

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950-51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21st March, 1951.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 4 o'clock p.m. to-day.

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Messrs. O. T. ALLDER, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. A. DOWDING and E. L. WARD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES.

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

Messrs. MOTTLEY, WILKINSON and BRYAN entered the House and took their seats.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION DISTRICTS ORDER, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to approve the Order entitled the "Registration Districts Order 1951" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 3rd day of March, 1951, under the provisions of Section 4 of the Special Registration of Voters (General Assembly) Act, 1951.

Mr. ADAMS: The mere novelty of the necessity for the preparation of new Voters' Lists, must of course, cause all of us to have doubts as to whether the division which is here proposed by the Government, acting on the best advice it could get, is sound or not; but it appears to me and it appears to the Government that the principle on which the Government has acted is sound. That is to say that Mr. Chase, who was responsible for taking the last census, and who, in dividing the island into districts for the purpose of taking that census, knew the difficulties in connection therewith, was obviously the best choice for advising us as to how to divide the districts for registration purposes. Anybody who has had to do with social affairs in Barbados as Mr. Chase has had to do, apart from having to do with taking the census, would, of course know, broadly speaking, how

best to arrange the districts. The last conversation which I had with the late honourable junior member for St. Andrew was a conversation in which he pointed out to me that there were several anomalies in the division of the parish of St. Andrew as set out in these proposals here; but I had to point out to him that although it was true that these proposals mean that some people living on one side of the street would go to one polling station, and people living a few yards away on the other side of the street would go a mile from the first lot to another polling station, that was unavoidable. The late hon. member's view was, and the view of other people is, that the island should be divided according to well-known villages. It might lead to even more anomalies if you had an invisible line between the parishes than if you divided the island by roads, so that the Government decided that the recommendations of Mr. Chase would lead to the same anomalies as might be said to exist in other arrangements. Some people who live in Baxters Road vote in St. Michael while others vote in the City; there was a case in the Law Courts in which there was a row between a husband and his wife and he raised the point that she brought him up in the wrong Police Court, that he was living in a different parish from her. The house was situated between the parishes of Christ Church and St. Michael and the husband's bedroom was in St. Michael and the wife's bedroom was in Christ Church. The same thing applies to plantations; some plantations are situated partly in one parish and partly in another. As far as the Government can see, every objection which can be raised to the divisions here, can be raised to any sort of division based on any other principle. I hope that hon. members have had time to go through the divisions in their own particular parish so that if there is any outstanding mistake or anomaly they will be able to point it out to the House or Committee if we go into Committee on the Resolution. Perhaps I should remind hon. members that these districts were divided with the object of approximating in each district a number of 450 eligible voters; that is to say, 450 people will vote in every district. It has been drawn to my attention by the honourable senior member for the City that his experience is that the number of 450 people to a district is a small number and that probably 800 people to a district could be easily dealt with in St. Michael or the City. The Acting Attorney General, Mr. Chase and myself were similarly informed by a sheriff and his opinion is worth considering; he thought that 800 people could be handled in a district. On the other hand, we

had a telegram from Trinidad informing us that many people who turned up to vote could not do so because too many people were allowed to a particular district; we had a strong telegram to the effect that 450 people to a district were too many that we should aim at 350 to a district, and we should have two polling stations where the number of persons in a district amounted to 600. Although we were advised by local people, we could not put more than 450 people to a district, the number which we thought of originally. I think that there is one district of over 600 people and in that case two polling stations will have to be provided; but for the most part, Mr. Chase has managed to get the districts divided in such a way that approximately 450 persons will be eligible for voting. I do not know what the general feeling of the House is, but I would like to suggest that it would take too long to read all these districts and it should be enough for the Clerk to be instructed only to read the name of the particular constituency or the number of each district and let each district be voted on separately. I should like to hear the opinion of honourable members on this matter. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am going to move that this House go into Committee on this Resolution. I do not think that that motion should meet with any objection because this is one of those Resolutions which we have to study very carefully, and no doubt, Mr. Speaker, you will appreciate like the hon. Leader of the House, that for the past few weeks hon. members have been devoting most of their time to the Estimates and have not been able to consider this Resolution as carefully as they would have done otherwise. While I have not had the opportunity to scan this Resolution, I have partly made a study of it and that is because for many years I have been associated with the political life of this country in one way or the other, and I have fought my way to the position of being a member of this House. I know the boundaries not only in the parish of St. Michael, but in other parishes as well; I have had the opportunity, as a Commissioner of Health for this parish, to study its boundaries. It is a part of my duty to have the various districts before me and to study the population not only of St. Michael, but of the various other parishes. I have listened very carefully to what the hon. Leader of the House has said about having 450 people to a district, and to what was stated in the telegram from Trinidad. I want to say that we have the highest standard of literacy in the West Indies, and accounting for the low numbers who would have to poll at the Trinidad stations was, in the first place, the question of the majority of Indians who had the right to vote, being illiterate. I remember that in this colony in 1929 we had 1,000 people attending a poll; there was a rush because in those days we had one presiding officer and his clerk. In this matter I say that we should give of our best and inform the Government of any facilities which they can use for the purpose of expediting the matter. I have seen in St. Michael that by 10.30 a.m. 450 people had attended the poll and voted. The hon. Leader of the House said that he got certain information from Trinidad; if you put up a polling booth where people whose surnames begin from "A" to "Z" must vote and you have one door and one sheriff, it must be obvious that 450 people will take until 4 o'clock to vote: but if you have two doors and other necessary facilities, it is an easy matter for more people to vote. In Trinidad there are people who have to understand what symbols mean before they can vote, but in Barbados you will not have any such state of affairs. I have

no objection to the number of people to a district remaining at 450, but with two-fifths of the population being in St. Michael and having regard to the number of registration age and you have 66 districts, I think I can see where the difficulty will be. Allowing for the non-conformists and other religious people who do not want to register, if you have 20,000 people registered in St. Michael, my contention is that if the opinion of the people in Trinidad is that 450 people to a district are too many, you must know what arrangements are made in that colony. You have to make a comparison as to literacy between Trinidad and Barbados; you want to be as nearly perfect as you can in these arrangements. I would be prepared to pledge anything that in any area in St. Michael or any other parish where you set up a polling booth, 800 people can vote with consummate ease between the hours of 7 a.m., and 4 p.m. However I would put the number at 600. The difficulty in the matter before us is going to be in finding the polling stations. If we take the Haggatt Hall district, it must be obvious that the first place for a polling booth will be the school at St. Barnabas, and you may find that there are more than 450 people in that area. That is a difficulty with which the Government will be faced, District A. 1 in the parish of St. Michael is set out as follows:—

"Keeping RIGHT to the parish boundary line:— From the point at which the St. Michael—St. George parish boundary line is crossed by Highway 3, along Highway 3 to its junction with Highway E (the Friendship — Exchange Road); thence along Highway E to the St. Michael — St. Thomas parish boundary line."

According to that district, it would strike me that the first place you will have to put a polling booth would be at the St. Matthew's Boys' or Girls' School. If you have 450 people in this area, and there are more than 450 people in the area, they will vote with greater ease than if you had 600 people there. If you take the Kensington area, the original line took in one side of Passage Road for St. Michael and the other side for the City; but you must have a line somewhere. However, the greater portion of Kensington is really in St. Michael; that is an area with about 900 houses and I cannot see what would be the object of putting two or three polling booths there. Imagine having to find 66 polling booths for St. Michael alone! And I am thinking also of the expenses; you will have 66 Officers, 66 Clerks and so on. My point is that you should have districts in which more than 450 people can vote. I beg to move that your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Resolution.

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

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that. Besides the point raised by the hon. senior member for the City, there are one or two details about which I would like to ask questions. I thoroughly agree with the hon. senior member for the City that in Barbados the number of 450 voters to a polling booth is too small. In this matter the hon. member has had experience in St. Michael and elsewhere and I have had experience in St. Michael and in St. James. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that even where you have a large number of people, it would be easy in Barbados for at least 800 to vote between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. We do not want to incur unnecessary expense; we are going to have eligible to vote a good many people who have not voted before, and that will slow down the procedure, but our people are of such intelligence that they will quickly grasp the situation

My main object in seconding the motion for going into Committee is to ensure that we do not have an unnecessary number of booths and an unnecessary number of officers employed with consequent unnecessary expense. We all want to see everybody go to the polls and vote in an easy and comfortable way; but, at the same time, I do think it is unnecessary to have as many polling booths as are indicated in this Resolution. I formally beg to second the motion of the hon. senior member for the City.

Mr. SMITH: Before the question is put, I think that I should say a few words. To begin with, I do not know anything about these Highways which are set out in these Districts; I do not understand Highway 3A, and so on. Highway 3A might mean Chalky Mount. I would understand Parris Hill, Blackmans and so on. The polling booths are to be situated according to districts, but when you speak of keeping left this place and keeping right that place, you will find a person leaving his district completely and going to vote in another district. The position might be all right as far as the parish of St. Michael and the City are concerned, but in the country districts a hardship will be created in getting people to the polling stations. If there are 450 people to a district a polling booth should be in that district, but this direction about keeping left and keeping right will confuse the people.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on this Resolution was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Resolution, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

CITY OF BRIDGETOWN

District I under this Head was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that District I under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Up to now I have not seen a map of Barbados which sets out Highway I, Highway B, and so on; the map would show a line running from Spooners Hill to Codrington Hill, to Bow Road and then to Bush Hall Road. Highway I and so on, is misleading.

Mr. MILLER: I think that we are rushing through something which is going to become very dangerous. This is a big day for Labour because it has brought about adult suffrage, but I do not think that hon. members should agree to something which they do not really understand. It is a grave mistake to do so. I am not satisfied that the hon. Leader of the House is aware of the difficulty in connection with this matter, and in the interest of everybody I think that we should postpone the consideration of this Head and let us be supplied with a map showing the division of the parishes. I do not agree with the hon. senior member for the City that the number of voters to a district should be increased to 600; I think the number of voters should be reduced to 300. Here you have District I which gives the roads, but there is nothing to tell you where the polling booths will be situated; so that you are bound to be working blindly. I am equally as anxious as anybody else to get this matter through

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to hon. members to keep as quiet as possible when an hon. member is speaking.

Mr. MILLER: I was saying, Mr. Chairman, that I am as anxious as anybody else to get this matter through, but I do not see how this proposal will work unless a gigantic effort is made. I repeat that there

is no indication at all in this District I as to where the polling booth will be placed. Hon. members are being asked to vote on this District, and there is probably no hon. member who can put a line around the District. I feel that we should make it easy for people to get around these Districts. I beg to move that the consideration of this Head be postponed.

Mr. ADAMS: No hon. member who carefully examines these proposals or re-examines his own arguments against any of these proposals, could spend one second in objecting to any of them. I have heard around the Table objections to the Highways being mentioned in these Districts; let me say that mention of a road or street may be made in some statutes dealing with the division of parishes, but there is no legal declaration of Baxters Road as Baxters Road. If the Department of Highways and Transport comes along and declares the road leading from Bridgetown past Boarded Hall, past Windsor and on to the Crane as Highway 1, 2, or 3, it becomes Highway 1, 2 or 3. You do not have to pass a law to call it Highway 1, 2 or 3. In dealing with some Districts, it is puerile to ask for instance; "How do you know Highway 4?" When you mention Gittens Road along with Highway 4, you will know Highway 4. If honourable members study this matter, they will see that the description of the Highway along with the name Gittens Road, Welches Road or whatever road it might be, makes it crystal clear as to where we mean. We do not speak about the Highways unless we mention the name of a road, and in some cases there is a little addition to make clear as to where we mean. If honourable members turn to page 24 of the Schedule to this Resolution they will see that mention is made of Highway F; very few people know that there is this Highway F, but next to it and put in brackets are the words: "The Old East Coast Road." The Department of Highway and Transport has made designations which do not appear on the map, but they are on the Highways. The honourable member who is making interruptions has agreed to these divisions and now he is aiding and abetting honourable members to make objections. I say that the Department of Highways and Transport have made designations, but that does not matter two pence at this stage. I am not in a position to say that on every highway to-day you will find a designation, because some of the signs have been taken down and burnt; but the point I am making is that you cannot in any single parish say that you do not know to what the designation of the highway refers. Let us take District D.5 at the top of page 7 of this Schedule; there we find that mention is made of Gap 12, Bay Land, and how many of us know where Gap 12 Bay Land is? But if you go up there, you will find it out. None of these Districts is designed purely by Highways; when one mentions the junction of such and such a highway from such and such a road, how can anybody say that he cannot find out where he is? No member of the public is going to be asked to find out anything; the Assistant Registering Officers are going to leave forms at people's houses showing the Districts. Despite the fact that I am the Leader of the House, I do not know what the number of my district is; but an Assistant Registering Officer is coming to my house and he will register me in whatever the District is. How can anybody talk about there going to be some confusion? The honourable senior member for St. George is taking a very valuable interest in our deliberations, but I regret to say that whereas he used to have a reputation for wisdom through silence, he now says a lot of things without thinking. The Ballot Act has to say where the polling booths have to be put; do you want a more absurd statement than that the Districts do not say where the booths will be put? All that is

provided for in the Ballot Act; the honourable member might just as well say that the hours for polling are not in this District. Has the hon. member forgotten that when the Assistant Registering Officers have collected the forms, a list of people is going to be posted up in his District? But, Mr. Chairman, over and above everything, I hope that hon. members will listen to what I am going to say now: there are numerous people in this Island, and some members of the newspaper Press too, who think that we are deliberately trying to hold on to office, that we are putting obstacles in the way of registration, and those who are asking for a postponement of this matter are playing directly into the hands of our enemies who think that we are prolonging the life of this House. Let them play into the hands of our enemies; I want to say that I am not responsible for the slightest delay in this matter. I am told that it is being said that we do not intend to have this machinery put into operation. I asked hon. members to try and make an attempt to go through these districts and suggest changes to the Government if there are any changes to be made, and now hon. members are asking for a postponement of this matter! No voter is going to be asked to find any District; he will be given a form to be filled in and on that form and in a subsequent publication will appear the District to which he belongs. The voter will be told where the polling stations have been selected and they will be obtained by the use of schools, public buildings or by renting people's houses, and he will know where he has to vote. I do not accuse hon. members of raising objections without giving the matter any consideration; I am being charitable in saying that they have not given sufficient consideration to the matter, if they think that there are difficulties here when in truth and in fact there are no difficulties. I ask hon. members to revise their views in the light of what I have said, that there is not a single designation of a Highway occurring anywhere in these Districts unless the name of some well-known road also occurs. If mention is made of the junction of Dalkeith Road with Highway 6, it is absurd to ask where Highway 6 is, because as soon as Dalkeith Road is mentioned, you have an indication as to where Highway 6 is. I realise that hon. members have made objections because they have not considered all the facts; but now that they have all the facts before them, they will see that there is nothing in their objections and we will get this matter through.

Mr. GILL came into the Committee and took his seat while Mr. ADAMS was speaking.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member has made the position worse. I am willing to pass this Resolution but there is no sense in being strong headed and telling hon. members that what is proposed here is right because one or two people did it, and everybody else is wrong. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the divisions as regards the City; I do not agree with the hon. senior member for St. Joseph when he says that there is absolutely no law which says that Baxters Road is Baxters Road; it is equally true that there is no law which says that there is Highway 3 or anything else. If you mention upper Black Rock between Deacons Road corner and Eagle Hall, everybody will know where you mean; but if you mention Highway 4 from the junction of this or that road, nobody will know where you mean. I am going further

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with District I under the Head "City of Bridgetown," and the hon. member must speak on that District. I cannot allow him to go to Black Rock and leave the City.

Mr. MOTTLEY: We are in Committee. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph made a

point that the argument raised in opposition to what he was saying is wrong, and must no opportunity be given to reply to that? It would appear as if we are straying and I repeat that the division in the City are all right; but I am asking the honourable Leader of the House to see, if he reads these divisions carefully, that there are some amendments to be made. I am trying to bridge a gap. Every member should know his constituency by heart and there are some districts about which if an honourable member asked, nobody could answer. I am suggesting to the Leader of the House that some amendments should be made in certain places where mention is made of the Highways. The honourable member has hinted that Assistant Registering Officers will be sent around by the Government, but a canvasser must be able to tell people where they are to vote. Unless you put in some small amendments, the Government will not be able to tell people where they must vote.

Mr. ADAMS: If anything is ambiguous a word or two can be put in so as to clarify it: but as honourable members go on they will discover that if Highway I, for instance, is not described by a road, that is because for the past 15 years we have known that Highway. But honourable members will see that the Highways are described.

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

Districts II to VII inclusive were called and agreed to.

District VIII was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that District VIII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This District refers to the Bridgetown boundary line, and there is a boundary line for several purposes. There are in existence several maps about the Bridgetown boundary line and I would suggest that we should refer to this boundary line as it has been set out in the Act.

