police Magistrates should be supplied with copies of recognised textbooks. Every Police Magistrate should be supplied with an *Archbold* or a *Stone's Justices Manual*; the Magistrates do not actually make complaints, but when one submits a point of law to them, they say "We would like to check that point, but we have no books." I feel that consideration should be given to that matter. Item 51 is "Incidentals", and the note says "Provides for cleaning the several Courts and for other incidental expenses." I would suggest that the provision be extended for cleaning the robing

room for barristers in the Town Hall. I wonder if that room has ever been cleaned; some books have remained dusty there from the time that any barrister has been using the room, and there is no furniture in that room except a chair without a bottom. This amount certainly does not provide for the cleaning of that room, or, if it does, the work is not being done. Item 36 is "Jurors and Marshals at Common Pleas"; I am hoping that there will be no mention about jurors at Common Pleas because they will be abolished. Item 35 is "Jurors & Marshals" and I again invite the attention of the Government to the Act of 1891 with a view to their seriously considering an adequate increase in the day's remuneration for Jurors. It is a great honour for one to sit on a jury, but when he receives \$1.54 per day and his regular day's pay is \$3.00, he does not appreciate the honour as he should appreciate it. Those who are serving the State are rendering an important service, and it is asking too much of them to ask them to go home out of pocket at the end of the Session. I am hoping to hear a reply from the appropriate member of the Government.

Mr. ADAMS: As regards the question of the provision of law Books for Magistrates, I may say that some people carry their law in their heads while others carry theirs in their books; and a Magistrate may feel that he does not need any books. I know that Mr. Talma used to have an up-to-date *Stone's Justices Manual*, and I agree that a Magistrate should have those two useful books mentioned by the honourable member. As regards the item "Incidentals," if the honourable member speaks to the President of the Assistant Court of Appeal the matter will be eventually passed on to the scrubber, who will see about the scrubbing of that room. I agree with the honourable member that the time has come not merely for the abolition of special jurors, but that in a civil action no jurors should be summoned unless both parties want them. There may be occasions on which it is necessary for a Judge to have special assistance and if he makes application in that connection, I think that that is the better method. As regards the Revising Officer, when Mr. Sealy resigned, an attempt was made to get some Solicitor to take the job but no Solicitor would take it at the salary which is attached to it. Eventually Mr. Bynoe was persuaded to take the job. The advantage of having Mr. Bynoe is that for years Mr. Sealy's typists and one of the partners of the firm used to be called upon for assistance; Mr. Sealy used to be assisted by his staff. Mr. Bynoe was the only Solicitor who would take this appointment.

The question that the sum of \$39,823 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XV — POLICE

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$120,608 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRYAN: Item 32 is "Furniture, Repairs, etc." and the amount to be voted is \$400. The note reads "To meet the cost of maintenance and replacements of furniture at all Police Stations and Officers." I would like some information as to who does the repairs; what firm or firms take charge of the maintenance and replacement of this furniture? I know something of the work done by policemen who were formerly carpenters, joiners and masons,

and I am hoping that the promise made to me is being kept. If policemen are compelled to repair buildings and paint them, and to build and repair furniture, I feel rather that outside people should be employed to do this work. In connection with item 45 "Upkeep of Cots," sometime ago it was brought to my attention that policemen were engaged in building 100 cots; I understand that they were building these cots at the Wharf Post and that keeps people out of employment. As regards item 66 "Upkeep of Motor Launches," I understand that these launches are very often used to take private individuals to and from ships and the vote must have been expended. I also understand that policemen are detailed to carry out minor repairs to these launches and that an engineer from the Department of Highways and Transport sees after the upkeep of these launches. I would like the appropriate member of the Executive Committee to give me some information in connection with the points which I have made.

