

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 19th 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. T. O. BRYAN, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., F. C. GODDARD, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., E. L. WARD and J. E. T. BRANOKER.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting which was held on the 6th March, 1951, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. James for the year 1950.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I am commanded to lay on the Table of the House the following papers:—

Report of the Seawell Airport Committee.

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the period ended on the 31st of December 1950, in respect of the several Schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

West Indian Conference — Fourth Session.

NOTICES

The following Government notices were given:—

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March 1952.

Resolution to place the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive

Committee for the purpose of making an interest-free loan to the Natural Gas Corporation.

In connection with this Resolution, I should like to inform honourable members that I propose to deal with it some time tomorrow. Honourable members will remember that section 18 of the Natural Gas Corporation Act empowers the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make an interest — free loan to the National Gas Corporation with the approval of the Legislature. The present arrangement with the British Union Oil Company ends on the 31st of March, and it is necessary for funds to be made available to the Natural Gas Corporation to enable it to take over on the 1st of April.

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

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1952, was read a first time.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY—ESTIMATES FOR 1951—52

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume 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. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House resumed Committee on the Estimates, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

HEAD XXVII—CHARGES OF DEBT

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$158,160 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

HEAD XXVIII—SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$209,523 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I would like the Leader of the House to give me some information as to the result of an Address which was passed by this House over a year ago relative to further assistance being given to blind persons in this colony. I initiated that Address and presented it to the then Acting Governor who was quite sympathetic towards the suggestion contained in the Address. I was given to feel that some provision would have been made allowing blind persons who did not have the means of existence to benefit by further assistance under this Head. It was suggested at that time that there were many blind persons who did not have parents or guardians who were in a position to contribute to their maintenance; it was also suggested that instead of allowing blind persons to reach the age of 60 odd when they would be qualified under the Old Age Pension Scheme to receive assistance, they should be given assistance when their fathers are not compelled to maintain them after they reach the age of 14. I have not heard any reply to that Address: I think we should make sure that these people are not forced to live in misery; we should make sure that they get food and shelter and a little clothing by means of an increased grant from the Government. As regards the St. Mark's Baby Welfare Clinic, I am thankful that that Clinic has been considered and given a grant, although I notice that the amount is one-half of that which is given to the St. Philip Infant Welfare Centre. There is another Clinic which has been started at St. Margarets, and those who have been responsible for starting it have found some difficulty in collecting subscriptions for its maintenance. I am hoping that the Government will extend some measure of kindness to this Clinic by including it in the list of those which are given assistance. I have seen the work which is carried on there and the people of that district are definitely unable to contribute as much as was expected of them; so that those who are carrying on this Clinic have been hoping that the Government would assist them to continue the running of it. As regards the Salvation Army, I feel it is time that the grant which is given to them be increased; it is a fact that of the religious denominations which we have in this colony, the Salvation Army is definitely doing the most remarkable work, and it has extended its activities to include the provision of night shelters for people. I feel that the work which this Denomination is doing prevents many people from having to sleep on the sidewalks at night; and if the grant which is given to it were increased, that would go far in helping it to extend its work further. I am hoping that I will get some information about item 36, "Barbados Association in Aid of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb" since I have not been able to get any knowledge as to the intention of the Government relative to the Address which was passed by the House several months ago.

Mr. MAPP: In connection with item 32, "Imperial War Graves Commission", I see that in 1948-49 the amount expended was \$386; in 1949-50 the amount voted was \$606; in 1950-51 the amount was \$862 and now the amount to be voted has gone down to \$710. I would like to know on what basis the computation is made. I hope to see this amount reduced to \$386, the same as it was in 1948-49. As regards item 33, "Barbados Nurses' Association", I would like to know where the District nursing centre, mentioned in the note, is to be set up. I understand it

is to be attached to the Nurses' Association Centre in Bridgetown; of course this Association has been started in Bridgetown and I suppose that most of its services would be confined to that area. I hope that the Government will see its way to encourage this Association to extend its services to the rural areas. There are District Nurses in St. Michael, but there is none in other parishes and there is a very crying need for them. In connection with item 4, "Commissioners of Health, St. Michael," I would like to draw the Government's attention to the fact that there was published in a local newspaper an account of a Conference of Sanitary Inspectors and Public Health Officers held at the Y.M.C.A., and on the last day of that Conference it was reported that a Resolution was passed to be presented to the Governor. That Resolution contained some astonishing criticisms; indeed it disclosed an astonishing state of affairs. In the Resolution mention was made about the delegates recording with alarm and dismay the lethargy displayed by the Barbados Government. In my opinion, that is a very drastic criticism of the Barbados Government and the Conference was presided over by the Director of Medical Services, who, along with the Senior Medical Officer of Health, was requested to present it to the Governor. I can only say that a matter like this must have been conceived in a moment of irresponsibility, or in an attempt to show that Civil Servants who come into this colony can ride roughshod over this Government. We could not conceive of Civil Servants in Trinidad criticising the Government of that colony; the particular Minister down there would have had something to say about it. We have been told here that in so far as policy is concerned, that is dictated by the four members of this House who are members of the Government; but if Civil Servants who come here from Ireland, Scotland or any other part of the world, enjoy salaries paid by this Government and they are allowed to offer any criticism they like of the Government, then I would like to know what we are coming to. We are not going forward to self-government if Civil Servants can criticise the Government like this; and there are certain members of the Opposition who feel that there are Civil Servants who regard themselves as masters and not servants. Some of these Civil Servants feel that they should be dictating the policy of this Government, but we could hardly conceive of action being taken by them to bring down public disapproval on the head of the Government. We cannot always rely on newspapers and I do not know if those Officers really presented that Resolution to the Governor; but it is in the interest of the Government and in the interest of the constitutional position of which we are accustomed to boast, for us to hold some inquiry as to whether the presentation of the Resolution by Dr. O'Mahony and Dr. Grannum did take place. Are these Officers Civil Servants or politicians? If people can criticise the Government to whom they are responsible, then they are not Civil Servants; they are the real powers.

This Government has been warned by back benchers that there are Civil Servants who sabotage the Government. We were told that if there are any instances of sabotage to bring them to the notice of the Government, and I do not know if the Government want a clearer case of sabotage than this one. I say it is a deliberate act of sabotage on the part of these two Officers, and it could only be conceived to cause the downfall of the Government. The quicker these people go back whence they came, the better it will be for them; the less frequently we have this type of people around here, the better it will be for the people of this colony. Can you imagine a Director of Medical Services coming out to a colony even under the old system and criticising the Gov-

ernment of the colony? He would not do a thing like that in Trinidad or British Guiana because he would be offending the British Government who is responsible for those colonies; he would not do it in Africa because the British Government is responsible for affairs there: but he comes to this colony, sits as Chairman at this Conference where a Resolution is proposed and he makes no attempt to say that the wording of the Resolution should be changed or that he could not associate himself with it; but, I am informed, he actually presented it to the Governor. Imagine an Officer like this going anywhere else in the Colonial Empire where the constitution is more backward than ours and attempting to associate himself with a similar Resolution! I say that this is a piece of impertinence, something of which the Government has to take notice; it is time that these people be put in their places. We should have ministerial responsibility because these people are bosses and they cannot take orders from the hon. senior member for St. Thomas or the honourable senior member for St. Peter. If these people are servants then they should be servants, not masters; the tail should not be allowed to wag the dog. It is an affront to the Government and I take a very serious view of it. I would ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies to recall this Officer if he is going to associate himself with Resolutions such as that to which I have referred. If the Government allow a thing like this to slip, more of these people will have the effrontery to associate themselves with any vote of censure of the Government. I am not trying to build up any case against anybody; this case speaks for itself. If we say that we dictate the policy of the Government, we should not allow any Officer from abroad to censure the Government in this way. I hope that the Government will not allow this matter to die.

Mr. MILLER: In connection with item 9 "Barbados Branch S.P.C.A." the amount to be voted is \$720. I want to draw to the attention of the Government that the S.P.C.A. does not seem to me as if it is doing its job. In the country districts you will find animals carrying heavy loads and going on the tips of their hoofs, and I do not think that that is what is expected of a civilised community. Another matter is in connection with the slaughterhouse at the Public Market; in the first place, I do not like the word "slaughter," and I do not know that it is correct in this age to take an animal through the door of the slaughter house where it can watch several other animals being put to death. If you go to the slaughterhouse on Saturday morning, you will find the bodies of five or six cows hanging from the ceiling; you will find several smaller animals dying and other animals being pulled through the door of the slaughterhouse to witness all that. I think that the Government should make some arrangement whereby that state of affairs will be stopped; I think that some change should be brought about in connection with this matter. I think it is rather uncouth to take an animal—sometimes a pretty well-developed animal—to watch other animals being put to death before that animal is itself put to death. I am hoping that the Government will pay some attention to this matter and, if necessary, increase the amount of this grant to the S.P.C.A. so as to bring about a modern type of slaughtering which will save these animals the shock of watching other animals die before their turn comes. Going back to the question of animals carrying heavy loads in the country districts, I do not know how in the name of goodness it could be reasonable to have animals drawing heavy loads up the hills; I am suggesting to the Government that they make a special effort to increase the grant to this Society so that some relief can be brought to the suffering animals. It is indeed a

shocking state of affairs in this age to have a Police Department hunting down owners of animals to take them out of their suffering.

As regards item 31, "Salvation Army" the amount to be voted is \$720. If you look back to the Head "Ecclesiastical" you will see that amounts are fixed by law in respect of the Moravian Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Wesleyan Church, but no provision is made by law for the Salvation Army. When specific amounts are fixed by law in respect of these Churches, I do not think that the amount in respect of the Salvation Army should be left to be voted. It is the Salvation Army which provides for the aftercare of discharged prisoners and it is the Salvation Army which furnishes the Probation Officers; I think, therefore that the Government should pay a little more attention to this Denomination. The Salvation Army provides shelters for men and women and it is admirable to see the people who go to obtain shelter; some times they are forced to use the floor. I really feel that more attention should be paid to this Denomination.

Mr. REECE came into the Committee and took his seat while Mr. MILLER was speaking.

Mr. DOWDING: I do not know if the honourable Leader of the House has given any explanation as regards item 3, "Upkeep of Highways", because I was not here at the beginning; but it raises a certain amount of worry to my mind, since we see that the principle obtaining last year will not obtain again this year. I would like to point out as regards the parish of St. George, that, being a central parish, it is necessary for a great deal of traffic to pass through it; as a matter of fact, there is in the parish a road which is becoming the main road to the Airport. During the last three years we have had very large crops, and consequently, the amount of traffic passing over the roads of the parish has been increased. In addition to that, particularly during the last year and within the last few months, we have had unusual rains—something which has not been experienced in this island for a number of years—and the result has been that the condition of the main roads in the parish has further deteriorated. The constant lack of money for putting these parish roads in order is becoming one of the biggest problems in the island. If one compares the amount of money spent per mile by the Department of Highways and Transport with that spent by the Highway Commissioners of St. George and probably those of other parishes, one will see that the work which is being carried out by the Highway Commissioners is carried out more cheaply and, in my opinion, just as good as that which is carried out by the Department of Highways and Transport. As a matter of fact, the Department of Highways and Transport has admitted that it is incapable of handling any more work, and I think it must be on account of that fact that this year the Government has been advised to have estimates of the actual work to be undertaken by the parishes sent in. I have before me correspondence from the Director of Highways and Transport calling upon the Highway Commissioners of St. George to supply him with detailed estimates of each road which the parish intended to repair during the forthcoming year. A great deal of work followed that request and the Highway Commissioners of St. George thought that at last the roads of the parish would be getting the repairs which they so urgently need. I do not think that the relationship as to the amount of money spent and the amount of traffic which these roads have to carry is quite correct, when one takes into consideration the large sums of money expended by the Department of Highways

and Transport, and the infinitesimal amounts which are granted to the parishes. I had hoped that after those estimates had been obtained, I would have seen in the Estimates this year as we saw last year, a definite amount of money stated in the notes in respect of each parish. The estimates which were made by the Highway Commissioners of St. George in conjunction with their Road Inspector, called for repairs, reconditioning and construction of 41 miles of road, and the amount required was \$86,982; but the total amount to be voted under this Head is \$124,543. The note says; "Further expenditure from this item will be subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee on submission by the Highway Commissioners of detailed programmes for the year 1951-52." This year is a peculiar year because of the fact that the Elections will be taking place. I am really worried as to what amount is going to be granted to the parish of St. George; I am sorry that my colleague is not in his seat to put the case to the willing ears of the Government. Last year the Highway Commissioners of each parish knew that they would be granted so much money; and if this year they are not going to know what money will be available for repairs to the roads apart from what they collect from taxes, then they are going to find great difficulty in laying out their programme of work for the year. I say that the Highway Commissioners should be given some figures upon which they can work. I have a copy of what has already been submitted by the Highway Commissioners of St. George; they have pointed out that the amount of \$86,982 will be required and I hope that that amount will be granted. If that amount is not granted, we will have to know as soon as possible what part of that sum is going to be granted. In the past, even where the tenantry roads are concerned, we have had the experience of having to shut down work because we had not been given the money to carry it on. This is a matter which affects the island as a whole and I hope that the Government will be able to put my mind at rest about it. I think I have gone into this matter quite lengthily and I shall wait to hear what answers will be given to the questions which I have asked.