Mr. ADAMS: There is a Bridgetown boundary line set out in the Act of 1891 which declares 'where Bridgetown, Holetown and Speightstown are. One might say that the boundary of Bridgetown for the purpose of the Public Health Act would be Bush Hall, but anything differing from the Act is only for a specific purpose.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I raised that point for this reason; if an Assistant Registering Officer were to register 500 or 600 people outside the Bridgetown boundary line which is defined in the Act, is it not the easiest thing in the world to upset an Election? Very few people can tell you where the Bridgetown boundary line is; some people think that it goes up to Westbury Road.

Mr. ADAMS: The Assistant Registering Officers will not be let loose to be wondering where a boundary line is; we have appointed Supervisors and an Island Supervisor to see that these Assistant Registering Officers do their work properly. It is proposed that every Assistant Registering Officer shall attend a meeting and receive information as to his duties, so that he will know what he has to do.

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

Districts IX to XIV inclusive were called and agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL

Under this Head, District A1. was called and agreed to.

District A2 was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that District A2 stand part of the Schedule. Honourable members will find that throughout these Districts where there is a description of a Highway which has recently been made by the Department of Highways and Transport and which is not generally known to the public, something is put in brackets which provides an explanation of the description of that Highway, so that the objection of honourable members falls to the ground.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Districts A3 to A6 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Districts B1 to B10 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Districts C1 to C7 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Districts D1 to D12 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—It appears to me that we can vote on these Districts comprehensively, but if any honourable member prefers to have them dealt with separately, they can be dealt with separately. I beg to move that the remaining Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. PHILIP

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. GEORGE

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MILLER: I still feel that we are approving something about which we know nothing. It matters nothing how puerile I may be, and if my wisdom is in my silence; I say that we have not got sufficient information about what we are doing. Hon. members will not listen to me now, but sometime in the future they will listen to me in connection with this same issue.

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

PARISH OF ST. ANDREW

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. LUCY

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. JOHN

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. PETER

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

PARISH OF ST. JAMES

The Districts under this Head were called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that all the Districts under this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the passing of this Resolution, I would just like to say that the certainty of what an Assistant Registering Officer is going to do will be secured, because the Chief Supervisor is explaining to these Officers what their functions are and telling them where their boundaries are. He is doing that probably in each parish and not with the whole 213 of them together, but he has to do it between the passing of this Resolution by this House and its being passed by the Other Place. These Assistant Registering Officers will each have a memorandum and a book of instructions, and I do not see how it is possible for any of these Officers not to know what his duties are. The difficulties raised by hon. members will be overcome. The honourable senior member for the City has suggested that maps of the different Districts should be made; I think that that is a matter which is under consideration but no decision has been taken as to it. I do not suppose it would do any harm to have these maps drawn; a total of 213 maps would have to be made or it might be that only 11 would be required and they could be divided into districts. That is a provision which might help the Supervisors and the Registering Officers and it might also help the candidates for election. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Resolution was passed.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO DEAL WITH REPLIES TO GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to deal with the Reply to His Excellency's Message relating to Erdiston Training College for Teachers. Normally, a Select Committee would have been appointed to prepare a Reply to the Message, but that was not done when the Message first came down to the House, and it is necessary that the Government should get a Reply to the Message almost immediately. The extension of Erdiston and the establishment of a Creamery are both matters to which the Government is being asked for replies. As regards the Creamery, we could adjourn for more than half an hour for tea and deal with that matter. As honourable members will see, the Other Place has replied to His Excellency's Message, agreeing in principle with the establishment of the Creamery, and we can say that we do not agree with such and such details. The Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation has been pressing the Government for a Reply as to whether we agree in principle with the establishment of a Creamery or not, and I suggest that we reply saying that we agree in principle with it. But that does not mean that we agree with every detail; we can say that we agree in principle so that the Government and C.D. & W. will know that we do not necessarily agree with every detail. I would certainly like to have an expression of opinion on certain points, but we can say that we agree with the establishment of the Creamery. Similarly with regard to Erdiston Training College. I am asking leave to deal with these two Messages and to move the passing of Addresses in reply to them.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am bound to oppose leave being granted the honourable member to deal with the Replies to these Messages. We came here today with the understanding that we would deal with the Resolution in connection with the registration of voters. We have been here three times this week and we have been dealing with the Estimates for the past two weeks; I am walking out of the House because this is not fair. The honourable Leader of the House knew about this matter for a long time; we have got to obtain some facts, and I speak now as to the establishment of the Creamery. The Government have been doing this sort of thing for too long; let them say that the Opposition walked out of the House.

Mr. ADAMS: I am agreeing to what the honourable member says; the last thing the Government wants to do is to force anything down honourable members' throats. The honourable member's shouting does not change me; why should he behave like a child? I thought everybody would have said: "We want a Creamery, but I am not tying myself down to all the proposals." After the argument about age grouping I thought that everybody would have agreed to pass the Reply in respect of Erdiston. There were times when I had great doubts about matters, but I did not think that any honourable member would disagree to the establishment of a Creamery and the extension of Erdiston Training College for the training of more teachers. Anybody who objects to more milk being obtained in this island should not be a member of the House; any person in my position would have come to the conclusion that nobody would object in principle to the establishment of a Creamery, although he might object to the way in which it

is being done. He might object to the details of the matter but not to the principle. I am prepared to postpone the consideration of the Reply to the Message in respect of the Creamery if that is the wish of honourable members.

Mr. MOTTLEY: There is nothing to which one could object as far as Erdiston is concerned; we want more teachers and so on. But I am objecting to the matter in respect of the Creamery because we do not know all the facts about the establishment of the Creamery.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to deal with the Reply to the Message with regard to the establishment of a Creamery was put and resolved in the negative, Mr. SPEAKER declaring, "I think the 'Noes' have it."

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to deal with the Reply to the Message with regard to Erdiston was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADDRESS *RE* EXTENSION OF ERDISTON TRAINING COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS

Mr. ADAMS: The proposal as regards Erdiston is that 32 more teachers should be trained, 16 being from Barbados and 16 from the Leeward and Windward Islands. The proposed Reply to His Excellency's Message is as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Message No. 9/1951 dated 27th February 1951, inviting the House to approve in principle the extension of Erdiston Training College for Teachers to provide training facilities for an additional 32 students (16 from Barbados and 16 from the Leeward and Windward Islands).

The House wish to assure Your Excellency of their approval of the proposed scheme as stated in the Message.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS: As Your Honour pleases.
APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ADAMS: I am suggesting that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to the Message in relation to the Creamery and I am asking whoever is Chairman of the Committee to arrange a meeting before next Tuesday and let us meet on Tuesday next and deal with the Reply to the Message. I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to Message No. 11/1951 from His Excellency the Governor relating to the establishment of a Creamery.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Message No. 11/1951 from His Excellency the Governor relating to the establishment of a Creamery. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think

the "Ayes" have it. Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following honourable members as such Select Committee:— The honourable junior member for St. George (Mr. Dowding), the honourable senior member for the City (Mr. Mottley), the honourable senior member for St. Peter (Mr. F. L. Walcott), the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. Mapp) and the honourable senior member for St. John (Mr. Alder).

Mr. MOTTLEY: I think it would be well if the name of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy were added to the Select Committee.

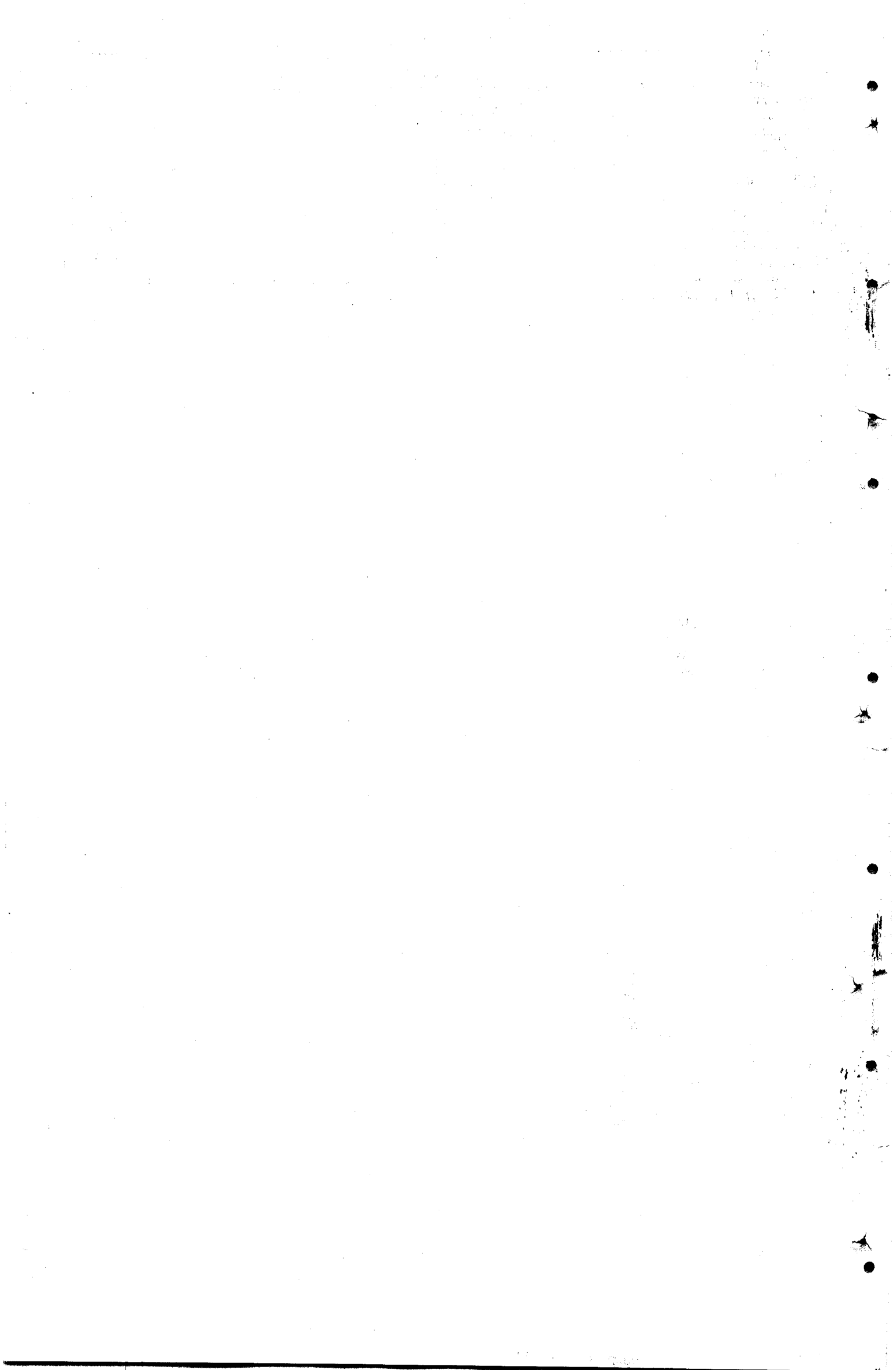
Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, the name of the honourable senior mem-

ber for St. Lucy (Mr. Ward) is added to the Select Committee.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next, the 29th instant, at 3 p.m., and I hope that the Report of the Select Committee will be presented so that this matter of the establishment of a Creamery can be dealt with as the first Order of the Day at that meeting.

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



THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950-51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 29th March, 1951.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Messrs. O. T. ALLDER, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., J. E. T. BRANCKER, H. A. DOWDING, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., and E. L. WARD.

Prayers were read.

Dr. CUMMINS and Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 12th and 13th March, 1951, respectively, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHAPLAIN

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Before the business of the House is begun I would like to make a few remarks in connection with the filling of the post of Chaplain. Your Honour has circulated a note to the effect that you hope to have this vacant post filled before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with. In a matter of this sort, apart from the fact that honourable members knew of this matter only yesterday afternoon, and in view of the importance of it, I think it would be advisable for me as Leader of the House, at least to confer with the Leader of the Opposition before we proceed with the filling of this post. I have not had the opportunity of speaking with a single member of the House apart from the other three members of the Executive Committee, and I am therefore asking your Honour to postpone the consideration of this matter, because this appointment is not an ordinary one. This is the appointment of a Chaplain about which there should be unanimity as far as is possible. I am asking Your Honour to postpone the consideration of this matter until the members of the House can get together in connection with it, and I suggest that the matter be postponed without fixing

any time for its consideration. If it is possible to deal with the matter today, that will be all well and good; if we meet next Tuesday that will be the beginning of another month, and as far as I know, it will not make any difference to the regular procedure of the House. I think that the retiring Chaplain will be willing to oblige us by coming out on Tuesday if we have not appointed his successor.

Mr. SPEAKER: The duties of the present Chaplain come to an end today and although the matter is one entirely for the House, I feel that the latest possible time to have the office of Chaplain filled is today. However, the House have the matter in their hands and it is purely a matter for them to postpone the filling of the office. The resignation of the Chaplain was lodged as from the 25th of this month and I am not taking any responsibility in the matter.

The honourable member has asked leave to postpone the consideration of the matter of filling the post of Chaplain. If there is no objection, leave will be granted the honourable member. (After a pause). There being no objection, leave is granted the honourable member.

Messrs. BRYAN and BETHELL entered the House and took their seats.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Local Loan Act, 1941, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised on Housing projects.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Education Loan Act, 1935, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised for the provision of additional accommodation at the St. Leonard's Boys' School.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Public Loan Act, 1928, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised on Housing projects.

Mr. ADAMS: A Bill intituled an Act to authorise the expenditure of such sums of money as remain unspent out of the amount of one million twelve thousand, three hundred and twenty dollars raised by way of loan under the Waterworks Loan Act

1935, and the Waterworks Loan Act, 1941 for the improvement and extension of the water supply and the completion of other works connected therewith.

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

QUESTION

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

Whether Government will take the necessary action to make provision for one qualified cook to be attached to each rural Police Station in this colony for the preparation of meals for Policemen attached thereto and who are unable, or have no time, to cook for themselves, or whose homes are too distant from such Stations for their meals to be sent to them there?

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to Message No. 11/1951 from His Excellency the Governor relating to the establishment of a Creamery. The Committee have had a short time to consider this matter and I hope that the honourable Leader of the House will be able to answer certain questions in connection with it.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the expenditure of such sums of money as remain unspent out of the amount of one million twelve thousand, three hundred and twenty dollars raised by way of loan under the Waterworks Loan Act 1935, and the Waterworks Loan Act, 1941 for the improvement and extension of the water supply and the completion of other works connected therewith, was read a first time.

ADDRESS *RE* ESTABLISHMENT OF A CREAMERY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: To move the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee appointed to prepare a Reply to Message No. 11/1951 relating to the establishment of a Creamery.

Mr. ADAMS: The Select Committee appointed to prepare a Reply to the Message in connection with the establishment of a Creamery have just presented their Report and they deserve to be congratulated on the speed with which they have worked. They have proposed a Reply to the Message and it is now my duty to move the consideration of the Report: the Report reads as follows:

“The Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 11/1951 dated the 5th March, 1951, relating to the establishment of a Central Milk Depot and Creamery, have the honour to present the following Report:—

E. L. WARD,
Chairman.

29th March, 1951.

REPORT

The Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1951, when the following honourable members were present, namely:—

E. L. Ward, Esq.,
H. A. Dowding, Esq.,
F. L. Walcott, Esq.,
O. T. Alder, Esq., and
R. G. Mapp, Esq.,

The Committee carefully considered His Excellency's Message and the two documents referred to therein and recommend that the following Address be sent to His Excellency in reply to His Excellency's said Message:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 11/1951 dated 5th March, 1951, relating to the establishment of a Central Milk Depot and Creamery.

The House approve of the principle of the scheme to set up a Central Milk Depot and Creamery on a co-operative basis as set out in the Memorandum forwarded with Your Excellency's said Message.

The House feel that the benefits to be derived from such a scheme will not be obtained unless the source of production is speedily expanded and therefore recommend that a further means be provided for assistance to be given to Dairy Owners, potentially and otherwise, and to Peasants for the purpose of purchasing stock.

The House are also of the opinion that provision should be made for the further development and preservation of fodder and other animal foods.”

There is also a Minority Report, signed by the honourable junior member for St. George, which reads as follows:—

MINORITY REPORT

“I agree in principle to the establishment of a Central Milk Depot and Creamery, but cannot, at this stage, agree to the establishment thereof on the terms of the two documents referred to in His Excellency's Message, No. 11/1951, dated 5th March, 1951, to the Honourable the House of Assembly.”

In moving the consideration of this Report, the House will appreciate the fact that I am moving it because it stands in my name to be moved. I was not a member of the Select Committee but as a member of the Executive Committee, I share the responsibility for sending the scheme as outlined in His Excellency's Message, to the House. I do not desire to do anything more than listen to those who have suggestions to make or those who want to suggest modifications of the proposals. However, I feel that I should remind the House that the Government has made it clear that, both in respect of the actual and potential scope of the Peasants' Loan Bank and the work of Agricultural Inspectors at the Agricultural Stations, there is no limit within reasonable, financial bounds to which the Government is not prepared to go in order to encourage the dairy industry, the keeping of goats, pigs and cattle by peasants and others; more especially both in connection with the general nutrition of the colony and the nutrition of school children, the Government is prepared to do any reasonable thing to improve our present milk position. Therefore, in respect of that part of the Address, in reply to the Message from

His Excellency the Governor, in which the Select Committee are recommending that a further means of assistance be provided to dairy owners, I would remind honourable members of the Committee that it is not necessary to remind the Government of what it has promised on the floor of the House and elsewhere that it would do.