Mr. MILLER: Item 68 is "Purchase of Horses" and the amount required is \$1,300. I would like to know if it is in order to spend this amount under this item. As regards item 48, "Maintenance of Prisoners in lock up," the amount to be voted is \$120, which works out at about 35 cents per day. That amount would appear to be small. I should like to know the cost of the upkeep of the two Scotland Yard Dogs.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am supporting what the honourable junior member for St. Michael has said in respect of the item "Upkeep of Motor Launches." These launches are to be used for carrying out Police duties, not for taking people or even members of the Police Force themselves, on joy rides in the harbour. When we decided to provide these launches, we intended that they should be used for carrying out Police duties. I do not think that these launches should be taken away from their moorings unless they are going to be used on Police duties. I have made investigations and I am satisfied that these launches are not strictly used on Police duties. Item 57 is "Payment of two-thirds Band fees to Band." I would like to know if these fees are to be spent on the instruments or if they are to be divided among members of the Band, and if the other third of the fees is paid into the Treasury. As regards item 45 "Upkeep of Cots," the note says that the supply of the cots on hand at present is adequate. Is that note correct? Because in spite of the supply of cots being adequate, we are asked to vote \$1,000 for the upkeep of those cots. When I query item 28, "Repairs and maintenance of Rifles" and item 29 "Arms and Ammunition and Civil Defence Equipment," I look at the honourable senior member for St. Michael. In connection with item 29, I would like to know how much of this \$2,880 is for the purchase of Tear Smoke Equipment and we will know how much is for the purchase of ammunition. We vote money for ammunition in respect of the Barbados Regiment, but as regards the Police Force, that is a civil Force, and they can borrow some ammunition from the Barbados Regiment. The amount under item 47 "Motor Transport" will continue to be high as long as the vans travel at the speed at which one has the misfortune to meet them travelling on the road. Item 38 "Incidentals" seems to be the appropriate item under which to mention this matter; several policemen have informed me that, in respect of the Police Stations in the country districts, the Government should provide a cook at each Station. If policemen are

stationed at Bissex Hill and their homes are in Bridgetown, it is impossible for them to have their meals sent to them; they feel that it would be reasonable to ask the Government to provide someone to cook their meals. Some policemen cannot cook and others would be relieved by having somebody to do the cooking for them. Policemen are sent to all parts of the island and I think the matter which I have just mentioned should receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government. As regards item 35 "Expenses incidental to upkeep of animals," many complaints have been received about policemen having to look after the animals. Before the Calver Report, policemen were required to spend an hour cleaning rifles and a similar period cleaning equipment when they came back in from duty: since the institution of the present regime, the stable orderlies seem to have been abandoned, and the men are required to wash down the stables themselves. They take strong objection to doing that; it is a duty of which they would like to be relieved. The policemen have little or no time for cooking their meals because they are on duty for three hours at least, and then they have to spend another hour in cleaning the horses and the stables. During the regime of Mr. Perowne, he used to go horse riding with his friends, and when I put a question in that connection to the Government, they gave the answer which was given years ago to the late Dr. Duncan O'neal. So far as I can gather, these horses have not been ridden by private individuals except certain persons who are close friends of the Commissioner of Police and the Colonial Secretary. If I can have some information from the honourable senior member for St. Thomas as to the questions I have asked, I shall be grateful for it. As to item 49 "Special Services," I think that care should be exercised about giving rewards for information supplied; officials must make sure that the people who are supplying information are those who have authentic information to supply.

Mr. ALLDER: In connection with item 29, "Arms and Ammunition and Civil Defence Equipment" I would like to have some information as to how much Tear Smoke Equipment has been bought and if any of it has been used. If none of it has been used, why has the vote not been reduced? I am sorry that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy did not see fit to move for a reduction of the vote under this item. I feel that this community is a very orderly one; we have not had to use any great force to suppress any uprising in the island. While I am on this point, I will mention that some weeks ago a cricket hero was married at the St. Michael's Cathedral, and many members of the family of the couple, friends, well-wishers, and admirers assembled at the Cathedral to see the wedding. It has been reported to me that the Police, instead of using decent methods to keep back the crowd which was comprised mostly of the family of the couple, took out their truncheons and beat the people very badly with them. I feel that the "Minister" who is responsible for affairs relating to this Department, should use his influence to prevent a recurrence of that state of affairs. Advantage should not be taken of people by indiscreet policemen; as far as this particular case is concerned, it must be remembered that the Police Force has got to be financed by some of the same people who have been beaten. As regards item 34, "Forage" the amount of \$8,000 is still being spent; there are certain traditional things to which we like to cling. I do not believe in voting \$8,000 a year in connection with forage for Police horses; as soon as a horse dies, there is no reason why you should not refrain from replacing it. We have reached the