Mr. BRANCKER: The hon. senior member for St. George has really struck a very important note in bringing the conditions obtaining at the slaughterhouse at the Public Market to the attention of the Government. I suggest that the honourable member of the Executive Committee in charge of matters relating to this particular Department should pay a visit down there and see the conditions for himself. As regards the S.P.C.A., on several occasions I have expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of work which this Organization is apparently doing, and I have drawn the matter to the attention of the Officers responsible. Up to a few years ago there were some septuagenarians in the S.P.C.A., but now that the average age of the members is somewhat less, I would expect that they would be more active, even if only in applying for an increased grant from the Government. The question is: how much can be done with the grant which the S.P.C.A. is given? In the private butcheries all over the island there are instances of what the honourable senior member for St. George has mentioned. I suggest that we should provide for the humane killing of animals in every parish of the island, and make apparatus available for persons who cannot take their animals to the Public Market to be slaughtered. The S.P.C.A. is unable to employ enough people to go around on their behalf and deal with the cases to which the honourable senior member for St. George has referred; that work would require far more Inspectors than the Society could pay out of the subscriptions it collects plus Government assist-

ance. I suggest that if an application is made for an increased grant, the Government should pay attention to it. As regards item 17 "Young Men's Christian Association", that Association has removed into different premises and it will obviously need more money to keep it up. The average member of this Association cannot afford to pay more than the 1/6 which is charged and in some instances, members cannot pay that amount, considering the number of persons who are struck off for non-payment of arrears. His Majesty the King has seen fit to confer on the General Secretary of the Association membership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, so that even the King sees what good work is being done in these parts. I suggest that this Association is well worth receiving favourable consideration for an increased grant if and when it should apply for such increased grant.

Mr. REECE: I would like to join the honourable junior member for St. George in his submission that the Government should allocate sums of money to the various Highway Commissioners through the Estimates. I think that these Commissioners should know exactly how much money they are going to be given to spend on the roads for the ensuing year, so that when they budget for expenditure they will know how much money will be in their hands. I think it is incumbent on the Highway Commissioners of each parish to submit their figures to the Executive Committee at an early time so that the Executive Committee will have ample opportunity to examine those figures and see whether public money should be expended on the roads which the Commissioners have submitted for their consideration. In other words, when it comes to the spending of public money, the Executive Committee have a duty to perform just as much as this House has a duty to perform. The Executive Committee have to see that the object for which it is proposed to spend the money is a worthy one, and the Highway Commissioners have to submit their lists at an early period for examination by the Executive Committee. Having made their decision on the point, the Executive Committee should allocate to the Highway Commissioners the exact amount of money which they will be granted for the year. It is very difficult for the Highway Commissioners to arrange their affairs not knowing in advance how much money they will have in hand. I hope that it will be the definite policy of the Government to make an allocation to the various Highway Commissioners after the Commissioners have submitted their estimates and the lists of the roads to be repaired; so that on the next occasion we will know exactly how much money is being granted to each body of Highway Commissioners, and the Commissioners in turn will know in what way the money is to be spent. In the parish which I have the honour to represent, there are a large number of tenantry roads which are in a very bad state of repair because the Highway Commissioners have not got any money to spend on them. As a matter of fact, it is now a period of years since repairs have been effected to these roads; when the Clerk of the House was a representative of the parish of Christ Church, the tenantry roads were taken over and put in a proper state of repair. There are roads which lead in and out of the tenancies and the taxpayers in those tenancies are as much entitled to proper roads leading to their homes as the people who live on the highways. Therefore, I think that every effort should be made on the part of the Highway Commissioners and on that of the Government to provide good roads for these people. When it comes to a question of making proper roads, it means that you will have to spend money, and it is for that

reason that I feel it is the duty of the Highway Commissioners to submit at an early period a list of the roads which they have to repair so that the Government can allocate the money to be spent on these roads. I could mention many roads which lead to tenantries in Christ Church, roads which have remained in a chaotic condition for many a long year. I know the hardship which the people who live in these tenantries have to undergo during the rainy season; I could speak on that matter for a long time.

I have noticed that there are several organizations which seek to improve the social well-being of women in this colony, and it is surprising to me to see how little an amount of money has been allocated to them. I see that in respect of the Christ Church Baby Welfare League the small sum of \$360 has been allocated. I have some knowledge of the good work which this Organization is doing in the parish, and when people are doing work of that sort I think that they should be given proper financial aid. It is true that certain persons, bodies and companies assist this Organization which works for charitable purposes; but it is very difficult at times for the Organization to get anything so as to do a good job. I think that the money which is spent on such an Organization will be money well spent, and it will help to uplift the cultural and social conditions of the people of this island. I would also like to mention that a Young Women's Christian Association has been organized, a sum of money has been contributed to it and we know that that Association has actually started to enrol members; I think that the Government should have granted that Association some money so as to assist it in being properly launched; I think that the Government is guilty of a serious omission, having regard to the fact that this Association has begun to do so much for the young women of this island. The Association has not started to work in the full sense, but it should be encouraged by being given a grant to assist it to carry on its work. I should also like to make mention of the Girls' Industrial Union which should be given an increased grant. This is another Organization which is doing good work; young women go there and learn a good deal. Lectures are given by competent people and I think that some further assistance should be given to this Organization. In any community the women are the most important factor, because the culture and welfare of the men depend absolutely upon the women; if you have in a home a woman with a high sense of responsibility then you can be sure that her influence will be felt and the man in turn will have a higher sense of responsibility. What is more important is that you will find that woman bringing up her children in the right way. That being the case, I think that these Organizations for women should be encouraged, but the Government has only given the Girls' Industrial Union the sum of \$480. This is a matter which should be looked into. I am very pleased to see that the Young Men's Christian Association, the Boy Scout Movement and other Organizations which tend to uplift the cultural and social conditions of the people of the community have been given grants and I hope that on the next occasion these Organizations will receive better encouragement at the hands of the Government.

As regards the Publicity Committee, I feel that the time has come when those who are interested in tourism should hold a meeting among themselves and decide exactly how much money they are prepared to contribute towards advertising our beautiful island; I do not think that everything should be left to the Government. Only a few meetings ago the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said that the Government is perfectly willing to put

up money along with the contribution of those who are interested in this business. With that view I entirely agree, and this is a matter which affects the entire community. I can see some force in the argument that the persons who are directly interested in tourism should, as well as the Government, do everything to make other people know the charms of this island; they should discuss the matter and arrive at some figure which, in their view, is a proper figure to spend in the publicity of this island, and then go to the Government and see what the Government is prepared to do. They could tell the Government: "This is our figure, what are you going to do in the matter?" As I said on a previous occasion, the Barbadian can no longer go out of the island to the United States of America and send back what has been our invisible income, so that if we want American dollars we have to bring the Americans here and get those dollars from them. Therefore every cent which is spent in advertising the charms of this island is money which is well spent.

There is just one other item to which I would like to refer and it is the Roman Catholic Church. I cannot see why that Church has not been given a greater grant; recently I have seen some of the work which that Church is doing at its elementary school, and I would like to say that out of voluntary contributions a hot meal is provided for the children. You can almost call the teachers voluntary teachers because they are paid very small salaries indeed, but there is no money with which to pay them bigger salaries. However, the poor school children are given one proper meal a day. I think that anybody who has the welfare of the poor people of this colony so much at heart should be given encouragement and support. Although this school is not recognized as being under the Government, nevertheless a bigger grant should be given to it so as to enable the teachers to be paid proper salaries and the children to enjoy even better conditions than they are enjoying at present. When you have a Body which is prepared to go to the length to which the Roman Catholic Church has gone in the interest of the school children, I think that that Body should be given every encouragement and the amount allocated to it should be increased.

Mr. BRANCKER: I did not intend to speak again, but after hearing the remarks of the honourable junior member for Christ Church in respect of the Girls' Industrial Union, I should like to make a few further remarks. The honourable member is asking for an increased grant in respect of the Girls' Industrial Union; I have heard the opinion expressed that this Institution is not paying as much attention as one would expect it to pay to the things for which it was originally founded, things which are really worth while, but is concentrating more on promoting dances and functions of that nature. However desirable these functions may be, they do not commend themselves to persons who are asked to give moral support to any Organization which is working for the good of the community. I have had complaints from persons—one of them is a rigid Sabbatarian it is true—about dances being carried on after twelve o'clock on Saturday nights, but there is also the question of carrying on these dances during Lent. People feel that this Organization should concentrate more on teaching subjects to the girls; they feel that dances should be given a lesser place than they seem to be given now. I am just sounding a note of warning because the honourable junior member for Christ Church is asking for an increased grant in respect of this Institution.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sorry to have to rise again, but in connection with item 3. "Upkeep of High-

ways", I would like to know why the parish of St. John is only given \$960 while the parish of St. George is given \$2,400.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—The honourable member is out of order. The note explains that these amounts are fixed by law.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was just looking up that matter.

Mr. ALLDER: I am speaking in connection with the highways. The hon. junior member for St. George has discussed the question of roads in St. George and I am speaking about the roads in St. John. The parish of St. John produces the third greatest amount of sugar which is produced in the island and the roads are used to a greater extent than that to which some of the roads in other parishes are used. What is before us now is a new departure from the usual custom which is to ask the Highway Commissioners to send in estimates for work which they intend to undertake. We have been hearing that some parishes have failed to spend the money which is allocated to them to the best advantage; I am wondering if there will be created some authority greater than the Highways Department who would be responsible for going around to the various parishes and seeing that the money which is allocated to the Highway Commissioners is being properly spent. I would like to mention that there are in St. John roads which have been repaired and, as a result, flood water enters upon private property. The Highway Commissioners have refused to remedy the situation, and it is only because many of these people fear going into the Court that they endure this inconvenience.

Dr. CUMMINS: There are one or two questions which I want to answer. The honourable junior member for St. George and the honourable senior member for St. John have spoken on the question of roads. It is a revised policy of the Government not to give money to the Commissioners of Highways for them to play about with, as they have been doing before. From the experience of the Government as to the way in which money is spent in repairing the tenantry roads, a few scandals have taken place; from our experience especially in connection with the tenantry roads and from information received as to how money is spent on parish roads, we intend to maintain strict supervision as to the spending of money on these roads. I can tell honourable members that the Highway Commissioners of at least three parishes have more or less asked us to do what I have mentioned. The note to item 3 "Upkeep of Highways" says: "Further expenditure from this item will be subject to approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee on submission by Highway Commissioners of detailed programmes for the year 1951-52." That is just what is going to happen; when the Highway Commissioners submit detailed estimates of repairs to roads and they are approved by the Government, then the Commissioners will get the money for repairing the roads. In the past the Highway Commissioners would say: "We are going to repair so many miles of road this year and we want so much money." That is not going to obtain any longer I know that that will be a bit irksome to the Highway Commissioners, but that is the policy of the Government.