Mr. WARD: I beg to second the motion for the consideration of this Report. I want to say that I do not agree *in toto* with the Report. I would like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to know that a member of the Select Committee was told that at the present moment the Peasants' Loan Bank has permission to lend money to people to buy animals and it was thought unnecessary to mention that in the Report. We did not have sufficient time to go into the matter of the establishment of a Creamery thoroughly: I feel that we should consider carefully, first of all, whether we would be able to supply a Depot with 5,000 gallons of milk per day and whether the Government can give an assurance that people who supply milk will deliver it to the Depot. I do not believe that we will have enough milk to supply the Depot up to the quantity of 5,000 gallons a day. I feel that the Government should embark on a much smaller scheme; if they put the quantity of milk to be supplied at the Depot at 3,000 gallons a day, I think that they would be going in the right direction. I feel that in spending £60,000 on an experiment which we do not know will be successful, would be reckless; it must be remembered that Barbados is not like Jamaica with vast areas for grazing, and throughout the year they can feed dairy cattle properly. In Barbados on the other hand, in parishes like Christ Church and St. Lucy, I believe that it is a hard job for owners of dairies to feed their cattle. I do not think that we will be able to keep as many dairy cattle as would supply the quantity of milk which is proposed to be supplied in this scheme; it is difficult for the owners of dairies to feed their cattle during the months of June, July and August. I feel that the Government is embarking on too big a scheme; we should establish a medium-sized Creamery in the first place, and if we find that that is successful, then we can establish another one. We do not want to put milk out of the reach of people who would buy it; it must be remembered that people will not walk a quarter of a mile to purchase a gill of milk when they can purchase it from next door. We are embarking on a scheme and we do not know how it will work; we are embarking on a scheme for handling our surplus milk which cannot be sold, and if the milk can be sold in the country it would be futile to transport it to town and then back to the country. Imagine our transporting milk from St. Andrew and St. Lucy to town and then back to those parts! That is simply putting it out of the reach of the people who would buy it. I feel that we should handle more milk in the City and any surplus milk in the country should be brought to the City. What I have been told is that the Government will provide the means of transport and will compel the dairy keepers to send milk to the Creamery; I do not believe it would be economic to make people send milk to a Creamery when they can sell it in the particular areas.

I do not intend to say very much more in connection with this matter now, but my fear is that we will not be able to maintain dairy cattle throughout the year. How many peasants can afford to keep dairy cattle? Some of these people only own about a quarter of an acre of land, so that the points I have raised will have to be taken into consideration. If you are depending upon all the peasants to keep these animals, I want to say that that cannot be done. We do not want to spend £60,000 on this scheme and then find

that it becomes like the groundnut scheme in Africa; we do not want to embark on this experimental scheme and then say that we feel we have failed and we have to subsidize the milk for the Milk Depot and Creamery and prevent people from paying more than 11 cents a pint for it. Another point is this; we have to control the importation of milk because I believe that we will not be able to produce sufficient milk so as to supply the needs of the population. As I have already said, I feel that we should start the scheme with a supply of 3,000 gallons per day, and it will take some time before we can reach the standard of supplying that quantity of milk per day. Many people sell milk in small quantities and it is only fair for them to be in the position of sending milk to the Creamery when they are unable to dispose of it. I feel that we should go into Committee on this matter; I do not agree with this Report as it stands although I am in favour of the establishment of a Creamery.

Mr. GODDARD entered the House and took his seat whilst Mr. WARD was speaking.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The motion before the House is that the Report of the Select Committee be adopted. (A MEMBER: No, that it be considered). What I want to know is this; if I speak on this motion now, and the motion fails, will I be allowed to speak later on relative to the motion for the passing of the Address?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member will be allowed to make one speech on the matter which is before the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to make a few remarks with regard to the position of the Peasants' Loan Bank advancing money to peasants for the purchase of livestock. As has been stated by the mover of the motion, the Peasants' Loan Bank advances money to peasants for the purchase of livestock. At the end of the last financial year, the Bank had advanced \$8,960 for that purpose on the long-term basis of seven years' credit. We would like to see more use made of the facilities offered by the Bank, but the position is that we have not got the machinery for making loans, so that the majority of peasants are debarred by the Act from making use of the facilities offered by the Bank. The Act defines very carefully who or what a peasant is; persons falling outside the category specified in the definition in the Act cannot obtain any loans from the Bank for any purpose. The Directors have considered the possibility of extending the scope of the Bank to make funds available to a greater number of peasants; they have addressed themselves to the possibility of making loans to people who have no title deeds, or who may only have possessory titles, or even to people who only rent land. Some time before Mr. E. R. L. Ward left here, he prepared a memorandum on the matter which the Directors of the Bank have considered, and the recommendations of Mr. A. J. Wakefield in connection with this matter were considered and subsequently referred to the Attorney General who was asked to advise as to what measures could be taken to secure a title where none existed except possessory, without prejudice to the real owner, the result of which would enable the occupier of land to secure a loan based on a certificate for the proper use of the loan, which while providing security, would preserve the rights of the owner. So long as that obstacle is overcome, the possessor or owner of land will be entitled under the provisions of the Act, to borrow money for cultivation purposes or to buy livestock. In any case, although I do not know exactly what the Report says, from what I have heard, I endorse the suggestion that every possible means should be used in order to assist the present owners of livestock to obtain more livestock.

If it is the opinion of honourable members that the Peasants' Loan Bank is not at present expending as much money as they would like to see expended for this purpose, it is not because the Directors do not share the view that more use should be made of the Bank, but because they are restricted by the terms of the Act under which they operate.

The last honourable member who spoke did so at length on the actual proposal before the House itself and not so much on whether or not the Report of the Committee should be considered. I do not know what is Your Honour's ruling on the matter, but I do not want to resume my seat if doing that now will prejudice my right to speak again.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is entitled to make one speech.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I should like to see the House go into Committee on this Report for the simple reason that we cannot agree to the Report as it stands, and it is not fair to ask us to make amendments in a manner which we would not like. Rather than run the risk of not being able to speak again, I will make a few remarks as to the proposal before us itself. I know that the Select Committee approved in principle the Message from the Governor in connection with this matter, and I need hardly add that I also endorse the principle myself, especially the fact that the Memorandum which came down with the Message emphasizes the vitally important part which the development of the dairy industry will play in the future economic development of the colony and in the attempt to raise the nutritional standard of the people of the colony. This is a point which cannot be too strongly emphasized and I sincerely hope that the House will keep it before their minds in view of one speech which, so far, has been made by an honourable member on my left. In passing, I should like to quote the example of Jamaica which discovered after a condensary had been established there, that nothing had contributed more to the economic development of the country within the past 8 or 10 years than the condensary had done. I heard an impartial observer say that, in his opinion, the dairy industry in Jamaica and the condensary had done more to improve the country than both the Manley and Bustamante Parties put together. If honourable members appreciate to the full the particular significance of what this matter can mean to this colony, we will not hear a repetition of the speech made by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. His talk about peasants not being desirous of keeping cattle to sell milk and what not, on small holdings—

Mr. WARD: I said some peasants, not all.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Nobody says that he means all peasants. As soon as the scheme starts to operate, the peasants are very likely to stop growing canes and plant fodder to feed their cows, because selling milk will pay them better than selling canes. I am sure that within five or six years after this scheme has been put into operation, every single man and woman in this colony will be amazed at what has been done to transform the economy of the colony. Look at Scandinavia, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand, countries in which the dairy industry has been developed to the fullest possible extent; note the wealth of those countries and the fact that their economic development was based on the wealth and on the conditions produced after they had begun to expand the dairy industry. From every single point of view the dairy industry means a lot to any agricultural community and the only regret I have is that this scheme was not embarked upon 10 or 15 years ago. (A MEMBER: We did not dream of it). Mr Wakefield suggested it over 10 years ago, and in 1948 Mr.

Mills proposed this scheme which, I regret, we did not embark upon before.

With regard to the other proposals I want to say one thing at this stage. I see that £60,000 will be asked for; the sum of £1,201 is earmarked for a Butter Making Plant but I think we can do without going in for that expenditure now. It is admitted on all sides that the milk production of this colony at present is not sufficient even to meet present-day consumption; therefore I am at a loss to find out whence it is expected we will get the milk to make this butter. Moreover, if this concern starts in the early stages to make butter, the prognostications of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy might well be justified, because butter could not be economically produced in Barbados at the present cost at which we produce milk. It will take no less than 18 or 20 pints of milk to make a pound of butter for which you will get \$1 or \$1.20; and if 18 pints of milk cost \$1.80, I do not see anybody paying 8 cents a pint for the skimmed milk in order that the cost of the milk to make the butter would be recovered. It has been suggested that pigs could be fed with the separated milk, but I do not see anybody buying that milk to feed pigs. I suggest that we omit the Butter Making Plant at this stage and rather concentrate on other equipment for condensing the milk. It might appear to be funny if I say that the present milk production is not enough to meet local requirements and then say that we should have equipment for condensing or evaporating the milk; but although the object of the concern must be to distribute the supply of milk which comes in, I am sure that in the actual operation it will be found, at least in the early stages, that distribution will break down. People who now get milk from dairies may not be able to get it after the scheme has been started; a lot of these people may not find it quite easy in the beginning to get their supply of milk mainly because the distribution might break down. I feel that it would be a mistake for us not to have equipment for evaporating the milk or making condensed milk because it will be uneconomic to have supplies of milk for making butter, and the correct thing for us to do is to have our equipment for condensing or evaporating the milk so as to utilize every available gill of our anticipated supply in the early stages.

On the question of production, the Memorandum has interesting figures; on page 4 it says that the estimated cost of establishing a Central Milk Depot at which 5,000 gallons of milk can be pasteurised per day will be so much; but we are told later that the existing production is hardly more than 4,000 gallons per day, and I believe, the Creamery might get about 2,000 gallons of that amount. Honourable members may be surprised to know that with an increase in the number of cows in the island as soon as the Creamery is started, the daily production of milk will rise, because there are a number of people in this island who keep cows but do not feed them to the maximum because of the difficulty in distributing milk through not having anybody to milk the cows at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. But as soon as the Central Milk Depot is there, people will feed their cows to capacity. The Memorandum points out that the potential consumption of milk in this island is 25,000 gallons a day, and that is a big difference between the present production of 4,000 gallons and the 25,000 which we hope to produce; but, in the meantime, that is taken care of by the extraordinarily large importation of milk to the tune of over \$50,000 in 1949. Even although we have the difficulty which the lack of extensive pasture lands in the colony will emphasize, yet I feel that with more irrigation and with greater concentration on the growing of fodder and with a greater use of the silos by

small farmers, in a very short space of time this big gap between the present-day production and potential consumption of milk will narrow considerably. It is scandalous that an agricultural community should import over half a million dollars' worth of milk in one form or another; it is more than scandalous that before the War our imports of milk totalled over 1,838,000 pounds and cost us £18,000. Today these imports which are only about half a million pounds more, cost us as much as £86,000. We are spending nearly five times as much. Money which is going out of the colony should be kept in the colony, to say nothing of the employment which the effort to keep this money in the colony will provide.

Finally, I want to say that it is highly important to consider even at the beginning, the provision of a condensary. I have seen this Milk Processing Plant which it is proposed to set up here, in British Guiana; I have seen a breakdown because the plant could only pasteurise and they had to get a plant for dehydrating the milk. I feel that in beginning we will need this condensary more than we will need it later on. With regard to the expansion of the milk production, I think that on a close examination it will be found that the quickest means of doing that in this colony would be by resorting to artificial insemination. I said that, some time ago, and honourable members laughed; but since then I have been very interested to know that the British Milk Marketing Board itself has discovered that by adopting the method of artificial insemination, it has been able to increase its milk production within a short space of time. As a matter of fact, it is now hoped in Great Britain to increase the average yield of a cow to as much as 600 gallons a year. In this Memorandum we are told that the average yield per cow is only 280 gallons per annum, but it is not unknown for the average yield of a cow per annum to be as high as 1,000 gallons as a result of artificial insemination. It is known that one pure bred bull—an Ayrshire—has been able to sire as many as 4,000 cows in one year by artificial insemination and the pregnancy rate is much higher than by ordinary mating. Some years ago I spent a little time at the Agricultural and Technical College at Tennessee and the pregnancy rate by artificial insemination for animals at that College is as high as 70%. Of course, that College has the reputation for having one of the best dairies and one of the best pasteurising plants to be found anywhere in North America; a lot of attention is being paid to the development of the best milk-producing herds and the use of every possible scientific means to improve the general standard of the dairy. A percentage of 70% pregnancy is a high one and cannot be obtained by ordinary mating methods. Apart from the number of cows which one bull can sire in the course of a year by artificial insemination, there is also the possibility of so improving your dairy herd by the use of the best quality bull, that in a very short space of time you will have a herd of high quality milk-producing cows in the island, rather than the present cows which produce milk at such a low average rate.

The official suggestions with regard to finance is that the Government's contribution to the capital should be limited to a maximum of £30,000 and be free of interest for 20 years and that the other half should be subscribed by the sale of shares. The original proposal was that we should have a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare; I am glad to know that that proposal is no longer being made because I do not agree with it. We have an allocation from Colonial Development and Welfare and every time we take from it, the amount which remains must be less, and I do not think that it would be correct

for us to finance a venture of this sort by taking money from our allocation from Colonial Development and Welfare. When it comes to the question of the Airport or the Harbour, that would be all right, but this proposition should be regarded as a ticklish one and it should be financed by way of loan apart from the shares in capital needed at the beginning. As a matter of fact, when Mr. Mills first submitted this scheme, from what I remember at the time, he proposed that the entire capital should be raised by means of a loan. While I agree with the alternative suggestion that the scheme should be run on a co-operative basis and that people who supply milk should own shares in the concern, I feel that Mr. Mills was right when he proposed that the capital should be raised by means of a loan. In fact, Mr. Mills was so optimistic about the entire matter that he suggested that a loan of £65,000 could be repaid in 10 years; he knew that if we could find half a million dollars a year to be spent in importing milk, we could repay the sum of \$300,000 in 10 years. Mr. Mills went so far as to suggest that the Government should protect the local industry; that it should supply the needs of the population and take steps to protect the local industry against competition from imported milk, and he was on correct ground in claiming that a loan of £65,000 for the purpose of carrying out this scheme could be repaid in 10 years. I, personally, feel that we shall need another £5,000 for the condensary or evaporating plant, and if the Government is minded to add to this equipment the machinery for the condensary, we could add another £5,000 to the proposed expenditure of £60,000. If we can sell 32,500 pound shares the remainder of the capital can be raised by means of a loan. I feel that in matters of this sort, we should begin to make use of some of the facilities offered by the international agencies for developing our economy for industrial expansion. I think that we should make efforts to get assistance by way of a loan through the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. In 1945 the British and French Governments published a long report as a result of a conference held in London by British and French colonial experts on the question of assisting the colonies by expanding their economy and what not. The Food and Agriculture Organisation exists for the purpose of raising the nutritional levels and expanding the agricultural development of the territories. We will get assistance but the particular Organisation has to be approached; we can approach the F.A.O., itself and obtain a loan from the International Bank or one of the U.N.O. agencies. Only last year the F.A.O., sent Dr. Brossard and Dr. Hockie to the Caribbean to prepare reports in connection with this matter, and I think there was some talk about holding a series of meetings in the British Caribbean this year. The time will come when I hope we will obtain the assistance of one of these International agencies for industrial ventures; but in a scheme of this sort which has so much to commend it, I think that this would be a good opportunity for us to take steps to find out what the position might be if in future we feel that we shall be in need of the assistance of one of these international agencies. In my opinion, every possible thing should be done to get this scheme started as soon as possible; it should be pushed for all it is worth. We have not only the local market but the West Indian market in case our production reaches the point where it is more than will satisfy our needs locally; for obvious reasons there is every justification for going all speed ahead with this very excellent idea. I hope that in the very near future we shall take some steps to expand the poultry and pig rearing industries in this island; some years ago, Mr. McDonald Symmonds, the then

honourable junior member for St. George, urged the immediate extension of the pig rearing industry. I notice that in St. Lucia some months ago, the Agricultural Department was distributing thousands of eggs of good quality to peasants in an effort to expand the poultry industry and improve the quality of poultry in the island. This is a matter with which the local Agricultural Department should concern itself just as much as it concerns itself with the improvement of the dairy industry. If it is scandalous that we should import half a million dollars' worth of milk annually, I feel it is even more scandalous that we should import eggs from Canada and spend dollars in doing so. I hope that before long some scheme will be brought before the House in connection with this matter and in the manner in which attention is being paid to the dairy industry today.