stage when motorized transport is used in every Department of the Government. If it is felt that there is the necessity for horses so as to disperse crowds, I say that the occasions on which functions will be taking place and you have to control crowds by mounted policemen will be very rare; I feel that four horses would be sufficient for doing this work. We are not now in the days when the horse and buggy were used and we had to use mounted policemen for escorting the Governor; we should have motor cyclists escorting the Governor and that would relieve policemen from having to spend so many hours a day in keeping the stables clean, and there are other incidental expenses which we might not be able to see. I notice that we vote money for replacing musical instruments for the Band; I do not want to make any noise relative to the Head of this particular branch of the Department, because I feel that he is most efficient; he is, in my opinion, the best Bandmaster that either Barbados or the West Indies has been able to get; but I hate to know that the Police Band is being used as a Department for bringing in revenue, especially when bringing in that revenue causes people to be put out of employment. The Police Band plays at private places where private musicians used to play in the past; the taxpayers are paying for the Police Band for the entertainment of the general public without discrimination, and when the Band is permitted to go to the Crane Hotel, its services are being made exclusive. What I am suggesting can be easily done; that is, in the same way that the Band plays at Queen's Park every month, it should go to every parish and play on different days so that every man, woman and child can enjoy the music. If there is a section of the people which is deserving of assistance along the cultural line, it is the people in the country. I hope that I will not have to make any mention of this matter again. As regards item 45, Upkeep of Cots" I take it that there are 430 odd men in the Force, and every year this item costs us \$1,000; that is ridiculous. When you get accustomed to putting down a certain amount in the Estimates, every year you put down that same amount. The note to this item says that the supply of cots on hand at present is adequate, and yet we are asked to vote this money. As regards item 56, "Extradition Expenses", I would like to see the amount under this item increased by any amount; we have had here people from other colonies behaving very badly and they have even broken into people's houses. As soon as a stranger finds himself before a Police Magistrate charged with misbehaviour and the fine imposed by the Magistrate is paid, he should be sent out of the colony; that is being done with our people and we should do it too. We should get all the undesirables out of the colony; I hope that my suggestions will be given the consideration which they deserve.

Mr. BRANCKER: With reference to the Police Band, it has been said that the Band plays at the Yacht Club. I entirely agree that the Police Band should not be allowed to play at any institution which is open to only a select few; it should play at places to which members of the public can have access. I hope the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will see that what has happened in the past will not happen again. The honourable senior member for St. John referred to what took place on the occasion of the wedding of one of our famous cricketers; I was an eye-witness to what took place, and it is worse than what the honourable member has mentioned. It was not necessary to do more than put a few policemen in the compound between the Masonic Lodge and the Cathedral's gate. There were many spinsters who were looking at the bride; women and girls were pressing against the bride's car to catch a

glimpse of the bride and the Police, including a non-commissioned Officer, not merely used their truncheons but their horse whips in lashing the crowd who did not move back. That happened outside the Cathedral's gate for hundreds of people to see. I have been informed that that sort of thing is done in Nigeria. I defy officers in the Force to deny that the incident which I have mentioned did not take place.

Mr. GODDARD: I thought I had made the position clear not many weeks ago as to the Police Band playing at places like the Aquatic Club and the Marine Hotel. I have made enquiries and I say that the Band only plays for charity dances at these places. I think that we should assist charity; these places are loaned for the occasions of these dances and the charity organizations engage the Police Band to play for them.

Mr. ALLDER: Not very long ago, the Polo Team returned from Venezuela and a dance took place at the Marine Hotel and the services of the Police Band were engaged. Was that a charity dance? Was the public allowed to go in? Nowadays the Police Band will put a whole orchestra out of employment; when the Band is allowed to play at these dances is it not putting people out of work?