A few honourable members referred to some charitable Organizations; I will say that on the next occasion the Government will consider applications which are made for further assistance, because some of these Organizations did not make any application for assistance. In connection with the Young Women's Christian Association, I understand that application was made for assistance, but that application has not reached us sufficiently as yet;

that application reached the Secretariat too late for consideration by the Estimates Committee. My colleague has asked for information about the amounts which are voted in connection with Imperial War Graves Commission; I will say that the expenditure on the War Graves is estimated by the Commission, and there is a certain amount allocated to the West Indies. The amount for this year is \$3,584 and it is sub-divided; each colony is assessed on what it should contribute, and that is the reason for the variation from year to year. The honourable senior member for St. John has raised the question of assistance being given to poor, blind persons. In the first place, I would like to correct him; poor, blind persons are qualified for assistance under the Old Age Pension Scheme at the age of 40, not over 60. It has recently been represented to the Government that the qualifying age should be reduced, and the matter is under consideration. I believe that the qualifying age will be reduced, but to what figure it will be reduced, we do not know at present.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry that I have not got the figures before me, but I should like to say that since these Estimates were printed, a new estimate has been made as regards our contribution to the meteorological expenses. However, since the Executive Committee has not had an opportunity of examining the figures, I do not propose to ask for leave to add that item now. If I am given permission to increase the amount of this Head the increase will be about \$10,000. As regards the grant to the Roman Catholic Church, I want to say it was known that this Church was doing such good work for the school children that some years ago the Government increased the grant to this Church. To show that the Government is not unmindful of the good work which is being done at the school as regards the provision of a hot meal for the children, the grant has been increased. As Leader of the Government, I should take notice of what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has said about Civil Servants; it is my duty to point out that they are debarred from taking any part in politics and from creating policy, and, automatically, they are debarred from expressing any opinion on the policy of the Government. If the matter to which the hon. member has referred has been rightly reported, the hon. member is mild in comparison with what I would say. I find it difficult to believe that any Civil Servant would proclaim to the world anything about lethargy on the part of the Government. I am told that this particular Resolution was passed at that Conference with this offensive matter in it and the Medical Officers have been asked to present it to the Governor. I have no information as to what part they took in approving or disapproving of it; however, if it is proved that there are any Heads of Departments or any member of the Civil Service below that rank who feel it is their duty to criticise the policy of the Government and give interviews. I can assure the House that that will be speedily stopped. I have seen an interview purporting to have been given by the Commissioner of Police to the Press generally, insinuating that the Government has been lax as regards a request made by him. If that is right, I shall see that he is reprimanded for it; it is contrary to the duty of any Head of a Department to criticise the Government and say: "I cannot get the Government to do so and so." If the Head of a Department cannot get the Government to do what he wants, then he should resign. It is my intention to defend Civil Servants from attack, but when they stray out of the path and criticise the Government, I cannot defend them. I have to say, all this because there may still be some lingering

doubt in the minds of hon. members that Civil Servants can tell the Government what their policy is. If the advice of Heads of Departments is not accepted, it is their duty to carry out the policy of whatever Government is in power. Whatever might have been true in the past as to the influence of Civil Servants in formulating the policy of the Government, it is no longer true: we have to consider the advice of Civil Servants and say whether we will follow that advice or not.

Mr. DOWDING: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas has not quite caught the point which I was trying to make. Rather than the Highway Commissioners feeling that the revised policy of the Government would be irksome, they have expressed their willingness for the Government to grant the money for repairing the roads on an estimate being given for each road. What I want to know is, how this amount to be voted here has been arrived at? It must have been arrived at by allocating so much per mile of road per parish or something like that. The Highway Commissioners of St. George do have their troubles with their employees just as the Government has troubles with its employees, but the blame should be laid in the right quarters. One has a case on record of estimates and names of roads having been sent in to the Government, and right in the middle of work being carried out, the grant was stopped. I do not think it is right to say that the Highway Commissioners sent in for money and got the money; what happened was that the Government went into the amount of taxes received by the parish and granted it a certain amount. It was not a case of the Commissioners just saying that they wanted so much money and getting it; we in St. George have been careful to go into the estimates, we have allowed for everything possible and the position now is that the total amount for the parish as shown in the note is not even double the amount for which we have sent in. If the programme which we have submitted is not going to be carried out I would like to know what figures has the honourable member got in respect of St. George? Let us know how much of this money which has been asked for is going to be granted. The sum of \$86,982 has been requested for repairing 41 miles of road, no allowance has been made for increased labour and I think that the Government would be well advised to check up on the suck wells in the parish. Some of these wells take off storm water and they are the responsibility of the parish; the wells in the parish of St. George have been left from year to year and they are a danger to the community because they are no longer doing their work. That is also happening throughout the island and Bridgetown is swamped after a heavy rainfall. I see that work in connection with the suck wells is to be done under the Head "Department of Highways and Transport." However, I repeat that in their estimates the Highway Commissioners of St. George have not made any allowance for increased labour and they are only too pleased to have an estimate by which they can work. We hope that when we put in our estimates, the work will not be interfered with as a result of various questions being raised.

Mr. COX: I am peculiarly interested in the question of repairing tenantry roads. Like the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, I feel that the time has come when a different policy should be pursued in so far as granting money to the various Highway Commissioners is concerned. From the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas and those of the honourable junior member for Christ Church, I think that they have made out a case for the Highway Commissioners of the various parishes handing over their roads to the Government. I feel that the roads

should be dealt with under one head. Although money is being granted for repairing the roads, certain roads are not up to the same standard as others. I feel that inasmuch as people have to pay taxes in respect of the entire island, the roads should be dealt with under a uniform system. It is a fact that some malpractices on the part of some Highway Commissioners have taken place; there was a case quite recently in which approximately half a mile of road was repaired and no account could be given for approximately \$2,000. In the end, some person was said to have been fired, or he went away. There was a very bad case in respect of a tenantry where the Road Inspector was supposed to boulder a road and then metal it; as far as I have gathered, when a survey of that road was taken, it was found that no boulders were used at all, but some metal was just thrown on the mud. I know of at least two parishes in which a very bad show was made after the money was granted to the Highway Commissioners for repairing the roads. Judging from what I have seen and heard, I do think it is high time, as has been mentioned by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, that the Government should assist in the supervision relative to the repairs of the roads. I would be the last person to be against voting money for repairing the tenantry roads because they are in a very bad state of repair; but, on the other hand, we cannot afford to vote money year after year when we are not sure that it is being spent in the correct manner. The honourable junior member for St. George spoke about repairing 41 miles of road in that parish, but although the Highway Commissioners of that parish may calculate and send in to the Government the number of miles of road which they have under their supervision, still it is very difficult to find out how many miles are repaired during the year; sometimes not even one half the number of miles of road mentioned is repaired during the year. The matter is one which needs a lot of consideration; it should be carefully looked into and seen that the money is carefully spent.

Mr. DOWDING: I am still at a loss in obtaining the information for which I have been asking. The honourable member who has just sat down must realise that the Highway Commissioners of the parishes would be only too glad if the roads were taken over by the Department of Highways and Transport. As a matter of fact, the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. George have made several representations to the Department of Highways and Transport for taking over certain roads, but the Department has not seen fit to do that because it cannot handle any more roads than it is handling at the moment. If anybody goes into the question of having these roads repaired by the Highway Commissioners—I speak under correction—but he would probably find a difference of between \$500 and \$1,000 per mile in having them repaired by the Department of Highways and Transport. I am still waiting for an answer from the Government as to the method in which this amount to be voted has been arrived at; we cannot repair the roads in St. George for less than \$86,982 at the present prices. I would like to know from the Government how this sum of \$124,543 to be voted has been arrived at, how much per mile and so on, and I shall be quite happy. I congratulate the Government on having brought about a system whereby estimates can be sent in by the Highway Commissioners, and I welcome the Government sending around an Inspector to inspect what is going on. It is either a matter of the Department of Highways and Transport taking over the roads or the Highway Commissioners being given the money to repair them.

Mr. MILLER: I had decided not to say anything at all on this question of roads. I do not see

why the Government should have a Department of Highways and Transport and then put this money into the hands of the Highway Commissioners who know nothing about repairing roads. It does seem to me that every year the Commissioners submit a list of ten or twelve roads to be repaired by them and at the end of the year only three or four roads are repaired. Sometimes they have as many as fourteen roads on the list to be repaired, and you find that poor people have to pay taxes and then money is squandered in the repairing of the roads. I should like to state my feeling in this matter; it is that distributing money promiscuously among Highway Commissioners—people who have not got any engineering skill—is a deliberate waste of the taxpayers' money. I would persuade my colleague to allow the roads in St. George to be handed over to the Department of Highways and Transport. I do not think that enough care is expended on these roads: what I feel is that the Department of Highways and Transport should be in a position to handle both the parish and tenantry roads. It is a question of seeing that these roads are built by someone who has some engineering skill or some knowledge of road construction. My colleague is asking for money for carrying out repairs to 41 miles of road but that seems to be hopeless. I repeat that the Commissioners will submit a list of about fourteen roads and then at the end of the year only three or four roads will have been repaired. I wish my colleague would be content with the money which is being given to the Commissioners; if at the beginning of next season they have handled 20 miles of roads then I think they would have achieved quite a bit.

Mr. ADAMS: Apparently honourable members will not be satisfied without these figures being given them. I said at the beginning of the Estimates that if honourable members want detailed information they should ask for it beforehand just as the honourable junior member for St. James has done. A mass of figures came before the Government and we have carefully checked them. I thought that what the honourable senior member or St. Thomas had said would have been sufficient explanation. The amounts which were sent to the Government are as follows:—St. Thomas, \$76,247.40; St. Peter, \$47,690; St. George, \$86,982; St. James, \$132,833; Christ Church \$150,803; St. Philip, \$56,342; St. Joseph, \$48,684 and St. John, \$33,530. The total amount required by these eight parishes is \$633,116. The Director of Highways and Transport has had to reduce these amounts; the mileage has been arranged and at \$2,000 per mile, the amount required will be \$534,000, which is over half a million dollars. Eventually we arrived at this figure of \$124,543 of which St. George will be getting the lion's share.

Mr. DOWDING: I regret having had to persevere so as to get that information and I thank the hon. member very much for it. As the hon. member says, the Highway Commissioners realise that it would practically be an impossibility to grant them the necessary money. If you allocate a certain amount of money to the parishes and the same amount to the Department of Highways and Transport, the work would probably not be up to the same standard.

The question that the sum of \$209,523 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported progress and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 7 p.m.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was in Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the year 1951—52.

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

HEAD XXIX — MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$269,220 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKIER: Mr. Chairman, Once again I have to draw to the attention of this Committee how much we are expending on Government binding and printing. Item (5) in respect of which we are asking to vote the sum of \$55,000 continues to be a source of grave concern to taxpayers. Every year the Government is handing a cheque to one of the wealthiest capitalist concerns in Barbados, if not in the whole Caribbean area, and all these shareholders are growing rich year by year at our expense. We are regarded with amazement by people in colonies which are considered less advanced than us, when they learn that Little England cannot proudly boast of a Government printery. However I am not blaming the present Administration for that, because if it had been done years ago we would not now have to face the problem of instituting a Government printery with the vast expenditure it must now entail. But we must face facts. So long as we accept the principle of Government printing, prices will continue to rise until eventually they may reach a ceiling. It is, therefore, for us to decide on some ways and means of providing the material for a Government printery.

There is at least one private printery—up-to-date, and in first-class condition—which might be available to Government. Right now I can hear the names of various weekly papers being mentioned *sotto voce* across the table—"Beacon" and so on; But I am not naming any particular printery now. If the Government are in earnest—and we must always assume that they are in earnest—they must explore the possibility of procuring within the Caribbean area the necessary equipment to start a Government printery. Of course, there is going to be very strong opposition and we know the source from which such opposition is going to arise; but, even if it results in the discontinuance of the reporting of the speeches of certain honourable members in the Press it should not matter. The principle is one which we must not only accept, but we must take steps to put into effect if it takes us ten years to do it.

The majority of us in this House are irrevocably committed to and fundamentally accept, the doctrine of nationalisation, and therefore, a Government printery is an ideal thing to start with. We need not let little St. Lucia and other small places move ahead of us. What is the reason for the delay? I can only assume that the reason is that these shareholders may continue to reap the profitable dividends which we know that they are reaping. If it so happened that Press reports of meetings of the House were discontinued as a result of the establishment of a Government printery I suggest that the three weekly newspapers might do well to co-operate in the employment of a

reporter to supply their readers with a weekly digest of the proceedings of the House. As we know, no remark made in this Chamber on this subject ever sees the light of day in a daily newspaper; but that does not prevent us from repeating it. As a matter of fact, so far as the persons who now do Government printing are concerned, (the staff), they are one hundred per cent in favour of becoming Government employees, having regard to the security of tenure of office and the other amenities that are afforded to persons in the employ of the Barbados Government.