Messrs. GILL, MOTTLEY and REECE entered the House and took their seats.

Mr. DOWDING: As honourable members will notice, in my Minority Report I stated that I agree with the establishment of a Central Milk Depot, but could not, at this stage, commit myself to agreement with the Memorandum which the Governor has asked us to consider in his Message. In his Message the Governor asked us to agree to the two documents referred to; as regards the latter part of the first document, we cannot agree to that. This matter was brought before this House at the meeting before the Easter recess, and honourable members of the Select Committee have had little time to do what they should have done. They held one meeting, and at that meeting, which lasted from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., they were only able to discuss the matter and I shall state the facts later on. The salvation of dairying in Barbados depends upon the success of a scheme of this nature. If this scheme is gone into without careful consideration from every possible angle, if when it is launched it becomes a failure, the dairy industry of Barbados will also become a failure. It is therefore necessary for us to give this matter the greatest consideration at our disposal and to be very careful and accurate in our reply to the Governor's Message. Previous to 1939 there were few people who were interested in the dairy industry or the furtherance of that industry in this colony. As you know, Mr. Speaker, War broke out in that year, and it was only then that the Agricultural Department and members of the public began to realise the necessity for having a good supply of beef, milk and even butter, commodities which are produced by the dairy cow. At that time there were some dairymen in this island who were interested in starting a scheme of this nature but War broke out and it was difficult to obtain machinery. As time went on, we had the Agricultural Department taking a keener interest in the matter, and then we had that great gentleman—and there are very few of that type—who had some great ideas and some of his proposals were carried out. I refer to Mr. Wakefield. From that point in 1946 we had Mr. Mills who was appointed Livestock Officer by Colonial Development and Welfare and who was strongly supported by Sir John Saint in this proposal. The original scheme has been threshed out at several meetings and the matter has boiled down to what we see on the last page of the Message from the Governor. That is a rough history of the events which have preceded this scheme which is before us to-day.

At the risk of boring honourable members with something of which they have knowledge, I must refer to the present condition of dairying in Barbados. The dairyman of this island has the most unenviable job in any part of the world; he is called upon at all hours of the night and the day to look after his stock and to work in order that he might earn what, in my

opinion, is a very small reward for his labours. That also applies to dairymen who employ people: theirs is the most arduous task it is possible to imagine. It is becoming more and more difficult in this island to find people who know anything about dairying on account of the fact that they would have to do arduous work for long hours. It must be apparent that something must be done to alleviate that position particularly in view of the fact that in these days all sorts of movements are afoot to the end that workers should not have to work for more than certain periods. If something is not done and done quickly to meet the situation which I have just mentioned, the dairy industry in this island will suffer. The advantages of dairying to an island like Barbados are quite numerous. I regret to say that you can find very few good cattle in this island, and it is my firm opinion that the average yield of a dairy cow is not more than 150 gallons per year, although the authorities claim that the yield is 280 gallons. The dairy cow produces 44% of the food of animal origin, which is consumed by human beings, so that it is necessary for us to realise the importance of the dairy industry to this island. This colony will always be purely agricultural unless we industrialise like Puerto Rico; we may have subsidiary industries; but, on the whole, I feel that we will always be an agricultural island. We must therefore try to help the soil from which everything comes and to which everything must return.

The next advantage which dairying has is that it offers employment; if a dairy is being run, people are employed for 365 days a year, so that if this industry is increased, there will be a corresponding increase in permanent employment. As one honourable member of the Select Committee pointed out, years ago most of the plantations in this island carried cattle and mules; today that is no longer an economic problem, but it is and will always be an economic problem to use the roughage produced on a plantation for the feeding of dairy cattle. I do not mean that roughage alone can maintain in Barbados. There is a further reason why dairying should be furthered in this island and it is that all the products of the industry are consumed in the island. Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned some of the advantages of the dairy industry to this island; I could elaborate on this matter a great deal more, but I think I have said enough as to the reasons why the dairy industry should be furthered in this island.

Now we come to the disadvantages. The first disadvantage of dairying in this island is the long drawn out working hours, and then there is the necessary outlay of a large amount of capital for starting a dairy. These factors should be considered and any honourable member will have the opportunity of questioning what I say. You cannot buy a good cow today for less than \$350, but in 1938 you could buy a good cow for \$80. That is a matter which must be taken into consideration in any scheme in which more cattle will be needed and therefore money must be made available for the purchase of these cattle. Then in the large dairy you have the constant problem of the labour difficulties due to the long working hours. Whereas a person who has a large or medium-sized dairy should have 8 or 10 men to milk his herd, he has to rely on 3 men to do that. If a scheme of this sort is to be furthered, we must have schools at which people can be taught dairying and how to handle dairy cows before we can launch fully into such a scheme. I hope that in the near future some system will be put into operation at the Pine and other Stations throughout the island whereby the vast amount of knowledge that there is to be gained about the dairy cow can be gained by those who wish to gain it. When you come to the general hazards, the main trouble under that head is disease. In this island

today, there is a large amount of mastitis, and unless matters are gone into and dealt with quickly, the further expansion of the dairy industry must suffer. In launching into a scheme of this sort, one cannot overlook the possibility of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease; in these days of plane travel and quick communication, there is the possibility of an outbreak of this disease. We cannot afford to spend £60,000 on this scheme without having any proper administrative facilities for the prevention of the entry into this island of any such disease or any of these diseases which are drastic in their results. Honourable members will remember the epidemic of swine fever which broke out in this island with the result that pigs had to be destroyed in large numbers. Imagine this scheme being in operation and our having to destroy many of our cattle! Another disadvantage of dairying in this island is the delivery expenses; the delivery of milk is the most costly part of the dairy business particularly with the high increase in the cost of gasoline and the cost of new vehicles and the fact that dairymen have to deliver milk all over Bridgetown and the parish of St. Michael. The establishment of a Central Milk Depot to be run on co-operative lines for the distribution of milk will be a definite advantage to the dairy industry as a whole, but we must, of necessity, cut out the long working hours. If the milk is delivered at a central depot and it is pasteurised, dairymen will no longer have to wake up at 2 o'clock in the morning; they will be able to milk their cows at 5 or 6 o'clock and send the milk to the depot. That will greatly enhance the position of dairies in this island; not only so, but it will enhance the value of the cows themselves, because they will be milked at reasonable hours and good spacing between the milking hours will result in an increase of productivity. A central Creamery must, of necessity, assist in the labour problems; and following that, there will be the means of fostering the livestock industry in this island. However, Mr. Speaker, the establishment of this Depot alone cannot overnight increase the number of stock in this island; it will enhance the position as far as the public is concerned and create the necessary initiative for them to keep cattle, but do not let the Government think that the mere establishment of a Central Milk Depot will expand the dairy industry in this island without the other things I have mentioned. Looking at the matter from the point of view of the public, in this day when at any moment War might be declared, the establishment of the Depot and the corresponding increase in the number of people who will keep dairy cattle, will be of great benefit to this island. There were a few dairymen who were interested in the furtherance of the dairy industry in this colony before the outbreak of the War in 1939 and I hope that what happened during the War has taught the authorities a lesson, and that they will get up and do everything that lies in their power to see that if another War breaks out, we will be able to feed the community on such products as the dairy cow produces. I want to emphasize that the establishment of this Depot on a co-operative basis will, of necessity, benefit the peasants of this island. As regards the matter as to whether it will pay a peasant better to keep cattle than to grow sugar canes. I can assure honourable members that the peasant is quite capable of deciding that matter for himself; he has decided that question in the past and he will decide it again in the future. The mere fact that the Government has offered facilities whereby loans can be obtained, and that this Depot will be established on co-operative lines, will, of necessity, induce the peasants in the various villages to join together and be able to send their quota of milk to the Depot. Mr. Speaker, at this

stage, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling:

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 67 standing in the name of the junior member for the City.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 71, standing in the name of the junior member for St. James.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAIN POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: Before Your Honour calls the next Order of the Day, I might inform you that there are a few honourable members who seriously consider the necessity of debating whether or not it is necessary to continue the post of Chaplain of the House of Assembly; and if that is the general feeling, I would suggest postponing the appointment.

The appointment of the Chaplain was postponed.

ADDRESS *Re* ESTABLISHMENT OF A CREAMERY

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the honourable junior member for St. George was speaking on the motion for the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee in connection with the establishment of a Creamery.

Mr. DOWDING: Before we adjourned for tea I tried to draw a picture for this honourable House of the advantages and disadvantages of dairying in this Island, and of the advantages of setting up a Central Milk Depot to handle the milk supply of the Island. I have dealt with them fairly exhaustively. There are numerous points; but I intend to deal now with the disadvantages that are likely to crop up—disadvantages which must be foreseen and in some way, obviated. The first disadvantage that a Central Creamery is apt to encounter is the fact that Barbados is not, and never will be an economic country in which to produce milk. The honourable senior member for St. Philip mentioned such countries as New Zealand, Australia and some others; I cannot remember exactly which they were, but we could go on with Canada, the United States of America and other places which must, of necessity, due to the fact that they have large areas of grazing lands, be able to produce milk more economically than we can do it in Barbados. This is a big point which should be weighed by this honourable House and I hope they will go into Committee on the matter to enable every member to discuss fully the *pros* and *cons* of the Scheme.

I will repeat now, what I said at the beginning. The future of the dairy industry in this Island depends on the success of this venture. If we in this House agree to do anything which will, in any way hazard that success, it will be, in my opinion, not the death, but a temporary demise of the industry in this Island. That Sir, is, in my opinion, one of the prime factors which must be considered among the disadvantages. Then, there are some minor details which may become prime as soon as this Depot comes into operation. One of those things is the collecting of milk from the various parts of the Island, and in saying that, I wish to mention the fact that, in my opinion, St. Andrew has the greatest possibilities so far as the production of cattle and milk in this Island is concerned.

Now, Sir, if this Scheme is not properly investigated and the manner in which this milk is going to be collected is not organised, we may find ourselves faced with the problem of having a lot of spoiled milk on hand which might lead to failure of the Scheme.

Next we come to the large capital which will be necessary for the working of this scheme. The Scheme originally called for \$54,000; to-day, it calls for £60,000, that is \$288,000. That, Sir, is the large capital outlay and the greatest care must be taken in considering that factor.

We can all agree that pasteurization of milk will be a new idea in Barbados. I know one dairyman in this Island who departed from the usual practice and started to refrigerate his milk, a practice that obtains in other parts of the world. That dairyman had to stop that practice because his customers told him that they would not continue to take that milk from him. We have a lot of old customs to break down, and we must carefully consider them before entering upon this Scheme. Many people in this Island are accustomed to having milk delivered at their door at a certain hour, and they are also accustomed to having it with a certain taste.

A big factor which might close this scheme down completely would be a substitute for milk, and that is quite a possibility to-day with science advancing as it is; although, I personally, cannot foresee, and hope never to see, a substitute that would replace the milk of the dairy cow as I know it. Nevertheless, experiments are constantly taking place and products are being distributed on the market to-day; and the time will come when we might have to consider that factor also. Not only are experiments being made towards producing the equivalent of milk, but by-products other than milk, such as oils in connection with which experiments are also being carried out, and there is a scheme on foot in the U.S.A. for exploring new ways of processing milk. We can awake tomorrow morning and find that pasteurisation is completely out of date. There are new schemes for freezing milk and that means processing it.

Another disadvantage will be the large increased importation of concentrated foods; and regretfully, those concentrated foods come mostly from the hard currency areas; so, we must take that into consideration along with the loss in revenue which the non-importation of condensed milk will necessarily entail.

Finally, the biggest disadvantage of all is that the scheme is a big experiment; and under present world conditions, and with science advancing as quickly as it is, we could regard this Scheme as nothing else but a big experiment. Not only is it an experiment from the point of view of world conditions, but it is also an experiment so far as local conditions and the people of this Island are concerned. Those are a few of the advantages which I can see at the moment.

At this moment I am going to appeal to the honourable Leader of the House to let us go into Committee on this matter in order that it may be thoroughly threshed out. I feel, Sir, that if we are going to agree in mere principle we owe it to ourselves to agree, according to the Message, "in the terms of the two documents referred to above." As I said before, one of these documents contains details of a loan from Colonial Development and Welfare and there are several members who, I feel will have worthwhile points—possibly points like those I have just mentioned—which they would like to have further threshed out.

At this stage I must say that I cannot agree with the Select Committee's Report as worded, and I hope that honourable members will be given the opportunity of suggesting their amendments in Committee.

I repeat that this House must consider this Scheme as carefully as they possibly can. The success

of this Scheme means the success of the dairy industry of Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to speak, but I do make an earnest appeal to honourable members not to continue at the rate at which they began this debate. Honourable members must know that this Session is coming to a close and there are two important things that should be got over before the Session closes. One is the Milk Scheme and the other is the Underground Water Control Bill. The Milk Scheme is before the House and when a scheme is before the House or on the Order Paper everything that could be said for or against it, then is the time to say it. The Governor's Message uses the words "in principle" and that Message means this: 'Are you agreeing in principle to the establishment of a Creamery? If so say "Yes"; if not so, say "No"'. No twenty-four of us can all agree on the details. If the House say "No" on the principle, we will not come down here with any proposals; if they say "Yes", then we will come down here next Tuesday with proposals, and honourable members will continue the debate. I pointed out the same thing last Wednesday. Honourable members know what our suggestions are and they will have time to consider those suggestions when the Resolution is before the House. The Resolution is not before the House now. I do not know how Your Honour will rule when the Bill comes before the House, but it does appear to me that if the details are discussed now, we might be prevented from discussing them when the Resolution comes before the House. No Speaker would prevent members from discussing a matter when it is before the House for the purpose of being passed. Therefore, I appeal to honourable members to see that nothing whatever is to be gained by discussing the details of the proposed Scheme with which they do not agree. By so doing, they are putting the Government in a most awkward position. These two essential matters must be got through as quickly as possible before this House is prorogued and the attitude of honourable members will be making it extremely difficult for the programme to be put before the Legislature. Let us decide to get through details next Tuesday or whenever the matter is put before the House again. If honourable members like they can add: "But we don't agree with the details", so that the Executive will know when it is put before them that the details may be disputed. I appeal to honourable members to let us see if we can finish this matter in five minutes without depriving honourable members of their right of saying for hours, if they feel like it, all that they might feel like saying when the actual Resolution is before the House.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker, if it be in order, I beg to move the passing of the following Address.

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Message No. 11/1951 dated 5th March, 1951 relating to the establishment of a Central Milk Depot and Creamery.

The House approve of the principle of the scheme to set a Central Milk Depot and Creamery on a co-operative basis.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, In seconding the motion for the passing of this Address, I should like to say that what this Address states is what the House has been asked to do. The House has been asked to approve in principle to the scheme set out in this Memorandum and no honourable member is being asked to discuss the details of it. As the hon-

ourable Leader has said, and as I think honourable members will agree, the details of the scheme is a matter for the experts and technical people. The questions of detail which have been raised by honourable members have been answered by the junior member for St. Philip. There is a Department of Science and Agriculture with technical officers attached who are paid to handle the details of schemes such as this; and if we have to work out all the details of a scheme for ourselves then, it means that we are wasting our money. No one replied to the junior member for St. Philip, but I should like to put his mind at rest. Where those international agencies are concerned, usually you do not get any financial assistance from them if the machinery is going to be bought from Great Britain and not in a hard currency area. The question of technical advice could always be settled whenever the scheme is put into operation. There is no point in trying to convince the senior member for St. Lucy or the junior member for St. George, because they have made wild statements. The senior member for St. Lucy talks about not being able to supply the amount of livestock. Apparently, he is not aware of the facts. He should read the Report in respect of this scheme which says that 75 per cent. of the livestock of this Island are owned by small holders. So that when honourable members make those wild and vague statements they should be examined. An honourable member has spoken of the authority of the Department of Science and Agriculture being able to carry out a survey; but I do not think that he is in a position to carry out a survey like that Department. Honourable members need not be afraid that this Scheme will not have the attention of Government. That this Scheme did not come before us until now is an indication that the people concerned must have given consideration to every aspect of it. Some honourable members have talked of minor industries; but I will say this: whenever an attempt is made to do something substantial to help, not only industry, but the employment situation of this Island, it is either delayed or rendered abortive by the attitude of certain honourable members. This is a matter that should have an easy passage and not be turned into a three-hour debate. It is true that a controversial matter should be discussed; but I feel, that in so far as the principle of this Scheme is concerned, it is so clear that a lengthy debate is unnecessary. The Government, on the one hand, has agreed to put the sum of £30,000 into it; you have seen, on the other hand, that debentures will be issued and I can give the assurance that the milk producers have put up a certain amount of money. Furthermore, the financial side of this Scheme is put on a co-operative basis. Therefore, honourable members who raised the question as to the small holder need not fear. Those are the details relative to the spending of the £60,000. The Government is undertaking a financial venture on behalf of the producers who have approved of the Scheme, and so far as this matter is concerned, I hope that no honourable member will be afraid to voice his approval of the Scheme. In fact, if those people who have to contribute half the money have, in the main approved of the Scheme, it would be a point of hard-heartedness on the part of this Assembly not to approve of it also.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make on this Memorandum relative to pasteurisation and the establishment of—

Mr. SPEAKER: I may as well remind the honourable member that I will not permit him to go into the details.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Think of what the honourable Leader of the House said before he closed

his remarks: "If there is anything you would like changed".