Mr. GARNER: I feel it is time for us to adjourn. However, I want to say that I do not know what good things the Commissioner of Police may have to introduce later on, but he is so imbued with what goes on in African colonies that he has attempted to do the same thing here. Well, we cannot get to Africa to fix them up, but when they come here to practice things we will fix them up. The Bandmaster is an affable man and I would vote money to help him. I feel that the Police Band is paid more or less by taxation from all sections of the community; sometimes the Band comes to St. Philip and plays in certain districts. The Band is entitled to play at any place and allow the people to let themselves go. I do not want to go to the Yacht Club; when the Band comes to my parish I find somewhere for it to play, and I can have a little jig as well. Sweet music can change an animal.

Mr. MILLER: I learned for the first time tonight about the Police beating people who went to the Cathedral to see the wedding of one of our famous cricketers, and the honourable junior member for St. Lucy was very firm in stating that the people were beaten. I am asking the honourable Leader of the House not to pass over this matter as being something trivial; it is a very cruel thing. Mr. Chairman, I feel it is wrong that such a thing should happen and I would like the Government to make a strong protest to the Commissioner of Police on behalf of the House. The time came when we abolished whipping in the Prison and now I hear about policemen beating women in the street! It is an ugly reflection on the island to say that women were beaten by policemen; it is a very grave matter. I see that some honourable members are smiling, but this beating of people is something to be forbidden. In this age you tell me that women who were looking at a wedding were beaten by the Police? The joy or solace of women looking at a wedding is something which you cannot give. I think it is only in some parts of Africa that people are beaten in the street. I cannot see the last "cat" which was used in this colony in the Museum; I can see evidence of the last slave at Trent's Plantation in St. James. That slave was sold because the lady could not feed him; whipping people is something of the past and now you tell me that policemen are permitted to beat women? I ask the Government to go to the Commissioner of Police and

enquire about this matter and see that it does not happen again. Before I sit down, I am asking the Government to give me some assurance that they will investigate this matter about policemen beating these women. As regards the Police Band, I do not think you can find another Bandmaster like Captain Raison, and people should be given all opportunity for hearing the music supplied by the Band.

Mr. ADAMS: Who is taking the matter of women being beaten by the Police in a trivial way? What surprises me is that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy saw what took place and did not take the matter to the Court. It is unnecessary to ask the Government to take this matter seriously. I would like to say for the benefit of honourable members that never since we have been dealing with Estimates have we been so careful in examining requests which were sent in by every Department, as we have been this year. We have scrutinized every single item of expenditure which was put before us; and, in consequence, we almost put ourselves in the position of being an Opposition, questioning item after item. I questioned the item relative to the upkeep of the cots. I forget what period was given as the life of a cot, but we were told that a cot costs \$18.00; that a cot cover costs \$8.00 and the life of the cover was given as eighteen months. I was surprised that the sum of \$1,000 was asked for and we have been told that that is a conservative estimate. Nothing has been asked about which we have not been critical; as a matter of fact, we asked a lot more questions than what honourable members have asked. As regards the item "Arms and Ammunition and Civil Defence Equipment" the note shows that the amount is for the purchase of ammunition for Musketry Course and spare parts, and so on, for rifles; the bulk of money is for the purchase of Tear Smoke Equipment. In connection with item 32, "Furniture, Repairs, etc.",

as far as I know, all the repairs are done outside; I am under the impression that Messrs. C. F. Harrison & Co. did some of the building. I should like to inform the honourable senior member for St. John that there is no up-to-date Police Force which does not keep horses; the Police have to do patrol work and you cannot use a motor cycle down a cart path between two fields of canes. As regards the point made about music being supplied by the Police Band, if anybody has a soul, music will appeal to him. I have not heard anybody complain about the amount in respect of the item "Maintenance of prisoners in lock up", and as regards the item "Extradition Expenses," the honourable senior member for St. John has confused that item with repatriation expenses. Relative to the use of motor launches, I feel that the honourable member will go carefully into that matter. I have not got the information which he has got.

The question that the sum of \$120,608 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing in Committee of Resolutions in the Estimates for the year 1951-52 amounting to \$416,377 and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Thursday next, the 15th day of March, 1951, at 3 o'clock, p.m.

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