I feel that it is time that we learn something as to how far the Government have got in their desire to implement the Address which was passed in this House two years ago—an Address for the establishment of a Government printery in Barbados.

There is another item to which I should like to draw the attention of hon. members,—Item (7) Fees to King's Solicitor, for which the sum of \$480 is to be voted. The office of King's Solicitor is one in connection with which the public were much concerned the other day when they learned that an appointment had been made to the post made vacant by the resignation of the previous holder, and that there was no advertisement in the Press inviting applications. No exception is taken to the individual who has been appointed, but there is room for suggesting that the method of appointing the King's Solicitor is questionable. The public observe, for instance, that he is invariably recruited from a certain firm of solicitors, even before the public have had the chance of realising that the former King's Solicitor is resigning. By this method, other solicitors who are on the Roll of solicitors entitled to practise in this Island are denied the opportunity of applying. It is the same principle to which I referred earlier in the discussion of these Estimates—appointing an officer before other persons who might have applied knew that the office was vacant. In this case also, it was filled by someone who, I am not suggesting is not a worthy person; the suggestion rather is, that when a post becomes vacant it should be made known to the public so that those who want to apply can have the opportunity of doing so. Just as our Revising Officers always seem to come from a most reputable firm of solicitors, so also our King's Solicitors always seem to come from an eminent firm of Law officers. As I had to remark a few days ago, our next King's Solicitor will undoubtedly be the honourable senior member for St. Andrew.

My next comment is on Item (27) Compilation of Annual Laws, etc. I should like to suggest that the present compiler, whoever he may be, should try to get his compilation out earlier than is now the custom. This is the month of March, 1951, and up to now I have not received a copy of the 1950 Laws of Barbados. Of course it may be that it is not the compiler who is at fault but the Government printer. As we know, they do with us as they like including the charges for printing, and it seems as if we have got to be satisfied with having to wait until April, May and June before the Annual Laws, Proclamations, Orders and Regulations are compiled. From what I know, it takes very little effort to compile these Laws. All that one has to do is to file a copy of every Bill or Measure that passes the three branches of the Legislature and then add the index. That would take about two to three hours work at the most and I do not see why these volumes should be so late in being published. As a matter of fact, they seem to vie with the official debates of this House which sometimes take years before they can appear in bound form. What is the

use of our reporters working overtime at night so as to get the debates ready say, within forty-eight hours after a meeting, and then having to wait two or three years for a bound volume of the Official Gazette? All this seems to be due to the lack of a Government printery.

There is one other item which caused me almost a sleepless night—Item 34, "Expenses under the Supervision of the Weighing of Sugar Canes Act, 1939." I notice that there is a decrease of \$200 in the expenses relative to this item. Now this is very important to peasant holders. The big plantations can take care of themselves; but the small holders who have to send their canes to the factory would be more worried to know why these expenses have been decreased by \$200. I should like to know that there is a Government Inspector on duty whenever peasants' canes are being weighed. You cannot watch them too hard, too long, and too microscopically. I would welcome some explanation as to why this item should be reduced by \$200, particularly in a year when there is a good crop.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to refer much to printing, except to say this: that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has not got much knowledge of the cost of machinery and the cost of carrying on a printing establishment. I should like to inform the honourable member that the dividend on Government printing does not exceed one hundred pounds. I know this: that if we have a Government printery it is going to cost three times as much as printing is costing us now. I did not rise to speak on that matter but I thought that I might pass on the information to the honourable member.

I handed to the honourable member for St. Joseph a list of items on which I wanted information and he did supply me with replies; but, unfortunately, I do not have a spare copy of the replies and I have forgotten the number of the item under this Head. Anyway, I think that it was something to do with additional clerical staff. I notice that there has been an increase this year. Now, you know Sir, that we have increased the heads and staff of practically all the departments and yet the Government have seen fit to increase the amount for clerical assistance. In my opinion, I think that our Government departments are getting top-heavy, and I am suggesting to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that to increase the amount of this item would be absolutely wrong, particularly in view of the fact that they have increased the heads of nearly all the departments.

Another item to which I should like to draw the attention of the Committee is Item 43, "Preparation of plans of Government Offices \$9,600." I think that we voted a similar sum last year. This seems to be an enormous sum of money for plans and I do think that it could be reduced. Frankly, the taxpayers are getting fed up. What I want to see now is that something is done. All these experts who are coming out from England are making plans and nothing else.

There is one other item on which I should like some information and that is, Item 49, "Training of Government Officers, \$25,000." I should like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph who has got the reply there to tell us whether they have a plan in respect of this training and from what Department they intend to send officers to Canada or England.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman: I had better deal first with the questions of the honourable junior member for St. James. As regards Item (30), the honourable member did not furnish me with questions and the answers were supplied. I am sorry that he has not got his copy of them. Anyway, the position with

Clerical Assistance is that although additional posts have been approved for nearly all Departments the demands of several of these have not yet been met. Until this is done provision for additional clerical assistance is needed. It is also necessary in cases where arrears of work must be brought up to date.

As regards Item (43) I have already made mention of this when making the motion that the House go into Committee on these Estimates. Since the question was raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy about the establishment of a Government Printery, we have had correspondence not only from the Crown Agents but from other Colonies. British Guiana, Trinidad and the Leeward Islands were circulated, and we have had replies. As I have told honourable members already, printed sheets have been handed to the Government. Apart from the cost of building and building site, the expenditure involved in the establishment of a Government printery would amount to £4,800. They gave a long list of firms in England to whom we could send; but when this estimate is taken into consideration members will see that we could not get very far in trying to establish a Government printery now.

As regards the other point raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, there is the possibility that we may renew consideration of it. A plant might come into the market at a considerably smaller figure and Government will have to consider the possibility of entering the market to see whether we, with our present capital expenditure and having regard to the fiscal survey could manage to purchase the plant.

As regards Item (49), I wish to make this very clear to honourable members, especially the honourable senior member for St. John, who is always on the lookout for acts of omission and commission on the part of the Government affecting the Civil Service; the question of the training of Civil Servants has engaged the serious and careful attention of Government for sometime. Long before Commissioner Adams came out it was felt that Barbadians should have as good a chance as anybody else at filling all posts, I suppose, subordinate to that of Governor and Colonial Secretary. Perhaps we had not yet in those years advanced to that stage. I wish to remind honourable members that when the senior member for St. Philip was attacking the "policy" as he called it, of the Colonial Office in appointing Englishmen and passing over West Indians, he himself referred to the statement of the then Governor of Trinidad, I think it was Sir John Shaw, who was reported to have been annoyed at the thought that Trinidadians were passed over in favour of Englishmen. A letter was sent down here from the Colonial Office in reply to one which had been sent to them requesting them to send down a list of all Barbadians who had gone abroad, and that list included the names of Mr. Johnson, a master on the staff of Harrison College, Mr. Frank Field, Mr. Archer, Mr. Fergusson and so on. It was surprising to see how many Barbadians had gone abroad. It was the policy in the Colonial Office in making appointments to the Islands to give the Islanders first choice; that is, if a suitable person could not be found in the West Indies then and only then would they look to England. If that is the policy of the Colonial Office surely it would be the policy of the Head of the Executive in making recommendations to the Colonial Office. But, of course, you cannot take, as in this case for instance, an untrained man and make him statistician. That is why I had mentioned in the course of the Budget speech, that a statistical officer was needed, and that we were asking to provide the money that he might be second-

ed. The mere fact that he is to come here on contract for a short time is an indication that the post is going to be filled by a Barbadian. The answer which I gave to the honourable junior member for St. James with respect to the training of civil servants is to this effect: With the funds provided under Colonial Office control and with the allocations available under the Colonial Development and Welfare Training Scheme, it is possible that the final proposal may involve reference to the Legislature in the near future for an increase in the local provision.

I have certain confidential information as to how far these enquiries have got but I cannot tell honourable members anything. I would, however, like to remind them that the Government appointed a Sub-Committee sometime about the middle of last year to deal with this particular point and a great deal of valuable active work was done. The Sub-committee prepared a memorandum and submitted it in September. The cost of courses of training have been advanced from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and Government funds, both grants and loans for which we have come to the House occasionally. Honourable members will remember some of those persons who undertook courses: for instance, the Labour Inspector, Mr. Springer, and one or two others like that. Grants are made occasionally for the training of a police officer. Also officers from our local Public Health Department, from Social Welfare Departments and from Vestries have received training. Furthermore officers from our Public Works Department and Education Department have already received training. We are too often apt, even members of the Government, to forget that training is going on. The Sub-Committee recommended, among other things the provision of a number of technical scholarships and courses, study leave facilities and things of that nature. Already Colonial Development and Welfare have been asked for an allocation to be reserved for this year (1951), in support of the West Indian Training Scheme. I wish to assure honourable members that the matter is being more and more intensively studied, the financial implications are being worked out, and, even now, the Government could come to the House asking for more money than that for which we are asking, in order that this scheme might be as comprehensive as possible. If at any time in the immediate future we have to ask for supplementary provision in connection with this scheme it is because it is manifestly easy to get a suitable, local qualified man.

I am glad to be able to report to honourable members that the investigation and preparation for the training of local civil servants is very intensive, as I said before, and continues so from month to month.

I may say that when we began preparation of these Estimates we resorted to a great deal of paring because we felt that paring could be done without causing inefficiency. However, I shall look up Item 34 to see why, in this particular instance, the reduction of \$200 was made.

Before I sit down I should like to ask permission of the Committee to make an amendment. We are asking for \$12,000, it being the salary of the Oil Officer which was approved in the Supplementary Estimates recently. As honourable members know, the Officer is here, and what he is using for an office is just one of the pigeon holes in the Secretariat. I am asking that the amount of Item 52 be amended to read "\$12,500." Of this additional \$500, \$200 is for stationery and incidentals, including telephone service, \$75.

The Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas has come to us with as high a reputation as Mr. Turner came, and I am glad to say that, as a civil servant,

he gives the impression of being more a judicial officer than an oil expert. He seems almost to have stepped down from the Supreme Court Bench of the United States or Canada.

There being no objection, Item 52 was amended to read "Expenses of Oil Advisers, \$12,500," to make the total under this Head \$269,720.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, permit me to make a single observation. When the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was telling the Committee of the census which was taken of Barbadians serving abroad and United Kingdom officials serving here, a thought flashed across my mind which I should like to express. One does not protest only because of the number, but also because of the quality of the men. It must be borne in mind that the Empire has been enriched by the presence of those distinguished Barbadians—Messrs. Ward, Archer, Fergusson and Inniss and men of that type whom we have suffered to go overseas. I regard the matter as only a fair exchange which is no robbery.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to one or two items, the first of which is Item 14, "Expenses under the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act, 1940." I should like to ask the Government to pay some attention to the system of censoring films which come to this Island. I have before my mind the case of "Bob and Sally." In an island like Barbados or in any of the other small islands I feel that this picture should have been allowed a wider public appeal. As I see it, this was an instance in which the censors should have made a special appeal to the Government to allow this picture to be shown without restriction for the sake of its educational value. Children from all schools should have been given an opportunity free of charge to see this picture. This picture was produced with the help of a Government to be used as a means of education for the masses. I do not wish to give the impression that I am criticising the work of the Board of Censors, but I think that they should more or less pay more attention to these needs. I feel that to restrict boys and girls of the age of sixteen from seeing such pictures is doing more harm than good. There are in our midst today children who are having children earlier than sixteen years of age. I feel that the Government should spend some of the taxpayers' money on education in this direction. On seeing this picture one leaves the cinema with a mind full of new thoughts and ideas. You cannot help thinking of the consequences of these social diseases and your mind rushes back to many people in this island who could probably make use of the Hospital for this particular kind of treatment, but who are without the time to do so.

In this age special attention should be paid to the establishment of a V.D. Clinic where people could go for treatment during the night. A step in this direction would be the ideal thing if we are to benefit from educational films of this type, and I am asking the Government to see to this. With a population of 200,000 people and with the advance of medical science, it is easy to consider figures which would provide anything like a 25 per cent. increase in another ten years or so, and I feel that if opportunity were given to the public to benefit from the education of such films, it would reveal something for which we have been struggling for over a half century. It is not too late for the Government to consider instituting some campaign for education of this sort.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the Government could not make arrangements with the theatre managers to make "Bob and Sally"

available to be used by the Mobile Cinema around the country districts. I was greatly impressed by that picture and it strikes me that such pictures could be of great educational benefit to the people of the country districts if they could be made available to them.