Mr. ADAMS: That has not crossed my lips.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I understood the honourable Leader to say that he would like any honourable member to give an intimation of anything before it is brought before us.

Mr. ADAMS: Not the wildest imagination could build up that.

Mr. MILLER: That was how I actually interpreted it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me tell the honourable member that if he begins by saying anything of the details of the Memorandum before this House, I will not allow it.

Mr. MILLER: I could not allow this Address to be passed without saying something of my own.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Government would not be thanking you for that.

Mr. MILLER: I would like to waste my remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: And the time of the House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am entirely in agreement with the Scheme; but when I got up to speak on a previous occasion I was interrupted by some other honourable member—the honourable senior member for St. Peter I think it was. Now Sir, listen to what I have to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member will not be allowed to go into the details of this Scheme.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I would be stupid to attempt to go into it. As regards the Memorandum I agree with it; but I do not agree in "the terms of the two documents above." That is all I want to say; because when I stand up to talk next Tuesday or any other Tuesday, don't tell me that I agreed to this. I just want to make my position clear. I agree with the Address. It will be observed that I have not even joined in the debate.

I repeat that I agree with the principle; but I do not agree with the words "in terms of the two documents above."

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I want to propose an amendment to the Address.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I will now call on the senior member for St. Lucy to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, to that I agree.

UNDERGROUND WATER CONTROL BILL, 1951

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to postpone the next three items on the Order Paper and that Order No. 5 be taken as the next Order: second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to make provision for the control and use of the underground sources of water supply in the Island and other matters connected therewith.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker, According to the "Objects and Reasons," "This Bill seeks to make provision for the control and beneficial use of the underground fresh water resources of the Island. The Senn and Roddam reports affirm that there are two types of underground fresh water—

- (1) "Stream" water.
- (2) "Sheet" water.

"Stream" water flows through the coral along the surface of the impervious stratum, until it reaches mean sea level when it becomes "sheet" water, the surface of which is maintained at or about mean sea level by the influence of the sea.

Both "stream" and "sheet" water can be of inestimable value to the Island, not only as a source of drinking water but as a potential source of water for agricultural purposes.

To ascertain the direction of these underground streams and the extent to which the sheet water can be pumped without inducing salinity from the sea, experiments are to be carried out in the near future.

Meanwhile it is considered advisable that there should be no delay in imposing some measure of control over the present underground sources of fresh water so as to prevent the possible reduction or contamination thereof, and to conserve and control the volume of such underground water.

The Bill therefore seeks to set up a Water Board, consisting of the Director of Agriculture, the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department, and other persons appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee who shall be responsible for administering the provisions of the law. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Board shall have the right to appeal to the Governor-in-Executive Committee."

Mr. Speaker, I think that honourable members are conversant with the fact that in most modern and up-to-date colonies this Bill is already law. British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Lucia and territories such as Ceylon and many others have a similar law on their Statute Books. It has also been recommended by Mr. Roddam that the water resources should be controlled, more particularly to make sure that contamination is reduced to the minimum. This Bill, therefore, seeks to give effect to that recommendation. I do not know if it is necessary to speak at length on this Bill. Honourable members will see that Clause 3 deals with the establishment of a Water Board and Clause 4 deals with the constitution of that Board. It is all set out quite clearly, and I think that the Bill will meet with the approval of every honourable member. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. REECE: There are one or two things which I should like to say and I hope that the honourable member who introduced this Measure will not in any way misconstrue my words. Every member of this House feels that everything should be done to conserve the water supply of this country. I have often said in this House that there are certain parts of the country districts which are capable of supplying water; so that I am in no way opposing any measure whatever which would ensure a better water supply to this country. But I think that I should draw the attention of this House to the fact that this Bill is very far-reaching, and that after it becomes law that no peasant proprietor or any other person in this country will have the right to sink a well for the purpose of getting water, either for domestic use or for the purposes of irrigating the land unless he obtains the permission of the law. We must remember that we have, in recent years, been encouraging the production of fresh and green vegetables among the peasants, and honourable members will see that these persons are apt to overlook the fact that they have to get the necessary sanction before they can sink a well in their garden. I agree with the proposal, generally; but I am opposed to the Bill being passed in its present form. If this Bill should pass into law in its present form it will work a hardship on certain people. I notice that in certain districts of St. Michael there are many persons who have to sink wells for the purpose of drawing water only, and in these cases it will be necessary with such a law in force, for them to go to the Board and obtain a licence. In the case of factories sinking wells for purposes of obtaining water for any industry, it would be advisable in such cases to know beforehand

exactly how much water would be obtained from these wells as such pumping operations may in time, affect the water supply of the country. I can quite agree to that. I can see the advisability of taking steps to safeguard against the taking of water in such quantities, even in private homes. But when it comes to these smaller peasants who are engaged in gardening, I do not see the need for making the acquisition of a permit binding upon them.

Before I sit down, I want to ask the Government to reconsider Clause 6; it is not that I am against the principle of the Bill, because I am convinced that everything which furthers the water supply of this Colony should be encouraged.

Mr. WARD: I personally feel that this is a Bill, the provisions of which will have far-reaching effects. I do not know if honourable members have found time to read it carefully and see the obligations which it will bind upon people. Take, for instance, Clause 6, which states that persons will not be able to dig wells unless they obtain the licence to do so. This is going to cause a certain amount of hardship on some people. I feel that it will hamper them in the pursuance of their livelihood. There are a certain number of wells operating all over this Island and you will have to make allowances before you can go on pumping from them. We should be very cautious in passing a Bill of this kind. The House should consider it very carefully.

I am going to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee so that we may be able to ask certain questions on it. I feel that we should be given some reason as to why a person should not be able to sink a pit or dig a well. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Michael will be able to give us those reasons.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I can foresee some amount of difficulty being experienced by many people, especially in the country districts, who have to depend on well water for the growth of their provisions. From what I have read in the Bill, this will necessitate people travelling from say, St. Andrew or St. Lucy to Bridgetown in order to purchase a permit before they can dig a hole to dispose of their sewage. I think that it is going to bring hardship on such people. I do not think that these holes are dug deep enough to affect the underground water resources. Many of them are only four or six feet deep. Consequently I see no need to make the provision so austere. When, for instance, boy scouts go camping and they want to dig for water they will first have to obtain a permit to dig a hole only deep enough to suit their particular purposes. I do think that it is necessary to appoint a Committee to go into the details of this Bill, as suggested by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. It looks somewhat questionable to me. What about all those people who now cultivate kitchen gardens for their livelihood and who have to keep wells for that purpose? Will they have to get a licence too? I can agree with any law which affects say the owners of a well like Carrington from which water is drawn. But as to the smaller four to six feet wells, I do not think the law should include them. I am hoping that the difficulties which have been pointed out by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy will, if possible, be amended in Select Committee.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—As the honourable senior member for St. Lucy says, we never looked forward to going through this Bill this afternoon, and I must admit that I think the parties concerned have not studied it. Upon glancing through the Bill we must agree with the honourable junior member for Christ Church and the honourable senior member

for St. Lucy that it may be far-reaching. Besides that, there are a great many details which I am sure, honourable members would like to go into. We are not against passing the second reading. The principle of the Bill is meant to protect the water supply of the Island, and everybody agrees with that. I am, therefore, asking that after the second reading, the honourable senior member for St. Michael agree to the appointment of a Select Committee to go into the details. It has come rather as a surprise that we should be asked to deal with this Bill this afternoon. Even those people with existing wells are supposed, according to these provisions, to apply for a licence to continue with them. The provisions of the Bill seem to be a little in the extreme.

There is Clause 6, for instance, which I think will hamper the peasants very much. These people need encouragement. I am told that the Board will be willing to give a permit to anyone who applies for it. If they are satisfied that it is for the purpose of kitchen gardening. I think that if the honourable senior member for St. Michael will agree to the appointment of a small Select Committee to consider the Bill, that will perhaps avoid a very long debate in this House.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry we cannot accept that suggestion. Dr. Senn made his report in April 1946 and Mr. Roddam made a report in April 1947, and a final report in April 1948. When I was on the opposition side of this House there were times when I was taken unawares. Honourable members have had this matter for a month now, and both Houses of the Legislature have approved in principle of the suggestion made by Mr. Roddam. As the honourable senior member for St. Michael has just pointed out, there is nothing extraordinary in this Bill. It is merely making provision for carrying out the recommendations of Dr. Senn and Mr. Roddam. I cannot agree that the Bill should go to a Select Committee. What I would promise honourable members is this: If there is any particular point in the Bill which honourable members feel that they must have a further explanation on, I will try to give it, even at the risk of being here after midnight next Tuesday. Next Tuesday, the matter relative to the establishment of a Creamery is going to take hours and hours to be got through.

I repeat, this is the twelfth month of the present Session. It is no Executive secret; honourable members know it. It is essential that we avoid having to go all over again important matters like the Milk debate or the Bill now before us. I have made a promise to honourable members and the honourable senior member for St. Michael in whose charge the Bill is, will give the same assurance. If, however, there is a real check, I will give way to the motion for postponement. On the other hand I do ask honourable members to get as far as possible with matters with which they can agree.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am going to begin by confessing that I have not read this Bill. What I want to emphasize is this: the honourable senior member for St. Lucy got up and he drew so forcibly to my attention certain points in Clause 6 that I have been pondering that Clause for a long time now. Anybody would appreciate that, having regard to our water system and the absence of any general sewerage system, there would have to be some control with reference to the disposal of sewage. But there are certain facts in the Senn and Roddam Reports — very important they are — and I crave your Honour's indulgence to make reference to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is on his feet in the House. I will not allow him to go into any details now.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am just asking Your Honour's indulgence. I am dealing with the principle of the Bill and in doing so, I preface my remarks by saying that, after studying the situation, and in the absence of a sewerage system, matters have been brought to my notice by physicians visiting this Island, and I agree that this Bill is something that has been long overdue. Where Your Honour's indulgence comes in, is in allowing me just to make my point there.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member may proceed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Thank you. The question that is foremost in my mind is whether the provisions of Clause 6 apply to the extraction or excavation or deepening of a well or to the exposing of sewage. In other words, what is implied in Clause 6 is this: that in no part of the Island of Barbados can a person do those things mentioned in Sub-clause (1). I am of the opinion that that applies to the "sheet" water area; because if you pass a law which generalises the Chalky Mount Area, for instance, that would be applicable to the "sheet" water area. I think that that was what was operating in the mind of the Government.

We must pay respect to experts or geologists who pay attention to their work; but after the geologist has finished, what he puts in his report may very well conflict with the general economic situation of the particular Country or Island concerned. I am going into no other part of the Bill. Such a regulation is bound, sooner or later, to come to Barbados.

I gather from the geologists' report that there are places where wells could be sunk that would be below the level of the water system. If, however, you pass a section which generalises, it would become difficult for everybody. I remember that the Town and Country Planning Bill made it clear that the Government were dealing with the "sheet" water area.

The whole object of this Bill is in pursuance of public health. The idea is to prevent the pollution of the underground flow of water which we use. It can be nothing else. Having had the Senn report, I knew that a Bill of this nature would come before us. But Mr. Speaker let us suppose that you are putting down a building or something of the sort and that you had to sink a pit—and you must sink a pit, because, under the provisions of the Public Health Act, you are not allowed to get away with any holes, buckets or anything of the like. You must dig a pit not less than 6 ft. deep; that is the regulation. According to this Clause, it means that the money which the Board of Health spends every year in their endeavours to prevent the spread of typhoid would be wasted. The Board of Health through the Commissioners of Health in every parish encourage the digging of pits and they even, in some cases, bear some of the expenses so as to encourage the digging of pits. I am quite sure about that. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Michael is listening. I am referring to the man who is putting down a pit outside the area. Do you mean to say that in these various areas, every time a man has to remove from his district to another—whether he was at a plantation or anywhere else—do you mean to say that he has to go and get a licence? That is not practical.

I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Michael to agree to the motion for the postponement. Had I read the Bill I would have come here armed with information on the Senn report and be able to speak with some authority that this Clause applies to the "sheet" water area only. I respect all

specialists; but when it comes to the application of their reports to local conditions, we have to consider local conditions. When this Bill was being drafted in pursuance of the recommendations contained in the reports of those two specialists, they forgot that this was not a general thing. This Bill in its present form would be applicable in a country where there is a general sewerage system. As it is now, the Bill does not even define the areas. Do honourable members not recall that even the Town and Country Planning areas were set out? The contractor would have to very well see when a particular area was for tenancy. Outside that area you could not sink a pit unless you got a licence. The same is not the case with this Bill. No definite area is prescribed; it applies to all over the Island. As I said before, I have not read through the Bill and cannot, therefore speak with any authority; but from what I have gathered from Clause 6, it is not workable.

If we pass the second reading, I am asking every honourable member to agree to postpone further consideration. At the same time, let us not fool ourselves that this Bill can be thrown out.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker—In reply to the views expressed by the honourable junior member for Christ Church the honourable senior member for St. Lucy and the honourable senior member for the City, I should like to say first of all, that where the question of poor people is concerned, I believe that I am more sympathetic with such persons than any other member of this House. I should like to say that in justification of myself and the people who sent me—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member must be careful that he does not make any reference to the details.

Mr. COX: This would affect me more than anybody else; because at the Bay Estate, Bush Hall and many such points, many people depend, to a great extent on the growing of vegetables for a livelihood. What, in the first place, I wanted to point out to honourable members was this: if they read Clause 11 they would see:

"Whenever the Board refuses an application for a licence or permit or grants or is prepared to grant a licence or permit subject to conditions or restrictions or cancels a licence or permit or varies or adds to the conditions or restrictions of a licence or permit the applicant or holder of the licence or permit as the case may be may appeal to the Governor-in-Executive Committee".

The question of a licence is something which exists almost all over the world. I was just reading a book on Malta, (1945) which goes to the extent of saying that it would not be lawful for any person to sell water or otherwise . . . "unless such sale is in writing by the Board". They are only being careful in preserving the health of the community. As I said before, in Jamaica there is a law controlling the development of the water resources of the country. Section 3 states:

"No well shall be sunk or constructed in or around any land unless the person applies for and obtains a permit from the Commissioner of the district in which such well is to be sunk or constructed".

There are many of those to which I could refer to further illustrate my point.

Where there is no question of pollution of the water supply, I cannot conceive of any Board or Commissioner refusing to grant people licences to bring water to the surface in order to have their land irrigated, especially, when, in this Island, we are trying to get all the equipment necessary to help people to irrigate their land in order that the yield shall be increased.

Sub-clause (2) of Clause 11 states:

"Every such appeal shall be in writing and and shall be forwarded to the Board who shall submit it together with the views thereon to the Governor-in-Executive Committee."

And here is Sub-clause (3):

"The Governor-in-Executive Committee may grant such application, or vary or revoke the conditions and restrictions imposed therein or may dismiss the appeal. The decision of the Governor-in-Executive Committee shall be final."

In other words, the final decision does not rest with the Board; one has the right of appeal to the Executive Committee.

Take, for example, those persons in the area which I have just mentioned. If they apply for a licence and that licence is refused, those persons have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee who, as I have just read, can vary or revoke anything that the Board does.

Dr. Senn's report, Page 76, Paragraph (1) says this:

"Quality: The water under the Plumtree gully is flowing in an open cave, which is generally fed by sinkhole chimneys. As already mentioned (p. 67) the former Government supply in the upper part of the Plumtree gully had to be abandoned on account of contamination and during the writer's visit on 10.12.1943 a half decomposed dog was lying at the bottom of the shaft. Furthermore a lavatory pit has been placed a few yards upstream of the water-well of the Lancaster Cassava Factory and forms a possible source of contamination. Therefore from both the point of view of quantity and quality of the water, the installation of a water pumping station at the site of the Lancaster Cassava Factory cannot be recommended".

On page 78, Paragraph (2) the report further states:

"The following unused water-wells were, on the writer's visit, found extremely dirty, some harbouring half decomposed animals such as pigs, goats, dogs, etc. and some containing concentrated broth with floating skulls and other fossils: Cave Hill No. 1 (St. Michael), Balls No. 1 (Christ Church), Bruce Alleyne-Apple Hall, Lynches (St. Philip), Strong Hope, Rose Cottage, Bagatelle, Plumtree Gully (St. Thomas), Trents Nos. 1 & 2 (St. Lucy)."

"There is no doubt, that such wells, through which contamination is directly introduced into the water-level, form a serious danger to the water supply of the Island and especially to private owners of water-wells in the vicinity, who might use their water for drinking purposes. A law should be passed ordering that these dirty wells should be cleaned and that all unused water-wells should be closed in such a manner that contamination of the water-level is impossible. It has been mentioned, that an Act was passed in 1922 (Lit. 4) 'for the Protection of Subterranean Water Supplies of the Island from the pollution during operations for the Exploitation of Oil', but it is obvious that the danger of pollution through these dirty water-wells is much greater than from oil wells."

"Another source of contamination in private water-wells, is the 'bull frogs', which the writer has encountered in 90% of all the wells in which he has descended. After their death, the frogs decompose in the water, transforming it into an opaque, slimy, evil-smelling fluid. The only remedy is to make the well cover absolutely tight, but this is not so easy, as the frogs in their search for water, squeeze themselves through the smallest opening. The only satisfactory well-cover, which the writer has seen, is the concrete one over the well at Thorsby, belonging to Mr. Bernard Bannister. The edges of the head of the water-wells should also be strongly sloping away

from the shaft, for preventing impurities from being washed into the well during rain."

There is also a recommendation (p. 85 of the same report), which says:

"A source of danger of the pollution of the water supply of the Island exists through the digging of sewage pits down to ground-water level and through the use of abandoned water-wells as waste collectors. An act should be passed forbidding these practices".

As I have already pointed out, the Government will not in any way attempt to hamper the production of vegetables in this Island by forbidding the continued use of existing wells or even from sinking more wells, for the same purposes; but I think that honourable members will agree that what has been recommended both by Dr. Senn and Mr. Roddam as regards the seriousness of the situation, in so far as contamination is concerned should be considered and that there should be some control such as exists in many other Colonies which, since 1920 have had these laws on their Statute Books. I will give the assurance, and I am sure that the honourable Leader will bear me out, for the time being at least, that in so far as granting licenses is concerned, justice will be done. The Board comprises the Director of Agriculture who will be the Chairman, and the Chief Engineer of the Water Works Department will also be a member of that Board and will act as Chairman in the absence of the Director of Agriculture. This Board will give careful consideration to the cases of those people who now operate wells in connection with their livelihood, and will not at all attempt to put any obstacles in their way. I, for one, would never attempt it. Rather than put obstacles in these people's way, as I said before, the Government is encouraging local production of vegetables and greens. We have passed a law quite recently in this House allowing material for irrigation purposes to be brought in duty free, in order to encourage peasants to develop their lands, and get what I may call the maximum yield. Notwithstanding all this, great care will be taken to see that contamination is reduced to a minimum, so far as the underground water resources of this Island are concerned.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have just a few comments to make on this water question. I am not worried about vegetables and market products. I am wondering if it is necessary to include the whole Island in the provisions of this Bill. I feel that no engineer in the world would think of drilling for water in the City. I do not know if they are concentrating on the "sheet" water area. I am saying that the honourable senior member for St. Michael, who took great care in relating all the facts, and succeeded in reading a whole report.

Mr. SPEAKER: I suppose the honourable member's inaccuracy is pardonable.

Mr. MILLER: It is not likely that any hydraulic engineer would decide to harness water in such an area as the City because you always find major contaminations in cities. No doubt, it is something that we should worry about, and I appreciate the honourable member's sympathy; but I feel that the "sheet" water area would never be found in the City. Even a novice would be more than likely to realise that contamination would occur in the City. I am going to ask the honourable Leader to accept my suggestion of amending the Bill by excluding the City area from the control.

A person living in the smallest house will find it necessary to dig a pit. Then, before he can do so he finds that he has got to go and obtain a licence. When, for instance, you come to consider the Orleans or any of the slums of St. Michael, you wonder whether you could be asking too much of the Government to go back on their decision and remove the City area from the provisions of the Bill. As the law is now, if I have to dig a well, I have to apply to the Police Department for an explosive, and a considerable time elapses before the matter is dealt with. A man moves a house on to a new spot and then he has to wait for weeks before he can dig a soil pit.

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

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No"; I think the "Noes" have it.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I propose to ask that the Resolution for the Milk Scheme be done next Tuesday. I am, therefore, asking honourable members to come prepared to discuss it. I am also hoping to be able to deal with the Underground Water Control Bill next Tuesday. I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, at three o'clock p.m.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950-51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 3rd April, 1951

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

Present:

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

Prayers were read.

Messrs. ALLDER and GODDARD entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings which were held on the 15th, 19th and 20th March, 1951, respectively, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning to the House of Assembly the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, 1908 (1908-3) with amendments.

PAPERS LAID

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

Post Office Advances for payment of Money Orders to 28th February, 1951.

Report on the Progress of the Barbados Programme of Development for the period March 1949 to February, 1951.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) Regulations 1951.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of

\$800 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951-52 Part I—Current as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1951-52, No. 1, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: A Bill intituled an Act to amend the Savings Bank Act 1914.

Mr. ADAMS: A Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of an additional gratuity and pension to James Daniel.

Mr. ADAMS: A Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of a gratuity and pension to Charles Bransway Adolphus Rock.

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

Mr. ALLDER gave notice of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency The Governor

WHEREAS itinerant pedlars for some time have been hawking merchandise about this Island in motor cars, charging exorbitant prices for their goods and succeeding in disposing of them by offering credit on easy terms, and

WHEREAS such practices offered unlimited competition to the small traders of Bridgetown who have to employ assistants and pay Trade and Income Tax,

The House of Assembly feel that unless a check is put to the unfair trading of these itinerant traders many small traders might be forced to close their business and consequently, the laying off of employees further that much Revenue from this source is sent out of the colony annually.

The House of Assembly therefore respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation for the setting up of a Committee to enquire into the matter and make recommendations to protect the small traders of Bridgetown and the poorer classes from unfair trading of this nature.

Messrs. BRYAN and BETHELL entered the House and took their seats.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914 was read a first time.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Mr. COX, a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of an additional gratuity and pension to James Daniel was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of a gratuity and pension to Charles Bransway Adolphus Rock was read a first time.

APPOINTMENT OF A CHAPLAIN

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move for the appointment of a Chaplain for the House of Assembly.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Subject to any ruling which Your Honour might give, I presume it would be the wish of the House that the motions for the appointment of a Chaplain should take place in the order in which they appear in the notice which was sent to honourable members. I am therefore suggesting that those who undertake the proposal of any Clerk in Holy Orders as Chaplain should propose Rev. Pemberton first and if the motion is seconded, then the proposal of Rev. Coleman should be made, and so on. I am not making any proposal myself.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If I am in order, Mr. Speaker, I make a motion to the effect that no Chaplain be appointed.

Mr. ALLDER: I do not know how seriously the hon. member takes the statement which he has made, nor do I know if anybody could consider me as indiscreet or unchristian if I were to make the same suggestion. I feel that that suggestion, if agreed to, would be the means of removing what I consider an encumbrance upon the proceedings of this House. In my view, the prayers are not taken into account after the Chaplain has finished reading them, and they are only dead weight which can be thrown off without any great effect. I feel that if we do not appoint any Chaplain it would show the public who have been thinking in terms of disestablishment and gradual disendowment, that we are mindful of that; it would be a good gesture if we took this opportunity to abolish the post of Chaplain. It appears to me that as soon as a Chaplain is appointed he finds the position more difficult than what he anticipated owing to the fact that he has to travel several miles in order to get here, and the salary attached to the post is very small. I would like to know if hon. members feel like how I feel in this matter; we have had English traditions which we have tried to uphold and this tradition of having a Chaplain is one which we should take the lead in throwing off so as to convince ourselves and the public that we are willing to do away with many of these old conventional practices which we have come along and found. Inasmuch as abolishing this post does not put any individual out of the means of obtaining a livelihood, I think we can easily abolish it. We know that at times we do not give the impression that the prayers read by the Chaplain have any influence on our conduct.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I object to the hon. member reflecting on the conduct of this House.

Mr. ALLDER: I will bow to that. I want hon. members to be serious; I would like them to express their views in connection with this matter of abolishing the post of Chaplain. I do not know if there is any hon. member who will second the motion which

I am going to make, but it is that no Chaplain be appointed to this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: (After a pause). It is now open to hon. members to make proposals for the appointment of a Chaplain, since it is not likely that the honourable member's motion will be seconded.

Mr. MILLER: I beg to move that Rev. S. A. E. Coleman be appointed Chaplain of this House.

Mr. ALLDER: Would I be in order to second that motion? (A MEMBER: Not after making that speech).

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Rev. K. A. B. Hinds be appointed Chaplain of the House.

Mr. BETHELL: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to move that Rev. F. C. Pemberton be appointed Chaplain of the House.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: I beg to second the motion for the appointment of Rev. Coleman.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that Rev. L. B. Clarke be appointed Chaplain of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member is out of order.

Mr. MAPP: (After a pause). I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I have not enquired into the qualifications of any of these gentlemen; I presume that what appears after their names is true, that the first five gentlemen are vicars. I would like to know if there is any rule which refers to the qualifications for the Chaplaincy of this Assembly, whether candidates should be Anglicans, Catholics dissenters or anything else.

Mr. GARNER entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: In answer to the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. I should like to point out that neither the Rules of the House nor the statutory laws of the island set out any qualifications for the Chaplaincy of the House. In connection with this appointment four proposals have been made, Rev. Coleman, Rev. Hinds, Rev. Pemberton and Rev. Clarke; I will put the last proposal first. The question is that Rev. L. B. Clarke be appointed Chaplain of this House. Hon members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Noes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. ALLDER, MAPP, ADAMS, GARNER, and F. L. WALCOTT—5.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, MILLER, BRYAN, COX, BRANCKER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, BETHELL, GILL, GODDARD, and WILKINSON—12.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the negative, five honourable members voting "Aye" and twelve honourable members voting "No". The question now is that Rev. F. C. Pemberton be appointed Chaplain of this House. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Noes" have it.

The question that Rev. K. A. B. Hinds be appointed Chaplain of the House was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. BRYAN, ADAMS, F. L. WALCOTT, MOTTLEY, BETHELL, GODDARD and WILKINSON—7.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I would like to draw your attention to Rule 17 of the Rules of the House. In view of the fact that that Rule sets out how these appointments are to be made, I am asking that we follow the Rule.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rule 17 says:—

"The House being returned proceeds to the choice of its officers, and a motion is made and seconded in respect of the persons proposed, and the votes taken by the Speaker. If more than one person be proposed for either of the offices, the votes are to be first taken on the one first proposed, and so on, until there be a majority of votes in favour of some one of the candidates."

I regret that honourable members have waited until I have got to the end of the proposals to remind me of this Rule; I should have been reminded of this Rule long before now. Now that this Rule has been pointed out to me, I think it is my duty to change the procedure even at this late hour. I will now put the proposals in the order in which they have been made.

Mr. GILL: Is the Chaplain of the House an officer of the House?

Mr. SPEAKER: Rule 17 refers to the officers of the House and it is for me to declare whether the Chaplain of the House is an officer of the House or not. I do not think that the Chaplain is, strictly speaking, an officer of the House; honourable members are suffering from a delusion if they regard the Chaplain as an officer of the House. The question now is that Rev. S. A. E. Coleman be appointed Chaplain of this House. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, MESSRS. SMITH, ALLDER, MILLER, MAPP, BRYAN, GARNER, BRANCKER, DOWDING, GILL and GODDARD—11.

Noes: MESSRS. F. L. WALCOTT, COX, ADAMS, MOTTLEY, BETHELL and WILKINSON—6.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye" and six honourable members voting "No." I declare the "Ayes" have it. Rev. S. A. E. Coleman is appointed Chaplain of this House. (Cheers).

THE UNDERGROUND WATER CONTROL BILL, 1951

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave for Order No. 5 on the Order Paper to be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael:—To move the House into Committee on the Bill intituled an Act to make provision for the control and use of the underground sources of Water Supply in the Island and other matters connected therewith.

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill:

Mr. BRYAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On the last occasion when this Bill was before us, I supported the motion for its second reading. I still feel that the principle of the Bill is correct; but the more I have gone into the Bill and compared it with the Roddam Report, the more I feel that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee and we should not now go into Committee on it. The various Clauses of this Bill, which are not workable in Barbados, should be gone into very carefully. If honourable members read this Bill carefully, they will see that its aims and objects are to protect water and health; in other words, its aims and objects are to maintain the supply of water and protect the health of the community. This is a Bill which is closely allied to the Public Health Bill;

the honourable senior member for St. Michael has outlined this Bill as well as he could, but I feel that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee where it could be discussed not only with the Director of Medical Services and the Director of Agriculture, but with other people as well. Except honourable members have had greater opportunity than I have had of going into this Bill, I must confess that we do not know sufficient about the Bill. The principle of the Bill is right; the necessity for protection is there, but the scope which is given in this Bill is too much for Barbados. During my time here, we have had before us several Bills which sought to improve the social conditions in this colony; but we told the Government that those Bills were too far-fetched and we have lived to see some of them pigeon-holed. I am of the opinion that unless we refer this Bill to a Select Committee and get advice about it, we will find ourselves passing a Bill which is not workable. In connection with this Bill, I was at pains to get statistics to be used to-day; I am still of the opinion that this Bill has not been drafted satisfactorily. The minority of us are legally trained so that the majority are laymen, and I say we must pass legislation for the man in the street. In this Bill you will find the definition of a suck well, but you will not find any definition of a well or a partially completed well, mention of which is made in the Bill. I exhausted every possible avenue in respect of this Bill on the last occasion and I do not propose to waste any time with it to-day. I beg to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee; I make that motion with the fullest sense of responsibility. This Bill is closely allied to Public Health administration and I believe that the Government supporters as well as the Opposition should be able to sit down and go through it carefully. The necessity for a Bill of this sort is there, but some of the Clauses are taken directly from existing Bills and they are not workable in Barbados. To pass this Bill in its present form would be, to my mind, nonsense. Nobody could honestly say that the time is ripe for a Bill to control the digging of sewers and so on; I have not changed my mind about the stream water and sheet water areas, and all these questions can be better discussed in Select Committee. This is not a Bill with which you can play politics, and there is no question of drafting legislation to hurt poor people; this is a Bill in respect of which honourable members should sit around a table and get expert advice. Recommendations have been made and I submit that it should be seen how they will apply to local conditions. Throughout this Bill you are dealing with the preservation of the water and the health of the community and I submit that not only the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department should be members of the Water Board, but also the Director of Medical Services. While we on this side of the House are supporting the principle of this Bill, we argue that it should be referred to a Select Committee so that we can get facts and figures and expert advice as to the working of this Bill. This Bill suits countries where there is a general sewerage system laid out and where you are building up an area with houses of a certain type. All these things must apply to the economic position of the people of the country. I have made a motion that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee; I appreciate that the Leader of the House would like to have this Bill passed and put into operation, but there are certain things which need to be gone into, and we should refer the Bill to a Select Committee. Certain Clauses which might create a hardship on people will have to be cut out of this Bill.

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

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second the motion that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. ADAMS: I hope that the hon. senior member for the City will not feel offended at what I am going to say, but when you are mentally tired and overworked, the best thing to do is to go home and sleep. Your brain does not function well when you are tired and you utter things which are unworthy of you. I cannot remember the hon. member making a more ineffectual speech than the one he has just made. We have to do something to preserve the water supply of the island from the point of view of actual conservation and pollution, and I thank the hon. member for mentioning that, but in order that we might get expert advice, the hon. member wants this Bill sent to a Select Committee! Does the hon. member think that the Government has not got the expert advice of the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department and the people who have come out here from time to time within the last five years? There is nobody who can go before the Select Committee and give advice which the Government has not been already given. It is a fact that nearly the whole of Barbados is built up; you do not have to go miles and miles before you come to habitation and therefore the hon. member's argument does not apply. The hon. member is asking for the appointment of a Select Committee in order to get expert advice on this or that Clause of this Bill; but I say that the Government has had all that advice already, and it is as a result of that advice that this Bill has come before the House. We have had advice about not sinking wells at Delamere Land and so on; we have had all the advice we need. There is nobody other than those whose advice we have had, whom we could possibly summon to give us any further information in connection with this matter; every human being who could be summoned before a Select Committee has already given his advice. I ask the hon. member to point out in this Bill the things of which he does not approve, let us have the benefit of his criticism and let us see if we can modify any particular Clause, but let him not ask again for advice which we have already had.

Mr. DOWDING: It is regrettable that the hon. member should have used such words as "mentally tired" in connection with hon. members. I think the trouble is that the experts have completely occupied the hon. member's mind and the laymen who have more advice have not been made use of. If the hon. member insists on that attitude, we shall continue to have experts who know so much about so few that amounts to so little, and the Government has to pay quite a lot. Looking at this Bill as it stands before us, it might seem to be a very simple Bill; but I am a member of the Agricultural Society and of the Sugar Producers' Association, and neither of those Bodies has been approached in connection with this matter. I feel that these Bodies should be taken into consideration in dealing with a matter of this sort. This Bill will possibly limit the disposal of the sewage of factories in this island, and that is a big problem. This is a matter which affects the biggest industry in this island; there are some Clauses in this Bill which will cause some confusion among the producers of sugar and the producers of canes, should they be restricted under the Bill. I feel that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph would be well advised not only to ask the opinion of experts in this matter, but also the opinion of some of the laymen — the practical people who built up the sugar industry in this island without the help of the experts who are being brought into this island. I hope that the honourable member will regard the matter in

that light; let us be certain that when we put legislation on the Statute Books of this island we do not put it there without any reason, so that it becomes pigeon-holed and we achieve nothing. I regret the attitude which the hon. member has adopted; he is constantly taking experts into consideration and not taking any account of laymen. I hope he will see the wisdom in agreeing to have this Bill referred to a Select Committee; to control the underground sources of water supply in this island overnight is going to be a very big problem.