Mr. Chairman, Item 21 is "Expenses under the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928." I appreciate seeing an increase under this Head; but I had hoped that instead of granting money to be spent along these lines that the Government would see their way in the near future to set up a technical school which has been suggested for some time. I feel that it would be of great benefit especially when we consider the number of parents who walk the streets of Bridgetown every Monday morning seeking in vain opportunities with tradesmen for their sons. When they approach a tradesman he simply tells them "I want no more boys." As a result you find a lot of boys who could otherwise become good artisans being forced to pursue other occupations which might not be productive of any great benefit to the community. I feel that the time is ripe for the establishment of a technical school. An institution of this kind would pay for itself, as the articles made by the institution could be sold either to outsiders or to the Government itself. I hope that the Government will see their way to adopt the suggestion.

Mr. Chairman, Item 53 is "Repatriation of Barbadians from Cuba, \$30,000." I should like to know if any Barbadians have been repatriated within the last two years, and if so how many. I should regret very much if we have to spend this \$30,000. Apart from its being a considerable sum, it must be borne in mind that these emigrants went to Cuba and San Domingo in the prime of their life. They have contributed much to the industry of those countries and they should not now be left devoid of the opportunity of supporting themselves and having to be repatriated at the expense of this Government. It is an injustice which those Governments have meted out to these people, and I have always felt that those Governments, through their ambassadors in Havana and San Domingo should make some provision in the interest of these Barbadians so that they might not be forced to remain in the destitute state in which we have seen many of them return to Barbados.

As regards Item 56, "Deficit on running of Seawell Plantation," it has been suggested by a few peasant proprietors that since Seawell Plantation is not a paying concern the Government could probably consider the possibility of setting up some scheme whereby they could join together and work that land and share the profits; or as an alternative, the Government could consider leasing the land to some party of enterprising proprietors. I think that the Government would do well to adopt the suggestion; because this has been a fairly prosperous year for the sugar industry, and if in spite of that, the Plantation is still faced with a deficit, then I do not see the wisdom in continuing to run the Plantation at a loss. Ultimately it is a waste of money.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, Item 20, "Entertainment of Petty Officers and other ratings of ships visiting Barbados." This is an old item and we are simply continuing an old custom. But I suppose, Sir, that so long as we remain a British Colony we must depend on His Majesty's ships to defend us. However, I think that in view of the fact that these colonies have to vote sums of money at least for the entertainment of officers, His Majesty's Government could consider recognising these colonies to the extent of at least training colonials on board ships thereby making them eligible to join the British Navy. I have seen Indians being trained on these

warships and I consider that the British Government owes such consideration to these colonies—owes it to places which have been loyal to her in time of war and in time of peace. Sometime ago a suggestion was made that we should raise an African or colonial army. I think too, that the suggestion was raised recently that Britain should have colonials in her army. Well, I feel that if the British Government continues to ignore the colonies on this question that we could consider the stoppage of this vote for entertaining her Petty Officers and other ratings of ships visiting here.

I pass on to Item 24, "Maintenance of Garrison Savannah." Now, Sir, I noticed recently—and many people would have noticed it—that on the Garrison Savannah there is a polo hut, I think that that is its name. It has been sponsored by a certain element in this colony and there are other people, some of them members of this House, who are polo players and who know nothing of this matter. I am wondering if the members of the Government knew when this hut was being erected or about to be erected.

Mr. ADAMS: That hut has been there ever since.

Mr. MAPP: This is a new hut. This is no old hut. I can see by the remarks of the honourable Member that he knows nothing about it. Anyhow, I am bringing it to the notice of the members of the Executive Committee now. It is a fact that some time ago, the Cricket League applied for permission to play cricket games on the Garrison and the application was turned down. Therefore, I want the Executive to observe from this action that polo can be played up there, but apparently, cricket cannot be played there. I hope that the Government will enquire into the matter.

Mr. Chairman, Item 45, is "Cleaning of suck wells". I think that honourable members on the opposite side of the table have referred to this cleaning of suck wells and truly, it is a matter that requires careful consideration. I cannot remember in years past that the streets of the City and St. Michael have been so flooded after a heavy rain as in these days. The Government will recall that during the last rainy season one or two children in the parish I represent were drowned owing to the sudden flooding of gullies, roads and bridges up there. Last year many people perished. It is because these suckwells have not been cleaned. The Commissioners of Health were reimbursed to the extent of \$300. It is their duty to have these suckwells cleaned, and I take this opportunity of urging the Government to call upon them to do it. Undoubtedly, it will help to correct flooding. The sum to be voted seems rather small, but if the supervising and cleaning is to be thorough, the Commissioners will be justified in calling for more money.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have already made the motion and I am sorry to have to ask leave to make a further amendment. I am going to tell honourable members what it is and then leave it to them to decide whether they will agree to putting it in now, or whether they would rather ponder over these figures and let us return to the matter tomorrow. I should prefer the latter decision for the simple reason that I do not have typed copies of the amendment with me now. The amendment concerns Item 57, Registration of Voters, \$16,000." This is a new item and I should just like to remind honourable members that we would like to add it as speedily as possible. I must apologise that these figures were not available before the Regulations were printed and circulated. I will ask honourable members to write down what I am calling out: Island Supervisor \$16,000; 22 Parish Supervisors at \$120 or 3 cents per voter

whichever is the greater; (Total \$3,210). 213 Assistant Registering Officers, \$9,630. They are getting 9 cents for each qualified person included in the preliminary list. honourable members will remember that these items were in the Regulations which were circulated. Clerical Assistance \$300. Travelling Allowance \$50 per month for three months plus allowance for Parish Supervisors; Printing and Stationery \$350, Incidentals \$410, making a total of \$16,000, and making the Grand Total under this head \$285,720.

I should just like to remind honourable members that of this total of \$16,000, the following amounts are revoted from provision made under Supplementary Estimates, 1950-51, which we passed a few months ago. Parish Supervisors, \$3,210, Assistant registering Officers, \$9,630, Clerical Assistance, \$300, Incidentals \$410, approximating the sum of \$13,250. The approximate expenditure to the 30th of March this year is \$2,750, so that we are really putting into the Estimates now the rest of the money that we are having to spend on the registration of voters. We are not now approving of the sum of \$16,000 for the first time. I am therefore, asking honourable members for permission to pass it as part of the amended total which should now read \$285,720.

As regards what the two honourable members on the extreme right (Mr. Miller and Mr. Allder), have asked I will bring to the notice of the Executive Committee and the Education Department their suggestions in connection with Item 14. I would only like to tell those honourable members that the film distributors do not work their business in such a way that anybody can rent a film. The film remains the property of the distributor abroad who appoints somebody at the theatre to count the number of tickets sold. The film is not rented by the proprietors of cinemas. They only do the counting for the film owners. I do not think that it would be possible for the Government to rent such films. There are films which the Government may be able to bring out—films of an educational nature such as films made for sex education in classes. When we are able to spend a little more money, some of those films will be imported from England. Some of those films we already have in the Education Department. But I shall pass on the suggestions of the honourable members.

The question that Head 29 be amended by adding after the words Item (57) "Registration of Voters" the symbol and figures "\$16,000" was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Head as amended do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, under this new Head I should like to find out what would be the position of the new set-up of Registering Officers. Doubtless they will remain registering officers; but I am concerned about their remuneration. Will their remuneration remain as it is or will there be some increase which the advent of Adult Suffrage seems to warrant. I understand the honourable member to say that it remains to be seen and that the matter will be considered in the light of Adult Suffrage. As it is understood by Government that there are additional duties to be performed by these officers I trust that the Government will make provision for the necessary reasonable increase in their remuneration. As a matter of fact, since they have been appointed I do not remember their having had any increase, and they might be well worth a small increase now, having regard to the increased cost of living and the addi-

tional duties which they will be called upon to perform.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, If the honourable member will examine his Regulations he will find that the Registering Officer has practically nothing to do because the Assistant Registering Officers (213 there are) have not only to leave the forms and collect them afterwards, but they have to prepare the lists themselves and carry them to the Registering Officers.

No. (6) of the Regulations states: "(1) As soon as an assistant registering officer shall have collected or received all claims in the time allowed by the Act and is satisfied as to their correctness he shall prepare the preliminary list required by the Act.

(2) The preliminary list shall be in alphabetical order and numbered consecutively etc..... and (3) the preliminary list shall be in the Form set out as Form 1 in the Schedule to these regulations."

honourable members will therefore see that it is these new people whom we are employing at 9 cents per voter who will have the hard work to do. It seems as if the Registering Officers will be in for a rather easy time this year.

The question that the sum of \$285,720 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXX — INCOME TAX AND DEATH DUTIES

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$201, 845 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, Item 15 is "Expenses of Statistics Advisor" I think that the Government is rather optimistic about this Adviser training a local officer in six months. Anyhow there is a form of statistics produced by a gentleman in this Colony who has served in British Guiana, and I feel that he may be able to help in this respect. If we want any statistics concerning Income Tax we have to wait for a very long time in getting them. I asked for some information months ago and have not got it yet. I feel that we should have a statistician in that Department. I do not think we need wait for a qualified man to come down here and train somebody. I think that we can produce him now. I hope that the Government will take steps in this connection in the near future. Messrs. REECE and MOTTLEY came into the Committee and took their seats.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member who has just sat down is worried about that six months; but we have two outstanding men in the Income Tax Office, Mr. Carrington and Mr. Osborne, and I hope that they will be given priority when the time comes for filling the post of Income Tax Commissioner. We certainly must encourage the members of our Civil Service and fellow West Indians to qualify themselves by providing them with opportunities for promotion in the Civil Service of this Island. I understand that the Head of this Department is about to retire this year.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, My views on this Head are already known, and I have already accepted the Government's view on the question of making appointments to these Heads. As I have said before, I hope that the appointment of deputies is not a palliative, but a real and genuine sign that there is a desire on the part of the Head of the Ad-

ministration to see that local people with the necessary qualifications are appointed to these posts. I think that it was the hon. Leader of the House who said that the idea of getting down someone for a period was just to give the deputies some practical knowledge of the nature of their work. That is all very well and good; but I should rather like to see that opportunity is given to these deputies to go abroad. I feel that actually going abroad and going into big offices where there is routine work would serve these youngsters in good stead. I hope that the Government, in addition to their policy of attaching specialists to the various offices, will also consider the idea of sending civil servants abroad for training.

Now, I think I have said in and out of season that income tax forms a very large part of the revenue of this Island. It is one of the items which I suppose a Socialist Government more particularly, must always weigh carefully, because it would be in keeping with true socialism to see that those persons who make the greatest amount of money out of the Island pay the greatest portion of taxes. That is my view. I have always contended that direct taxation is fair taxation. Nobody likes to pay taxes; but when you have assessed the matter you must come to the conclusion that if there is one form of taxation that is fair and reasonable, that taxation is direct taxation. I am aware of the hardships which the middleclass people who fall under this Head experience. With middle-class people, the allowance for children is a burning question. I do not speak of those middle-class people who, socially, are upper-class people; I speak of the other category of middle-class people with two or three children. With them, the allowance for children, as far as Barbados is concerned, must be considered as scandalous; because with the increased cost of living, I believe we—

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, The honourable member is talking on the Act. When the Act comes before the House that is the time to make suggestions.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am now going to talk. This is a Head under which we are discussing money. The honourable member may say what he likes. I have no right to make any amendment which would create a charge on the Treasury. The honourable Leader would be the first to stand on his feet and remind me of this and I would have to bow. But sometime before now, the honourable member for St. Thomas was speaking on the Act and nobody tried to stop him. For all I know, they cannot stop him.

Now, to get back to my point: I implore the Government when next they are dealing with the Income Tax Bill to take steps to increase the allowance for children. I have discussed this with every member of the Government. It is nothing personal. The honourable Leader knows about this matter since people in all walks of life must have approached him on the question. I beseech the Government to give it due consideration, even if in relieving the bulk of the people who fall within this category, it be found necessary to increase the taxation on people in the higher brackets. I can see nothing wrong in this method of dealing with the problem. It is but fair.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Undoubtedly the honourable member's criticism on the set up in the lower brackets of the middle-classes is justified. I think that fifty pounds for a child is really too small.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the honourable member to keep to the point.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, It is not reasonable in a matter like this to suppress debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you stick to your point, I will listen to you until morning.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish you to feel that I want to over-rule anything you say, but I invite you to look at Item 13, "Refunds of Income Tax and Death Duties." I am dealing with the Act in this case. The point I wish to make is that it is the people whom we are accustomed to classify as the "middle-class" who really suffer by this fifty-pound allowance and I would like the Government to consider this matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee has already had the assurance that the Government will see about it.