The question that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee was put and resulted in a "tie," the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. ALLDER, MILLER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, BETHELL, GILL, GODDARD and WILKINSON—8.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, MAPP, BRYAN, COX, ADAMS, BRANCKER and GARNER—8.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in a "tie," eight hon. members voting "Aye" and eight hon. members voting "No". I vote with the "Noes".

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, ALLDER, MILLER, MAPP, BRYAN, COX, F. L. WALCOTT, ADAMS, BRANCKER, GARNER, MOTTLEY and BETHELL—13.

Noes: Messrs. DOWDING, GILL, GODDARD and WILKINSON—4.

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

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were read and passed.

Clause 4 was read.

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I notice that this Bill definitely sets out that the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department are to be members of the Water Board; but, as you go on, you will find that the Bill deals principally with the health of the colony and I am wondering if it should not be set out that the Director of Medical Services should also be a member of the Board. Sub-clause (1) of this Clause says:

"The Water Board shall consist of the Director of Agriculture, the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department and such other persons not exceeding six in number as the Governor-in-Executive Committee may from time to time appoint. The Director of Agriculture or in his absence the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department shall be the Chairman."

Before I came into this House I recall that about seven years ago the decision was made that we should get rid of the Boards and now we are establishing Boards. However, the principle now is that the appointment of members to the Boards should be in the hands of the Governor, and I beg to move that wherever the words "Governor-in-Executive Committee" appear in this Clause the words "in-Executive Committee" be deleted.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that. It has been the policy of the Government to make these Boards non-political, and I think it would be advisable to delete these words and let the appointments be made by the Governor. I do not think that there could be any objection to that amendment, because, as I have said, it has been the policy of the Government to make these Boards non-political.

Mr. ADAMS: The Opposition has to do its work, but I think that this is the first time in 17 years that I have heard this type of argument; we used to hear the argument that the appointments should not be left in the hands of the Governor. We are now getting towards ministerial responsibility and hon. members taking the licks for giving bad advice, but we hear from two members of the Opposition: "No, leave the matter to the Governor"! It is difficult to reply to that suggestion; no member of this House who is responsible to the Legislature for helping to run the affairs of this colony, should ever want to be in a position where he can shelter behind the name of the Governor. Members of the Executive Committee should undertake the burden of criticism for anything that goes wrong. As hon. members have said, this Bill is a very important one and any Governor who is a bird of passage can appoint whomever he likes as members of this Board, bear no responsibility and all we can do is to talk without producing any effect; and the Secretary of State for the Colonies can still keep the Governor here. On the other hand, if the Executive Committee is responsible for making the appointments, a vote of censure can be moved against the members. Except in cases where you have Colonial Office appointments, the Governor-in-Executive Committee should be responsible for making appointments, and let hon. members "haul us over the coals" for failing to do what we should do.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member has brought out where the Governor should do something and where the Governor-in-Executive Committee should do something else.

Mr. ADAMS: The Governor may say that there is a clerk who should be Secretary to this Board, but the experts, of whom the hon. junior member for St. George speaks, might say that there is an old planter who should be put on the Board, one who knows where all the water in the island is. In that case, people have been using their experience and knowledge as a result of enquiries made to make suggestions to the Government; but, in the other case, the Secretary of the Board will be a civil servant, and the Governor may ask the Colonial Secretary who can be spared from any Department to fill this post.

The question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SPEAKER, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. ALLDER, MILLER, MAPP, BRYAN, COX, ADAMS, BETHELL and WILKINSON—10.

Noes: Messrs. MOTTLEY, GODDARD, DOWDING and GILL—4.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In view of the importance of this Bill, I am still of the opinion that in addition to the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department, the Director of Medical Services should also be set out in the Bill as a member of the Water Board. I therefore beg to move that after the word "Department" occurring in line 3 of this Sub-clause (1), the words "the Director of Medical Services" be inserted; and that in the same line, the word "six" be deleted and the word "five" inserted in place thereof. Those amendments will leave the Board with the same number of members.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. senior member for the City thinks that I am objecting to his suggestions for the sake of opposition; but what I have learnt as far as the hon. member is concerned, is to listen carefully to what he says, then examine it and then he himself will realise that he should give more thought to his proposals. The hon. member says that quite a lot of

this Bill deals with public health and it is difficult to find much of it dealing with public health except from the point of view of pollution. The Bill deals chiefly with conservation and with pollution as a corollary; apart from that, nothing in it has anything specially to do with public health. Why does the hon. member not include the President of the General Board of Health or the Sanitation Officer? There is no more reason for including the Director of Medical Services in this Bill than there is for including the President of the Education Board; frankly this Bill has nothing to do with public health no more than the adulteration of milk has anything to do with public health. You would not suggest that some Board should be set up where the Director of Medical Services could say that salt fish is fit for consumption; on a pure Water Board, nobody officially should be on that Board except the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department. I will report to the Executive Committee the views of hon. members and it may be that the Director of Medical Services or one of the medical men might be put on the Board, but that should not be done in the Act itself. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department should be in charge of seeing after the water resources of the island. Inasmuch as there will be half a dozen other members on this Board, it might be possible to include some doctor who would be able to advise us on public health matters without our necessarily saying that he should be the Director of Medical Services.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have never heard the hon. member talk more nonsense. When I read the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill, the Director of Medical Services is, in my opinion, just as important to be a member of this Board as any Director of Agriculture. Clause 9 of this Bill says:

"Any conditions or restrictions may be attached to a licence or permit which in the opinion of the Board are appropriate to prevent any prejudice to the reasonable conservation, control or use of underground sources of water, or any danger to health or any danger of contamination to any sources of water (including the well in question)."

If you are dealing with danger to health, are you dealing with disease in sugar cane? I thought that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas would have replied to this question. I have said that a Bill of this nature is necessary; with about 800 wells in St. Michael, with the sinking of pits next to these wells and people using the water from the wells, there is a strong argument why the Director of Medical Services should be put on this board. What are the reasons for the Government making it statutory for the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department being put on this Board. If you are dealing with the water supply the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department should certainly be there. I view this Bill as being more important to the health of this colony than anything else; with the increase in the standard of living of the people of this colony and in the absence of a sewerage system, you have people installing the water-borne toilet system, there is a possibility of the water being contaminated, and who is able to give greater advice in this matter than the Director of Medical Services? All through this Bill you are dealing with the preservation of water and the health of the people and I feel that on a Board of this nature it is as important to have the Director of Medical Services as it is to have the Director of Agriculture. I do not claim that a layman should be on this Board; everybody knows that the Director of Medical Services must be a trained man in public health.

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not know if I will be able to convince the honourable member; he is worried as to the preservation of water from the point of view of health.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not worried about anything; I see that honourable members are worried because they have brought down this water Bill and it deals with the preservation of water and health.

The question that the proposed amendments be now agreed to, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. ALLDER, MOTTLEY, BETHELL, GODDARD, DOWDING, WILKINSON and GILL—7.

Noes: Messrs. MILLER, MAPP, BRYAN, COX, ADAMS and Dr. CUMMINS—6.

The question that Clause 4 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 5 was read as follows:—

5. Every owner of land upon which any completed or partially completed well is situated, shall furnish to the Board as far as reasonably practicable all such particulars as the Board may from time to time prescribe or require.

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

Mr. BRYAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have perused this Bill carefully and I am at a loss to understand, for the purposes of this Bill, what is a well, a completed well or partially completed well. All this Bill defines is a suck well, and all the offence you commit under this this Bill is in respect of a completed or partially completed well. However, before I make any further comments I should like to know what is meant by a well or partially completed well. When is a well not a well? Here we are dealing with water wells, and if you go further on you will find that it is not only water wells with which we are dealing. As far as this Bill is concerned, I would like to know what is meant by a well or partially completed well.

Mr. ADAMS: Every word in a Bill has to be construed according to its use; if you have finished digging a well, it is a well; but if you have not finished digging it, then it is incomplete. From the Interpretation Clause, you will see that "suck well" means any well used solely for the reception of storm water or rain water. A suck well is a particular kind of well and the honourable member is just wasting time in asking for the definition of a well; a well is just what the ordinary English interpretation of the word is. A suck well has to be defined because although it is a term which is used in Barbados, it is not a term of which you might know. We use the term "suck well" in Barbados and although a Judge would probably point out what a suck well is, yet out of an abundance of caution we put in a definition giving the meaning of the term; but a well is a well. You do not describe a dog, but if you are referring to a particular breed of dog, then you define it. Reference is made to a well in the Highways Act, but when you come to a special kind of well, then you have to define it. Normally you would not define a quarry, but if you are speaking of a stone quarry, you define it. I hope the honourable member does not really want me to say anything more; a well which is not completed is a well in the course of being dug. You have to put the term "partially completed well" in drafting the Bill because if a person starts to dig a well he might be dangerously near to water; he might reach water in less than three feet. On the other hand, if a man is digging a well on the top of Hackleton Cliff and goes down a few feet, he has not begun to get near to water. In a Bill of general application you use the term "incomplete well" or "complete well"; where anybody has begun to dig a well he must notify

people that he is digging a well in such and such a place, lest he pollutes the water. I wish to assure the honourable senior member for the City that I am perfectly serious in what I am telling him. The Highways Act says:—

"If the owner or occupier of land adjoining a highway shall have or shall sink a well therein within thirty feet of the highway, such owner or occupier shall have a wall or other enclosure erected around the same, four feet high."

In that Act you do not have to define a well; it is unnecessary to have a definition there because everybody knows what a well is.

Mr. MOTTLEY: At the risk of being considered foolish or ignorant, I still consider that the honourable member is wrong. He says that you do not need to give any definition of a well, that all you need mention is the term "completed or partially completed well," because in St. James you will reach water at a depth of two or three feet whereas in St. Andrew, you will have to go down several hundred feet before you reach water. But there should be a definition of a partially completed well. I do not want to move for the deletion of this Clause; all I am suggesting to the honourable member is that he should offer some amendment which the layman can understand. I am proud that I can express what the ordinary man wants expressed. Ask any honourable member what is the meaning of a well or partially completed well; anybody who says that he understands it does not understand what he says. As soon as a person opens a hole he starts a well, and I feel that the word "well" should be defined. If the honourable member says that the word "well" is an ordinary English word which anybody can understand, why is the term "suck well" defined in this Bill? Every Barbadian knows what a suck well is; and you define the term "suck well" but you do not define the term "completed or partially completed well." If you look through this Bill you will find that as soon as you open a hole, you start a well; if the term "suck well" is defined why is the term "completed or partially completed well" not defined? This Bill must be enacted, but these Clauses cannot be passed as they are.

Mr. ALLDER: What I am thinking is that many owners of chattel houses, whom the Sanitary Authorities are compelling to throw away their slop-buckets and dig pits, are going to suffer as a result of this Clause being passed, I would like to see protection provided for such people. As far as I understand this Bill, as soon as a householder starts to dig a pit for the disposal of excreta, he contravenes the law; and that means that thousands of people especially in the country areas, will be breaking the law if they do not come down to Bridgetown and get permission to dig their pits. Whatever this Water Board does, it cannot tell householders that they cannot dig pits for the purpose of disposing of excreta. I do not see the necessity for including these small owners of chattel houses in this Bill because it is difficult to have a sewerage system all over the country. I cannot see that pit-holes dug to a depth of four or six feet by these householders for the purpose of disposing of excreta could affect the water system, unless they are dug near the beaches; and I can see the apprehension which the honourable senior member for the City has expressed in connection with this matter. This Bill will affect thousands of people including those who are least able to leave their work in order to obtain licences for the purposes set out in the Bill, and failing to obtain the licences will result in their being fined. There is a hue and cry that the number of restrictive Bills which have been passed in this House are definitely confusing the population, and I would hate to know that I assisted in the passing of this Bill and created a hardship

on people. I would like to see an amendment made to this Clause to ensure that pits can be dug by small householders for the purpose of carrying out the orders of the Sanitary Authorities in the respective parishes; because as far as I can see now, if your pig goes into the yard and digs a hole you are involved in an offence having been committed. I cannot see why we should not make sure that these small people are protected; a person will have to get permission to dig a well for the purpose of abstracting water, but if he is digging a hole four feet deep for the purpose of getting water for watering his kitchen garden, I do not think he should be told that he must get permission to do that. Science has taught us to maintain healthier bodies; our set up as regards sanitation has improved and we do not suffer from the epidemics from which we once suffered. What I am pointing out is that conditions cannot be as dangerous to-day as as they were in the past having regard to the medical skill which we have to-day. I am appealing to this Committee to make sure that no hardship is created on small people who have been forced to dig pits. As the position is now, people would have to leave St. Philip or St. Andrew, give up a day's work and pay bus fare so as to come to Bridgetown and get permission to dig a hole three or four feet deep. I do not want to feel that I assisted anybody in making the position more difficult than it is to-day. I hope that the honourable Leader of the House will give us some guarantee that the small people will be protected.

Mr. DOWDING: The argument has been used that the word "well" has been used in the Highways Act, and the Act sets out what must be done if the well is sunk within 30 feet of the highway. I want to know whether in that Act, the word "well" is defined as a suck well or not. Recently the Director of Highways and Transport sent around a notice to the effect that wells situated within 30 feet of the highway are to be protected. The well which is referred to in that Act is a suck well; while this Clause before us compels every owner of land to furnish to the Board as far as is reasonably possible all such particulars as the Board may from time to time prescribe or require in respect of a well, there is a Clause further on which completely puts a suck well without the scope of this Bill; and that is a very dangerous departure. A suck well can be responsible for all sorts of pollution brought in from the highways and byways, and if it is situated near to stream or sheet water, it can be dangerous. I see nothing in this Bill which will cover that point; I am worried about the definition of the word "well" because the Act which has been quoted refers to suck wells in actual practice.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member has books in front of him, he has a Solicitor next to him and he can read English. No reference whatever is made in the Highways Act to suck wells; all that Act says is that if you have a well within 30 feet of the highway you must put a wall around it. There is no qualification added to the well; there is not the slightest justification for the suggestion that the Highways Act refers to suck wells. All the Act says is that you must put a wall around a well which is situated 30 feet from the highway. Suppose that for any reason this Government wanted to know how many houses in this island had shingles on the roofs and how many had galvanize; and it said that whoever shall be the owner of any land on which a completed or partially completed house is situated shall do so and so; would the hon. member ask for the definition of a house? If you say that there is situated on somebody's land a completed or partially completed well, that does not differ from saying that there is situated on somebody's

land a completed or partially completed house. We want to know how many wells there are in the island and where they are; if you start to dig a well, tell us where it is. People have started to dig wells and have not finished them; all that comes under this Bill.

Mr. GARNER: I have made up my mind that we are playing with fire; we have sat here from time to time and we have not done the right thing as legislators. I have had much regret for having taken part in certain deliberations here and saying "yes" to certain things; but I will not do that to-day in respect of this matter. We are either Communists or Socialists the whole way; but if we are circumventing a certain section of the community, I am not in that. This Clause has not been intelligently worded. I am not any educationist, but speaking for a lot of people who can understand common English, I say that this Clause means no good to the ordinary people in Barbados. I am sorry that I did not agree to referring this Bill to a Select Committee. I have listened to the hon. Leader of the House, and I have listened to the hon. senior member for the City who is championing the cause of the masses. The hon. Leader of the House has said that the Government wants to get certain information about certain wells. As a member of the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Philip, I say that all the information is set out in the Public Health Act. All our inspectors have to furnish certain facts every month and they supply us with all the information every quarter; so that the information which the Government is seeking by way of this Bill can be obtained right now. I fear that sometimes we sit here and do things which harm people later on; who knows what effect this Bill will have on people if it becomes law? Sometimes sanitary inspectors tell people that certain pits in certain neighbourhoods are not deep enough and they will have to sink those pits, and unless that law is going to be repealed, there will be two Acts on the Statute Book dealing with this matter.

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

Mr. WILKINSON seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 6 p.m.

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

On resumption:

Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 55 in the name of the Hon'ble Junior Member for St. Philip.

Mr. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 6 in the name of the honourable junior member for St. James.

Mr. SPEAKER: At the adjournment the House was in Committee on the Bill to make provision for the control and use of the underground sources of water supply in the island and other matters connected therewith.