Mr. MILLER: Yes; but there is no reason why I should not express my views on the matter. I feel that the allowance should be raised to a hundred pounds. Why I say that is because I feel that the Government could collect about a million and a quarter dollars from this source.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you again not to make that point.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, All I am trying to get the Government to understand is that we on this side of the table are prepared to back up a Measure like this. What I want to emphasise is that a way should be found to relieve the middle-class man of as much income tax as possible so that he may be able to provide his children with opportunities for going abroad for the purpose of developing themselves.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I feel that although the Government cannot take any steps in connection with this matter now, it is still our duty to bring it to their notice. We all know that the present allowance of twenty dollars a month for a child's education is an absolute impossibility. I feel that some means should be sought whereby a man who has a child to educate might be relieved. We are all clamouring for more education; but, if you are providing people with educational facilities on the one hand and taxing them heavily on the other, you are simply offering them something with one hand and taking it away with the other. I think that the Government should consider the point which the honourable senior member for St. George has just raised: That is, they should consider devising ways and means of raising the allowance for a child. Twenty dollars a month cannot even buy books.

It may have been alright in days gone by; but a person in the middle-class brackets to-day may be only working for eighty dollars a month, and so I feel that the time has come when the Government should do something to lighten the burden of these people. Take the case of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, for instance: had similar circumstances obtained in his day he would have found it difficult to reach the standard which he has reached twenty or twenty-five years ago. What does twenty dollars a month mean to a man who has to send his children to a University? At an English university it costs between £350 to £400 a year to keep a student. Even if he were at the West Indian University College, tell me—what is the use of twenty dollars a month?

I do not agree with total exemption. I think that that it is farcical. I am not saying that we should try to relieve or give help to those people by increasing the exemption. I would not suggest any figure, because this is a ticklish matter and cannot be dealt with hurriedly. It would have to be examined with a view to finding out what the Income Tax Department would be able to allow. The honourable Leader has said that they would not be able to do anything about it in these Estimates. But in future

they should endeavour to find some means of making the increase. The cost of living has increased to such an extent that even when you place the allowance at £150 for single people and £250 for married people you realise that you are doing but little. In fact, a certain married woman told me, "Mr. Ward, since I have been married I am worse off. When I was single I used to get £150 a year for my income tax reduction. Since I have been married, it is different."

I personally believe that this whole income tax system is in need of investigation and revision. I feel that a greater allowance should be given and that we should find some ways and means whereby we should be able to collect what is taken off. In my opinion, if we are making money in the higher brackets, then we should tax the higher brackets a little more. If I happen to fall in the higher bracket, then I am willing to give my share to relieve suffering people. Very many people who are working for sixty dollars a month cry when they have to pay their income tax. When one bears in mind that they probably have to rent a house at twenty or twenty-five dollars a month, notwithstanding the upkeep, it is no wonder that they feel the weight of the tax.

I am not pressing the matter now because the honourable member for St. Joseph has said that they are going to investigate it. The Government should take a very serious view of this income tax question. Only a few people in this Island to-day are paying income tax, and many are managing to evade it. I was very pleased when I heard the hon. senior member for St. Joseph say that we are going to have some officer who will examine the system and recommend a means whereby the Government will not continue to lose money in quarters where they are at present losing it.

We are not trying to censure the Government in any way. We only feel that the Government should do something to alleviate the sufferings of these people and we know that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who is in a position to view the matter sympathetically will do his best.

The question that the sum of \$201,845 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported progress with leave for the Committee to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Mr. ADAMS moved, seconded by Mr. MILLER, that this House do now adjourn until 9.30 p.m., and on the motion being put and carried *nem. con.* Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY— ESTIMATES FOR 1950—51.

On re-assembling.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was in Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the year 1951—52.

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

HEAD XXXI — LABOUR DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$126,417 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXII — DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$626,020 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: It is a great pity that I am unable to say that there is any appreciable improvement in the state of affairs obtaining at this Department.

Mr. ADAMS: Under what item is the honourable member speaking? This is not to be a second reading speech.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am speaking under Head XXXII of the Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: That might afford sport for honourable members, but I am suggesting that the honourable member should have told the Committee under which item he is speaking; otherwise we will never get home.

Mr. BRANCKER: When one is doing public business there is no hurry to get home. I was about to state the items which I will discuss when I was interrupted. I am sure that there will not be any attempt to stifle criticism of this Department. I am going to discuss items 24, 26, 37, 38, 47 and 48. As regards item 24, "Unestablished Staff," that deals principally with the casual labourers, the humble workers in the subordinate grades. These people have been complaining for some time, and they continue to complain, with justification. When we have half holidays in this colony for races or cricket, as we so often have, private employers give their staff, from the porters and messengers up, half holidays off without any effect on their pay envelopes at the end of the week; but in so far as this Department is concerned, there is no half holiday for the employees who come within the category of the unestablished staff. The Head of the Department and his second in command are frequently seen to be the first persons to arrive at these functions on half holidays, and their salaries go on; but if any labourer wants to attend any of these functions, he loses his half day. When it comes to the Government, they should set an example to private employers; the unestablished staff of the Department of Highways and Transport and other casual labourers are unable to get a few hours off for relaxation. These workers need relaxation just as those who are higher up, and I contend that this matter should receive the attention of the member in charge of matters relating to this particular Department. I hope that this matter will be taken up in the proper quarter. As the honourable senior member for St. Joseph reminded us last week, it is this Government which dictates the policy and the Civil Servants carry it out. We hope that that principle will apply not only in respect of the Department of Education, but also to this Department which needs somebody to dictate policy to it. As regards item 37, "Highways" and item 38, "Parish Roads," these roads are being dealt with by this Department; I am wondering if the Government cannot see the wisdom of having a man who is on the staff of the Government, looking after these parish roads on behalf of the Government, instead of having a man who is on contract and who does not know how long his services will be required. I suggest that the time has long passed when the Government should give consideration to the question of having somebody to supervise the spending of money on roads, somebody who is on a permanent basis with security of tenure. Referring again to the Unestablished Staff, I think it is time that we consider the Key Scale employees for an increase

in wages having regard to the increase in the cost of living; their remuneration at present is definitely inadequate. Every now and then we understand that some official at the top finds that he is unable to make two ends meet, and I suggest that something should be done by way of an increase for those employees who are at the bottom scale. If a Resolution were to be brought before this House relative to an increase in the wages of these employees, it would be passed without any debate; these people cannot make two ends meet having regard to the present cost of living. You, Mr. Chairman, know that you make next to nothing out of your business, and yet it costs these workers more than they can afford to pay for goods, having regard to the present prices. I hope that some arrangement will be made so that these workers will be able to get their half holidays or time off to go to cricket or the races without any reduction in their pay at the end of the week. I hate to hear the capitalists say: "We closed our stores at 11 o'clock to-day so that our staff could go to cricket," while these employees at the Department of Highways and Transport did not get any time off, or if they got the time, they lost the money.

It is with much regret that I find that item 26, "Stationery" remains the same \$1,200 as it was last year. I was hoping that there would have been a diminution in the number of minutes passing from the junior officers to the senior officers and so on, up to the Head of the Department. This is one of the most expensive Departments in so far as stationery is concerned, having regard to the fact that this Department has no justification for any big stationery bill. I do not know how the honourable member in charge of matters concerning this Department finds the Department working, but "bad" is my word for its working. If the Department is spending so much money, there is very little to show for the money which is being spent. In connection with this item "Stationery", it would be interesting to find out whether it is true that one of the highest officials in this Department has written applying for a transfer to British Guiana because he and the official who is just above him, who is the Head, cannot agree as to certain fundamentals. It seems that no one can agree with the present Head of the Department. In connection with items 47 and 48 under the Sub-head "Highways and Parish Roads," I do not know if any attempt has been made by the Department to appease the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, but I observe that in respect of that parish there is an increase of \$4,370, while in respect of St. Lucy there is an increase of only \$1,990, despite the fact that the mileage in St. Lucy is greater than that in St. Andrew. If the amount in respect of the parish of St. Andrew includes something for effecting repairs to bridges, there might be some excuse to be offered for this big increase and I would suggest that they spend one big sum and get the roads and bridges properly done; but there can be no justification for this big increase in respect of St. Andrew if no threat has been made by the senior representative of that parish. I hope that my comments in respect of the Unestablished Staff will be taken to heart and at the next cricket tournament or race meeting these humble employees will get at least as much time off, without any interference with their pay envelopes, as the merchants in Bridgetown give to their employees.

Mr. WARD: I do not agree with all that my colleague has said, because, I do not see how you could compare the roads in St. Lucy with those in St. Andrew. As regards the casual labourers, they are subject to being laid off at any moment and they do not get any time off or half days; it is only the members of the regular staff who get time off, but

under the Bill which is now before the Legislature, these labourers will get their annual holiday. The estate labourers have got an increase in wages and these casual labourers feel that they should also get some sort of increase in their wages. As regards item 38 "Parish Roads," I feel that we should make an effort to repair more **tenantry roads in the parishes**. In my opinion, we have not been using enough money on these roads: In times gone by a good many estates were cut up, no proper roads were laid out, and to-day especially during the rainy season, the labourers find it difficult to get out their crops and they are therefore asking the Government to help them with the repairs of the roads. I do not believe in having only the highways properly repaired: I repeat that there are many people who live on estates which have been cut up, and it is not those people's fault that the tenancies are in the state of disrepair in which they are now. I feel that we should utilise a little more money to employ those labourers who are laid off during a particular period, in the repair of some of the tenantry roads. It is impossible for some people to get together for the purpose of canvassing, and doctors have said that certain roads are in such a bad state of repair that they cannot get into the tenancies at night and the people have to wait on them until next morning. I suggest to the Government that some good would be accomplished by making a change of policy in respect of these roads, I am not questioning the running of the Department of Highways and Transport, because I feel that the Head of the Department is responsible for running that Department, and he should run it in the way in which the Government feels is satisfactory. If the Department is not being run properly, then it is the Government's duty to call upon the Head of the Department to resign. (Cheers). The Government should know if the Head of the Department is running the Department properly, and I feel that any Government would do justice to its employees just as I would do justice to my employees. The members of the Unestablished Staff are very worried and I gave them the assurance that the Government would do what is right. The Government cannot force private enterprise to pay one wage and they pay another; I hope that they will do justice to the community. With regard to the East Coast Road, I feel that a lot more things should be done before we tackle that road; I know that somebody will help the Government to construct that road if they will wait. I know that the construction of that road will be helpful to certain individuals along the East Coast, but I maintain that there are more pressing things to be done by the Government. In my opinion it would be unwise to spend any large sum of money on the East Coast Road before doing some other things.

Mr. BRYAN: In connection with item 25 "Travelling Expenses". I would like to find out whether any change has been made in the system of transporting motor roller drivers and other workmen. The travelling allowance is paid at 3 cents per mile beginning four miles out of St. Michael. It has been drawn to my attention that workmen have been forced to pay for transportation out of their weekly earnings; and I have also been told that there are some workmen who have to travel by their bicycles to and from their work. I have in mind two private concerns—the Electric and Telephone Companies—which have a system of transporting workers by motor van to various places where they have to work. The Waterworks Department also transports its workmen to their work. The workmen of the Department of Highways and Transport have desired transport to their work rather than have this 3 cents per mile, and I would like the Government to

go into the matter and see whether some change in the present system can be brought about. As regards the item "Stationery," I see that the amount to be voted is the same as was voted last year. On the last occasion when we were dealing with the Estimates in respect of this Department, I asked the Government if they would consider providing some literature for the technical staff, which would tend to improve their knowledge of the work in which they are engaged, and we in turn would be provided with better service. I think there should be brought about a system whereby lectures could be given to the staff as obtains in other places, and I believe that the community would benefit therefrom. While I am on my feet, I would like to support the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy with regard to the appointment of somebody to take charge of the repairs of roads whether they be parish roads or tenantry roads. I remember some years ago that a Committee was set up to enquire into the working of this Department, and among the recommendations which were made was one to appoint somebody to this Department to fill the post of tenantry road engineer. As far as I remember, the Committee not only recommended the creation of the post, but they selected somebody from the Department to fill it. The Committee's recommendations were treated after the fashion of that day—they were ignored. A Re-organization Committee has recently been appointed and that Committee has recommended the creation of posts in various Departments. Posts were created in respect of this Department, one of these posts has been filled and the general public is concerned over this matter because, I am told, the appointment has been made of a person who has practical experience but no qualifications. There is an employee who has both practical experience and qualifications, and, to the amazement of the general public, he seems to have been completely overlooked. I have heard praise being showered upon him as regards his efficiency, and I am told that he has effected savings where construction and repair work is concerned. I feel that one who must be considered as a deserving Government employee has been overlooked, and that sort of thing tends to promote inefficiency if it is continued, because it must be realised that the hope of reward sweetens labour. I feel that the Government should take some stand in the matter, because the public have their eyes on it. If an injustice has been done, it is the duty of the Government to remedy it. I throw out that suggestion to the Government because I have heard remarks being made in connection with this matter on all sides.

Mr. MAPP: The last speaker has stressed the question of the appointment of a parish road or tenantry road engineer. He also spoke as if there had been an oversight in the matter of an appointment made in this Department, but I must say that I do not feel that there was any oversight; I would rather term it as a deliberate overlooking by the Head of the Department of a deserving employee. I remember that we, in this House, used to stress that an Inspector to the Waterworks Department should be appointed; an Officer used to act in the post from year to year and the Manager would not appoint him to fill the post. However, after we had another Head of the Department, this Officer was appointed to fill the post. That is a case in point; from year to year the Head of the Department used to overlook this Officer deliberately. It is not fair to any individual not to appoint him to a post if he is an efficient man. The Control Officer at Seawell Airport has been appointed and why can't this tenantry road

engineer to the Department of Highways and Transport be also appointed? I am hoping that this appointment will be made. Since we have had an Officer supervising the repairs of the roads, I may say that in certain districts, tenantry roads have been repaired and the work is a tribute to the efficiency of the officer. As regards item 43, "Special Reserve for Extraordinary Flood Damage," criticisms have been made as to the work which has been done in certain parishes where the roads have been damaged by floods, especially in the parish of St. Andrew. As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have voted money for repairing certain bridges and roads in the parish of St. Andrew, and I understand that the way in which these roads and bridges are being repaired is a tribute to the engineers of the 19th century. It has been said that the engineer in charge has done work in the Army, and so on, but what is not understood is that in a parish where the land is always slipping, an engineer should try to prop up bridges with light material which he knows will soon be washed away, or moved away or partially destroyed in case there is a heavy rainfall. People who have seen these temporary bridges built in St. Andrew have said that it is a miracle that they have not given way before. The Director of Highways and Transport is always criticised in this House, but we have imported another gentleman who is just as poor as he is in this matter of repairing roads and bridges in this particular area. I am hoping however, that this money which is voted under this item will be spent to a greater advantage than it has been spent in the past.

Mr. REECE: This debate has been going on for some time, but there are one or two points which are worthy of consideration. I have already said that it is my view that the roads which lead to the tenantries should be repaired just as much as those roads which lead to Bridgetown. I want to speak on item 40, "Upkeep of paved road drains"; since we have macadamized the surface of our roads, it is an undoubted fact that the water runs off to adjoining lands and people's property becomes inundated. In order to avoid that state of affairs, I think the Government would be well advised to sink more drains. As the position is now, one can see that the whole system of providing drains needs revision; as soon as the roadway is re-constructed, the water no longer runs in the direction of the drains, but it runs in the opposite direction and enters upon the lands of poor peasant proprietors who suffer inconvenience and damage at certain periods of the year. I hope that the Government will go into this question; many of the existing drains have ceased to serve their true purpose. As regards item 43, Special Reserve for Extraordinary Flood Damage," that is a very useful item indeed; however, I am hoping that we will not have to spend this year a sum equal to that which we spent last year, because last year was an extraordinary year where flood damage is concerned. I want to point out that as long as we continue to have unusual weather and we continue to have the roads macadamized, there will always be damage being done to people's property. I think that the time has come when the Government should take active steps in this matter; I sincerely hope that active steps will be taken by the Government so that we will not have a recurrence of the state of affairs which we had recently. Under item 42, the sum of \$24,000 to be voted is really for repairs to roads which have been broken up by public utility companies, and, judging from the work which I see is being carried on, the amount to be voted appears to be a reasonable one. However, these public utility companies do not seem to have any system whatever in connection with doing

this work; one company will break up a road, the Government will repair it and within a short time another company will break up the road again, and then you have a duplication of work and of expenditure. I think that the public utility companies should inform the Government of what they are going to do and so save the taxpayers some money.

Mr. MILLER: I have a few suggestions to throw out to the Government in connection with this Department. I think that in this age, the policy of road re-construction has undergone a tremendous change. The Government has an Assistant Engineer who is really a very efficient man, and I am wondering if by his work in the office he is kept out of the field, so to speak. As to the question of the construction of bridges, in some other islands the idea of a concrete or wooden bridge is out of the question. The old bridge is a metallic bridge and I think that it has more than paid for itself; to build concrete bridges where you are likely to have storm water is really out of the question. In connection with the appointment of engineers to this Department, I really do not want to step on the corns of anybody who would have control over the making of appointments, but you can always find reasons to bring forward as to why you do not think a man is qualified to fill a post if you do not want to appoint him. I feel that it is unreasonable and unkind to make it impossible for a man to work; I think he should be told: "We do not want you" whether you want to disclose the reasons for that or not. I feel that the engineer, Mr. Minnet, was particularly chosen for working on bridges when they are affected by heavy rainfall; we have had heavy rains and bridges have been affected, but I do not think that we are in such an awkward position as is the case in some other places. I do not see why we should have any problem here at all where bridges are concerned; I would suggest to the Government that they think in terms of metallic bridges; the initial outlay in respect of a metallic bridge must be higher than that for a concrete bridge, but you will get about 100 years of service with a metallic bridge. I ask the Government to consider this question and they will see that a metallic bridge must outlive one of concrete; it will stand where a normal concrete bridge will collapse. I feel that Mr. Minnet has a tremendous responsibility; I am not in a position to criticize anybody, but I feel that the Government is losing the services of a really efficient man. I am asking the Government to examine this Department and see if they are not losing the services of Mr. Minnet who was brought out here to do outside work. I have been examining the position and I think that the Government should consider the possibility of bringing this man into outside service. I want the Government to realise how important this Department is to this colony; if they concentrate on this Department, a lot more work will be done. You find that roads are constructed when other roads are more in need of repair than those roads, this Department has been spending money on good roads; in several districts roads which are capable of wear for a few more years are attended to, rather than attention being paid to roads which should be repaired. I feel that the Government should really pay a lot of attention to this Department. I should like to mention that the tenantry roads in the parish of St. George are in a very bad condition; and it is true that these roads seem to cost more than those of any other parish in the island. I do not know if that is because of anything being in the soil or what, but I am sorry to see—I am very grieved and disappointed—to see that more tenantry roads have not been repaired. I am again asking the Government to pay some attention to this particular Department and

see how best they can use this engineer, Mr. Minnet, in the service of the colony.

Mr. ADAMS: I have very little to say at this stage; I am going to make a last appeal to honourable members. I am making it publicly known that if honourable members do not want to hurt their friends whom they are trying to help, they will stop telling the Government whom it should appoint to a job. If honourable members see that the taxpayers' money is being wasted, they can call upon the Government to remove a man. Honourable members are doing very wrong indeed if they give the public the impression that the Administration is doing an injustice to any particular individual. It is absolutely puerile for honourable members not to see that, psychologically, nothing could be more stupid than to be constantly telling somebody that you are doing wrong to So and So, and what, in a small place like Barbados, will be the result. I am sure that neither Mr. Minnet nor Mr. Harris will thank honourable members. Cannot honourable members see that all they are doing is to give the impression that particular Civil Servants are running to them with complaints about themselves and not about Civil Servants generally? If honourable members want to help their friends, they will keep away from these matters as they would keep away from poison.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, Sometime back certain of the roads from St. Joseph to St. John were washed away. The crop season has started and the roads have not yet been repaired. Last year we spent a lot of money to rebuild some of these roads. In this area the road damage is extensive and every year the Department has to send and rebuild some part of a road. As it stands now the people from both parishes are very much inconvenienced by having to go around the long road to get from one parish to the other. Plantations use a particular road for transporting canes and the cost of transport becomes greater as a result of this road being out of repair. I am going to make a suggestion to the Government regarding this road. Since every year you have to spend so much money on repairs the Government should, instead of repairing this road continually, extend it right through Martins Bay along the coast down to Bathsheba. I think that that would be better. I have discussed it with a few people in the area and they all agreed that a new road should be laid down so as to avoid the continual destruction which takes place with this particular road every time that there is a heavy rainfall. This road has given way even in dry weather. If this road had been carried down to Bathsheba long ago, much money could have been saved.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the honourable member has raised that point. I happened to be up there some time ago and I made a similar suggestion which, I think, the Department is working on. There is a lot in the argument of the honourable senior member for St. John as to whether we should go on year after year spending money on a road and not trying to make it into a really good road that will not constantly break away. I only got up to let the honourable member know that the matter is being considered.

Mr. GILL: Mr. Chairman,—Unlike the honourable senior member for St. Joseph I do not profess to have any engineering ability. The present state of the main road to St. Andrew, the Spring Vale road has been closed to traffic for some time. The Cane Garden road has also been closed to traffic and many people are finding it more and more difficult to get their canes out the fields. The St. Simon's road has been broken in two places and is absolutely impassable. Unfortunately, the worse damage of all hap-

pened to the Lakes district. The Lakes Bridge has apparently been washed away on each occasion of these heavy rain falls, and that is no less than three times. Cane growers in the district cannot get out their crops, and I am imploring the Government to find some temporary provision for them. I do not myself agree in spending money year after year repairing this road. I think that the road should be abolished and an alternative road provided instead. Such a road would also be the beginning of the East Coast road if and when the Government does it.

There is one other point to which I should like to draw attention—Item 24 "Unestablished Staff." I am referring now to the watchmen. During the recent heavy rains which we had in St. Andrew, I paid a visit down there and I found that the watchmen, in all sorts and conditions of weather, had to be out on duty, without any protection. The watchmen have to contrive a shelter of four sticks with a roof of cane stalks. I do not think that that is good enough, and I do not see why the Department of Highways and Transport could not erect a hut which could be transported from one place to another so that these watchmen could have some place in which to shelter.

I hope that the Government will bear these two points in mind, particularly the Lakes district and these unfortunate watchmen who have to be on duty in all sorts of weather. After all, so far as the roads are concerned, when the people cannot get their canes out of the fields they have to lose their whole year's labour.

Referring for a moment to the East Coast Road, the honourable senior member for St. Lucy apparently thinks that they are things more pressing to be dealt with than this Road. If the East Coast Road were not a pressing matter then the people of St. Andrew would not have this trouble. The other entry into St. Andrew has been very badly damaged and people are using it at great risk to themselves. In such circumstances I do not think that it would be far better to travel along the level coast.

The question that the sum of \$262,020 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIII — AIRPORT

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$44,466 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of \$44,466 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIV — ELECTRIC INSPECTOR

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$17,003 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, in connection with item II, it has always seemed to me to be rather a mysterious affair. Every year the Government comes to the House asking for large sums for equipment and the honourable senior member for St. Joseph usually brings a list. This year the list is made up as follows:—

D.C. Equipment, \$7,600. I do not know what that is.

3 Recording Aerometres \$850, (1) Recording Meter \$125,

1 Recording Meter \$150, (2) V.A. Meters \$250, Installation Equipment \$230, etc.

That might convey a lot to the honourable senior member for St. George, but it does not convey much to me. As I said just now, year after year the Government, and I do not think that there is any department that is looked upon with more—I might also say—distrust than this Electrical Department. What do we get from it? Can the honourable senior member for St. Joseph tell me what takes place? I plead ignorance as to what is done in that Department. I will speak no more at the moment, but I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will endeavour to explain how the equipment which I have been informed by people who are supposed to know, that some of these instruments which have been imported in the past three years have been lying in store without being used at all. I may be wrong, but if I am, I ask the honourable member to correct me. Unless I can get a satisfactory explanation I shall move the reduction of Item II by \$5,000.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, No member of the Government would approach this matter in any different spirit than the spirit in which the honourable member who has just sat down has approached it. If honourable members will follow his argument they will see that they should vote the whole of this sum. On the Estimates Committee we made the Electrical Inspector justify every farthing of this \$10,000 which represents but a quarter of what he said he needed. He gave us an amazing amount of figures relative to the amount of checkings he has to do and the number of checkings he has not been able to do by reason of the mere fact that we are suspicious of that Department. We have reduced his estimate from \$40,000 to \$10,000 and not until he could persuade us that these items are absolutely important. He is supposed to test all electrical wiring in this Island both actual and potential, and he is also supposed to test all equipment for motor cars so as to prevent radio disturbance and so on. Honourable members may not be electrical engineers like the honourable senior member for St. George, but all of us have had it explained from time to time that electric meters do not always seem to be accurate. The Electrical Inspector has explained that he cannot be expected to produce accurate testings when we neglect to give him essential instruments with which to do his testing work. We have cut down on this item and we are certain that these are the bare necessities.

I am asking the Committee, and the honourable junior member for St. James in particular, not to cut down Item 11.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, The honourable senior Member for St. Joseph has just mentioned a list from which he quoted the sum of \$7,600 for DC equipment. Well, Sir, as far as I know, the current used by the Electric Company is AC current, from which even road lighting is obtained. I really do not understand why the Electric Inspector should want DC testing equipment when we only use DC current in factories. Frankly, I do not see the need for these instruments. If it were compulsory that he should test wiring in factories then I could understand the need for high tension DC equipment. In that case we should have to vote the money, because it goes without saying, that he would not be able to make his testings without it.

Mr. ADAMS: He pointed out what I do not think is a secret; that is, that there were times in this Island when insurance companies were afraid of insuring houses with electric appliances and wirings which had not been subjected to inspection. But inspection of electrical installations in all buildings,

whether public or private, came about after the passing of the Act governing this procedure.

Mr. WARD: I think that that is satisfactory.

The question that the sum of \$17,003 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXV—HOUSING BOARD

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$21,940 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that the allocation of spots at the Bay and Pine Estates be expedited. I have met some house-owners whose landlords have given them notice of removal and I think that their delay in giving up the tenancy is due to the fact that they are awaiting spots at these Estates. It may be that increased staff is needed in order to speed up the allocation of the spots. The delay is embarrassing many people who are left with no alternative but to ask their landlords to wait on them. I hope that the housing authorities will do their utmost to help these people in the shortest possible time. I know that work is being done, but I should like to have matters expedited.

The question that the sum of \$21,940 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXVII—PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$24,564 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXVIII—OLD AGE PENSIONS

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$475,000 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, These poor old folk have to travel so many miles to get their pensions that I have been wondering whether we should not consider the idea of getting it to them by post. I am thinking particularly of the people in the country districts such as the College Savannah. That suggestion was made some time back and I am wondering if the Government have as yet given any consideration to it.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, The point which has been raised by the honourable senior member for St. John is worthy of consideration. I have not had many complaints from the parish I represent, but I know for a fact that, especially around the Christmas season, people complain very bitterly. The paymaster in St. Peter has a lot of work to do, but I suppose that the same thing happens to a more or less degree in other places, and I think that the suggestion could be taken into consideration. Although it is clear that the Government is not inclined to increase the administrative expenses under this Head, yet I think that they should try to reduce the burden, especially at Christmas time.

The question that the sum of \$475,000 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XL—WATERWORKS

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$553,441 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, Item 18 is "Pumping Expenses, \$223,000". I have been informed that a new boiler which has been erected recently and which has been in operation for only three months has burst. This must mean a great loss to the taxpayers of this Island. I have been told too, that they have started to demolish it. Such work is done by contract, as honourable members know, and I am wondering if, in connection with such contracts, the Government employs anyone with technical knowledge to see that they get good and sufficient work from the contractors whoever they may be. It is very disappointing having decided to spend so much money on the water service, to have a boiler bursting within three months after operation. A thing like this leaves me in doubt. I am not a technical man and, therefore, I should like to know whether the fault is with those who have put down the machinery, or whether it is with the manufacturers. The Government should be in a position to know whether the job was properly done or whether the Crown Agents did their duty in selecting the best quality machinery.

There is another point arising under Item 21, "Plumbing Expenses, \$100,000". honourable members will notice that every time this item appears in the annual Estimates there used to be an increase, and it is remarkable that in this year there is a decrease. I do not know if honourable members notice the frequency with which the taps leak nowadays. It cannot be that they have not got enough washers. I know some business houses which have had their taps rewashered, so to speak, and the washers have lasted only a few weeks. I am wondering if this is due to a fault in the material or the workmanship.

I must again draw the attention of Government to the demands of a large section of the taxpayers in the Stuart Hill area where it was proposed to lay a main since the War (World War II). Many valuable houses are being erected there and the tenants will have to travel long distances on the main road in order to get water. It is time that something should be done to ameliorate the conditions in this area.

In College Bottom, too, similar conditions obtain. Passing along Codrington College on the way to St. Philip many valuable houses have been erected along the route; but unfortunately, the tenants have to go to other districts to fetch water. I have been told it is proposed to erect a 4-inch main there; but as yet, nothing has been done, and the people are wondering why they have been left out in spite of having read of the large sums of money that are being spent for the expansion of the service. I noticed that some stand pipes have been erected in other areas; but these are areas which have been built up over a period of time by a greater number of tenants. At any rate, it is imperative that something be done in the immediate future.

I cannot forget that there is still much dissatisfaction among the workers of these pumping stations. I am wondering why there is such reluctance on the part of the Government to come to their assistance. There is one remarkable feature and it is this: at times men are taken from Bowmanston and sent down to the Belle for periods of weeks and sometimes, months. These men leave at sunset and have to travel, sometimes all during the night to and from

the Belle and Bowmanston and thence to their respective homes in St. John.

I have been told that if, for instance an employee is sent from Bowmanston to the Belle to work for three months he is paid travelling allowance at the rate of 18 cents to the Belle and 26 cents return to Bowmanston. I think it is unreasonable to expect these men to travel to and fro day and night for so little. I think that the Government should increase their travelling allowance. When we consider that they are bound to go to work in fair or foul weather, the allowance is really too small. I will not make any more argument now, I will only say that a thorough investigation is needed. The men still continue to complain, although the Government have said in this House on several occasions that everything is O.K.

The truth is that when an investigation is being made—this is what the men have told me—they are not approached. The Head of the Department is sought, and matters are discussed with him. In this way the true position is not seen by the person making the investigation. This is a Department in which all the workers are expected to do their utmost to keep up a regular supply of water and, therefore, no amount of encouragement should be considered too much to enable them to carry through their duties.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I have only one point to make. I am asking that the Government consider establishing a distribution department to the present Water Works service. Any waterworks should have a department where they can conveniently distribute the service. With anything you are selling you should have a distribution service.

People have never ceased to complain of the length of time that their names have to be kept on a waiting list before they can have water installed. Everyone knows that the Head of our Water Works Department is a keen and efficient man. But the time has come when we should be happy to abandon our present tardy methods and resort to a more up-to-date and efficient distribution service. There are many districts where the people are afraid to erect houses because of a lack of water. Take into consideration a little Island like Dominica or even Trinidad for instance; they restrict the installation of the water service with such severity as to make it impossible for many people to install water. It may sound strange, but it is true. All the water services of the United States of America have a distribution department. I can understand the delay in years past when the Water Works were responsible for all the installations and the supply of the material. The method of installing water services to-day is obsolete. Undoubtedly, the Government should see that they use lead piping which would last longer. But if the absence of lead pipe is going to cause people to be denied the use of water, then I think that the Government should take steps all the sooner to set up a distribution department. In the City and parts of St. Michael they still use the push-wheel cart, and this entails a type of labour that makes installations expensive. Instead, they should use those small 'pick-ups' which would enable the plumbers to travel around with a greater measure of facility and speed, and carry larger quantities of equipment too. No enterprising company, Government or otherwise would continue to use a push-wheel cart in this age.

My reason for stressing the need for a distribution department is on account of the many people who are afraid to apply for water service, being under the impression that they will have to wait too long. In some large sections of the community many people claim to have been on the waiting list for as long as three years. The correct thing for the Govern-

ment to do is to set this distribution department up and advertise it. It will surprise them to see how and in what short time it would expand.

I am not aware that a distribution department would entail any elaborate or prohibitive expenditure; but even if it did, the expenditure would be justified, as such a Department is almost imperative. I leave it to the Government to consider the suggestion.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I shall bear in mind what the honourable member has said. Three parts of the Water Works is distributive, and therefore, I really cannot see what the honourable member is driving at. Shortage of pipes is the answer to the problem of those people who cannot get water, and naturally, it is getting worse every day. We sent for pipes and have been told that we have got to wait until some other place has been supplied. I myself paid two visits to the Colonial Office in 1949 and mentioned to them the strong feelings of the members of the House on the matter.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I do not want the Committee to misunderstand me. I understand quite well that the water running through any pipe line is distributive. The answer as the honourable member has said, is pipe. But I was not thinking of 4 and 6-inch cast iron mains; I was thinking of galvanised pipe; you can get galvanised pipe at any commercial firm in town. We have never suffered from a shortage of it.

The question that the sum of \$553,441 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLI—SOCIAL WELFARE

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$2,756 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, This is one Department which I feel is doing next to nothing. But besides that we should like to see the effect of its work on the people. So far as I can see, this Department has done nothing to help to improve the culture of the people. I feel it is a waste of time and money. The difficulty is that whenever something is attempted it results in misdirected energy; it never reaches the people for whom, I believe, the Department was set up, the ordinary woman in the street, for instance. I hope I am not mistaken in my judgment, but from my observation, whenever a move is made it is more or less designed to attract people who are already in a position to offer themselves social and cultural amenities. You might, for instance, find the Head of this Department going to the Girls' Industrial Union, to a college or school; that is alright in its way. But what I have never seen and what I hope to see is that these officers go down in the slums, and help the underprivileged there; and in all those districts where you find a lot of little girls running around and having nobody to direct them along the proper paths of life.

Social welfare officers should not wait for people to ask where they are, they should look for those who are in need of social uplift and invite them to come forward and make use of their services. Unless this is done, social welfare is missing its mark.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, It is only fair to say this: ever since Barbados Welfare was started and was given its blessing in a broadcast speech by Sir

Grattan Bushe we have been trying to get back to the original position from which we started. If what the honourable member says is true, that no tangible signs of the work of this Department can be discerned, it is because the duties of the Social Welfare Officer have never been properly defined. Such was the case with Miss Ibberson. She was sent down here to do a job for Colonial Development and Welfare; but owing to the conflicting idea of a social welfare department existing simultaneously with Barbados Welfare Ltd. desiring to operate a company in order to give Barbados Welfare a chance, her duties had never been properly defined. Steps, however, very active, both locally and at the Colonial Office, are being taken to put the office of Social Welfare Officer on a proper footing. The question was raised once, and for some reason or other, had to be put in the background. Since then discussion has been resumed, and I expect that within a short time I shall be able to come to the House with a declaration as to what the specific duties of the officers of this Department are.

I must point out to the honourable member though, that these welfare officers have been appointed quite recently, and therefore it is too early to say that the new side of the Social Welfare Department has not produced any results. Let it be remembered by the honourable senior member for St. John that it is easy to get up any part of the world, including the British Empire and the United States, and point to slums with lives like those of "Bob and Sally" and little girls who should have more and better contacts. There are slums from the North Pole to Chile.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, With the remarks of the honourable Leader I feel a bit relieved. As he has stated, the duties of those officers have never been defined.

I find under this Head that there has been an increase of \$9,920. Although I am an ardent believer in social welfare, I feel that this is a department on which the Government should be unwilling to spend more money. My opinion is that the results are not justifying the expenditure.

I notice that Item 5 concerns furniture and office equipment and that item 13 is for office furniture too. Can the Honourable Leader explain that?

Mr. ADAMS: Item 8 is the normal expenditure. Item 13 is for the new District Welfare Officers.

The question that the sum of \$2,756 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. WILKINSON: It is getting near to midnight, and I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. GODDARD seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported the passing in Committee of Resolutions totalling \$5,654,507 and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, the 20th instant, at 4 p.m.

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