The House resumed committee on the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: When the committee adjourned the Hon'ble Senior Member for St. Philip, Mr. Garner, was speaking.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman, I somehow feel that something should be done about this section. I would like to get some idea as to whether the Government would give some undertaking—we do not want to delete it—some undertaking that if we postponed this section they would be able to get it properly

drafted so that it would make sense. As it is now it does not make sense. As I told the Leader of the House, all the information that is required can be had under the Public Health Act, so that if the Government are going to make regulations to take away a burden from the inhabitants of the island, they could require the Sanitary Inspectors or the Commissioners of Health to get the information the Government wants, so that the people would be able to get their licenses, etc.

You see, Mr. Chairman, all these Bills are made for developed cities or cities that are now coming into their own. But when we are dealing with an agricultural community such as Barbados, we have to be careful that we do not do things to harm the community as a whole. This is what is operating in my mind: you have suck wells in Barbados. In some areas if you dig to six or eight feet you find water, and in other areas I have known people to have dug for 220 or 240 feet without finding water. While all these Bills are good in themselves, you have to take that part which will suit us. You cannot take things which are in a Bill in London or Australia—highly developed communities—and throw them on the inhabitants of this colony. In England and Australia you have big sewerage systems; here we have no such systems.

With your permission, sir, I will read sub-clause D of Clause 6. It says that no person shall, "sink any well or carry out any excavation or works or deepen any existing well with the object of using it for the disposal of sewage or other waste or cause or suffer any such operations to be carried out in whole or in part unless he shall first obtain a permit in writing from the Board so to do."

As a layman, Sir, I can only interpret that from a layman's point of view. I do not know what advantage this clause is to the Bill. If it is any advantage and the Government can bring it back in different phraseology, I will support it. But as it is worded now, it is not safe for us to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I am only referring to clause 6 in passing. If the Hon'ble Leader of the House is willing to postpone the clause under discussion—Clause 5—so that we can get a better understanding, a simpler understanding of this thing, I will support it. It is no use rushing things in this island just because they are done in a big country. I am not going to vote for clauses 5 or 6 unless they are re-drafted. The Hon'ble Leader of the House can re-draft them; I have seen some of his draftsmanship. In any case we have an Attorney General's Chambers and that is their work. We as Legislators have to carry out the will of the people who have sent us here. Twenty-four of us represent 200,000 people. We have to voice the desires of the people. If we see something that will work a hardship we have to reveal our minds. If Bills that come down to the House are not worded that they can be interpreted in a simple manner it is the duty of the Attorney General and his staff to get such bills corrected so that any fool can understand them.

I am very cautious, Sir. I am one of those people who once bitten are twice shy. I know what has stung me already, and I know what will sting someone else. I am asking the Hon'ble Leader, not because it is an original Bill from somewhere, or because he would like to get it passed without a dissentient voice, to wish us to rush it through. We are not legally trained people, and we do not know what a judge will pass over or what he will not pass over in his interpretation of the law. When the law is so wide, that you do not know if a six-foot pit can be interpreted as a well, or when you do not know if you bury a dead horse in a hole so that it does not stink,

whether the hole is a well or not, you do not know what you are doing. These things should be explicit. If they are not, we cannot sit as Legislators and pass them without knowing what they really mean.

Mr. ADAMS: If the hon'ble member is asking for information he should not spoil the request by telling us beforehand that he is not voting for the section. The only reason that I am replying is because the hon'ble member was not here before. He was not here when the hon'ble member who introduced the Bill stated something which would have prevented the last hon'ble member from making an incorrect comparison. This is not a Bill for highly developed countries or cities. He will find such legislation in agricultural or primitive communities for the special purpose of conserving water resources. It is nothing to do with London, Australia, or anything of the sort. But you will find it in the vast stretches of Africa.

It might not be necessary in Jamaica or Grenada where there is probably more water than is needed. But where there is danger of the water supply failing because of the vagaries of the season, you will find legislation of this sort. I will say for the benefit of the hon'ble senior member for St. Philip what I have already said. How do hon'ble members want this altered? In what respect are these sections to be made clearer? You pass legislation of a general nature. You use a word of a general meaning. Suppose you say all dogs should be licensed. Must you then say pet dogs, hunting dogs, or police dogs, and make a section dealing with that?

The Bill here says that all wells must be reported to the Board. Suck wells are exempted. You do not have to get a license to deepen a suck well so long as it remains a suck well. Then a definition of suck well is given. A well is a well, but there are dry wells, oil wells, etc. When this Bill becomes law the Government will have to report to the Water Board the two B.U.O.C. wells which were recently taken over. But the comprehensive section is there, and the different types of wells—wells used for the purpose of abstracting water—is dealt with in the following section.

If the hon'ble members ask for a legal explanation and when a lawyer gives them one they laugh at it, that is their own funeral. I appeal to the hon'ble senior member for St. Andrew and the hon'ble junior member for Christ Church to say whether there is the remotest dodging of the issue in what I have told the House, or if by any stretch of the imagination the digging of a hole to bury a horse or a dog can come within this Act.

A VOICE: Read 6.

Mr. ADAMS: An hon'ble member is saying read 6. If that is his attitude I am finished. I will give no further explanation. A mental defective of a law student looking at this could tell you that it does not mean that. Excavation for the purpose of sewage means a permanent structure to carry off sewage; not a hole that you dig temporarily and then fill back up. A well is something that you dig and allow to remain open. As soon as you fill it back it ceases to be a well.

Lawyers have a saying, "justum juris." You must construe words in a sub-clause along the same lines as you construe them in the principal clause. This argument started as a joke and now it is becoming serious. Members are talking about digging a hole to put a horse in. Let us be grown up for a moment.

Where notifying the Water Board about these wells is concerned, we all realise that it will be a hardship to compel people from all over the island to report to the Water Board. Regulations can be made

so that the Sanitary Inspectors can carry around forms on which people can put the necessary information. People will be asked such things as the depth of their well. They may not know the exact depth, but if they say "as far as I know, 20 feet," they can write that on the form. What hardship will there be in that?

I can go further and give the assurance that nothing will be put in any regulations which does not remove any possible hardship where reporting to the Water Board is concerned. We have had our criticisms, but for heaven's sake let us get on with the Bill. All that it means is that if you have a well in the ordinary English interpretation of the word "well" you must report it to the Board. It does not say that you necessarily have to go into Bridgetown to report it. Let us have our criticisms, as I have said. But when an explanation is given do not let us insult the hon'ble member who gave it by telling him you do not accept the explanation. I am again appealing to the lawyers who belong to the Opposition to say whether I have in the slightest way given an explanation that is not gospel truth.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The more the hon'ble member speaks on this the more ludicrous it becomes. If he thinks that I am joking he is wrong. I am absolutely serious about this. I do not care who says that I am wasting time, I am going to talk until I am tired. I am going to reply to the hon'ble member on this point: He says, ask the two lawyers who belong to the Opposition: But even if they agree, what then? I have heard lawyers agree and disagree several times. The hon'ble member is saying that because lay members do not agree with him they are insulting him. In that case you might insult him all the time. It is all well and good to talk about a mental defective of a law student understanding this. But laymen, not mental defectives, are trying to understand it and cannot, because of a lawyer who really does not understand it himself.

The section we are dealing with is No. 5 which deals with a completed or partially completed well. Since a suck well is defined, I asked him to say for the purposes of this Act what is a partially completed well, or what is a well. I am going to repeat—you have to give us latitude, Mr. Chairman—I am going on to say this: The hon'ble member said that for us to argue that the digging of a hole to bury a horse had anything to do with this Bill would be silly. But in my view, for us to take this section and pass it as it is would be more silly.

You are a Barbadian dealing with Barbadians. The sewage system used by the majority of people consists of wells, whatever else you might call them. I am not prepared to vote for this as it is—a lawyer's paradise. I do not care if the hon'ble member brings all the lawyers. I am a layman. If my next door neighbour opens a hole six feet square by ten feet deep for use as a pit, and I open one the same dimensions for use as a well, the hon'ble member is asking the Police Magistrate to say that my neighbour's hole is a pit and mine is a well. Are we fools?

He is saying that if you dig a hole and fill it back up it is not a well. In this Act you are dealing not only with the conservation of water but also with the preservation of health. Therefore if you are in the sheet water area, and you dig down to ten feet thus polluting the water supply you still have not dug a well, as long as you dig the hole and then fill it back up. You can open all the holes you like and fill them with dead horses and pollute the water supply.

Mr. ADAMS: Have I said anything of the sort? The argument started off with fowls, and now it has actually reached the stage of horses. That is

entirely different from making an excavation or well for the purpose of carrying off sewage. If you make an excavation not to carry off sewage or waste, if you dig a hole to bury a horse that does not come under this Act. I did not say anything about if you cover it up.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You did. Ask any ordinary Barbadian if a dead fowl or dead horse is not waste. Ask anyone if faeces is not waste. Write that in an article, but do not get up in the House and say so. It is nonsense. I do not consider that there should be some irrelevant section in the Act to apply to local conditions; but for the life of me, I cannot see this section going into law unless the hon'ble member as leader of the Government Party has the majority going with him.

I have some experience of what I am talking about. Take an area like Goodland. If the Government took it over and put 30 tenants there, and they started to develop it and build houses—soon as a man starts to dig an earthen pit, are you going to say that under this Bill someone cannot come along and prosecute him for digging a well without a permit? Or are you going to say that the Police Magistrate will not interpret it as a well? I am saying that he will, especially when you consider lower down in the Bill where it speaks about making an excavation. You do not have to be a law student. You only have to be an ordinary Barbadian to see that under this bill you cannot sink any hole at all for the purpose of making a privy unless you get a permit. That is what it means.

All that I am asking the Government is that having defined suck wells will you just define a well. You have sat and defined suck wells, but how many people living on 2,400 square feet of land have suck wells? It is wells that needs defining so that people may know whether a pit is also to be interpreted as a well. I cannot understand it, and I am not mentally defective yet. There are many people who cannot understand it either.

The Sanitary Inspectors under the Public Health Act must know every well in the island. Every well in the island has to be reported on quarterly to the Commissioners of Health. The hon'ble member seems to think that the only record is what Dr. Senn made. Why I asked the hon'ble member about that is this. In St. Michael there are 803 wells including suck wells. There are 803 wells ranging from six feet deep to some at the top of Cave Hill.

I entirely agree that people should have some permit before they dig wells, and that they should give some indication as to the depth of a particular well that is to be dug. I cannot stress enough that in developing areas there should be some authority to regulate the digging of wells or the making of excavations for the carrying off of sewage, especially in the sheet water area where there is the danger of contaminating the water supply. But it does seem to me that something simple, something that the average person can understand should have been drafted. I like to understand things so that when I go out I can explain them to those who sent me here. That is why I have argued my way in and out of this matter, in order to get a proper explanation. The hon'ble member knows quite well that if he had convinced me I would have stood here and said that he was right. That has happened more than once before.

There are other hon'ble members who are not convinced, and they will never be unless wells are properly defined. The honourable member referred to the exemption of suck wells later in the Bill. That

is true, but what is worrying me is the penalty that is provided later in the Bill. It is a penalty of \$500.00 or six months. I think that they must be mad. That might be alright if you are building up an area, but not when you already have 20,000 earthen pits.

Imagine a man puts up a foundation on a spot of land. An officer comes along and finds a hole in preparation for privy pit six feet by ten. He says to the man, "You have sunk a well without a license" and the man is fined 500 dollars with the alternative of six months imprisonment. But the Leader of the House is saying that it is not a well, it is a pit. But he is not a magistrate. If he were he would see it in a broad sense. What I want to know is when is a pit a well, and when is a well a pit. Will the magistrate say to the man, "you are working for \$24.00 a month and therefore what you are digging is a pit", and say to another man, "you are working for \$200.00 a month and therefore you are digging a well?"

A big number of the inhabitants of this island use earthen privy pits, and these go down to a certain level. All that I am asking is that something be put into the Bill saying that you exempt people with privy pits or something along that line. The strongest argument is this: Government in the last Estimates—and rightly so—passed amounts giving the Board of Health power to build privy pits for the people in an effort to check the spread of Typhoid. This was done because you found many people using the old bucket and hole system, a system which the Medical Authorities considered to favour the spread of Typhoid. Government is therefore telling the people to dig earthen pits. Why then should they not put in this Bill some definition exempting pits as distinct from wells. In St. Michael you have 16,000 privy pits and then another 5,000 which can be interpreted as wells because they are really used as a water borne system for the disposal of sewage. Government should put in the Bill some exemption such as I have mentioned already.

Sub-section (a) of Section 6 says that no person after the specified date shall sink any well or deepen an existing well with the object of abstracting underground water therefrom or convert a well originally sunk for any other purpose into a well for abstracting water."

The hon'ble member has appealed to the other lawyers in the House, but neither he nor anyone else can say that the draftsman when he used the words which appear in sub-clause D did not mean to refer to pits. What else could he mean?

I do not want to get up and say that Government has brought down something to inflict hardship on the people. That would be silly, as I have already said. But if we see something going wrong it is our duty to say so. Mr. Chairman I am going to formally move that this section be postponed. The hon'ble member after hearing the arguments may still want to hold on to his point of view and say that the Attorney General drafted this. I do not care who drafted it. I do not agree with it, and I am saying that it should be re-drafted, and something more workable should be sent down.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, by now the honourable senior member for St. Michael should realise that our fears are that no provision has been made to exclude the small house holder in these regulations. He could save much time by assuring us that they will not be included. I agree with the hon'ble senior member for the City that these people should not be prevented from digging privy pits, or compelled to get permission before they can dig one.

(The hon'ble Leader of the House is suggesting that Sanitary Inspectors can investigate the number of wells but he has not mentioned whether the Sanitary Inspectors will also notify the Board when one of these people want to open a privy pit. I am going to make a suggestion which I think will relieve the situation. Suppose the Water Board finds water in a certain area, that area should be screened off or restrictions should be put on the residents of that area forbidding them to sink wells more than a certain number of feet without permission. But to ask those people all over the island who have dug wells to report it, and to ask those who intend to dig to report it is exercising too much control, and will merely check the march of progress.

I agree with the Hon'ble Senior Member for the City that this thing is not as light as we were thinking, because the penalty is great. We cannot supinely sit and pass this Bill and find that as a result some poor person is haled before the magistrate and ordered to pay this fine or serve six months in prison. It needs modification, and I must appeal to the Government Benchers to see that nothing is done to create undue fears in the minds of these small householders.

I agree that if someone is doing a big construction job and has to dig a well down to 600 feet he should get permission before doing so; or if a factory has to sink a deep well they should also get permission. But why compel a man who is sinking a pit six feet deep to get rid of the bucket system?

Those are things which need going into. I want some assurance that the Government will modify it, and exclude those people who might not be able to carry out the demands of this Bill.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Chairman, this section is likely to cause much heart burning among the people. In the clause as it stands, it will be the duty of these people to report the existence of their wells. This is a difficulty which must be overcome by Government undertaking that job. It can be done by registering the number of wells in a particular area.

The hon'ble senior member for the City has told us that there is already a census of the wells in the whole island. I think that the Government could well use the machinery that now exists to get this information for themselves without requiring the small man to report to the Board himself. The Inspectors who are today making a report on the number of wells should continue to do so, and no onus should be placed on the small land owner to notify the Board. That is one difficulty which can be got over easily.

As regards the definition of well, I have no hesitation in saying that any good English dictionary would give that definition, and the Courts of this island would have to follow that. I do not think that that need worry hon'ble members. What is worrying them is that the burden of reporting to the Board is put on the small land owner, and there is a fixed penalty of \$500.00 or six months imprisonment for failure to report. I think that that is a very drastic provision. One can imagine the small man with half an acre of land, completely ignorant of the passing of this Bill, and knowing nothing about the regulations prescribed by the Board, put before the Police Magistrate and ordered to pay \$500.00. That should not go into law.

Mr. Chairman, although the hon'ble Leader of the House is right about the definition of well, he and I know that Police Magistrates do not always see eye to eye. So, although I am inclined to agree with him, it does not follow that the Police Magistrate will also agree. The question may often arise, as to what is a well. As the hon'ble senior member for

the City said, a man with a small amount of land may make an excavation, and owing to the shallowness of the land he comes to water, and is prosecuted. The onus will then be on him to prove that it is not a well, but an excavation for some other purpose that does not come under the Act. That is why hon'ble members are saying that this wording should be made clear.

The hon'ble senior member for St. John said that there should be zoning. I think that everyone in this Assembly agrees with the principle of conserving the water supply. But does this Bill really do that? If a well is sunk, and then you get someone making a hole and putting in excreta or other such matter into it, what then? It may be that owing to the proximity of water, he is doing much harm to the water supply although he does not go very far down. Again a man with half an acre of land sinks some shafts for the purpose of raising water, or he may even construct a mill. His neighbour sees him do that, and he wants to do the same thing. He goes to the Board and the Board refuses permission because too much water will be taken off. The whole purpose of the Bill is to protect the water supply and keep it pure, but it does not do that.

The man who owns a small piece of land is not only entitled to use what is on the top of it; he is also entitled to get something out of it. Under this Bill he will be prevented from getting anything out of it. He can only continue to use existing wells if he gets permission; but he cannot sink any more. Mr. Chairman, you live in the island, and you must be as conversant with this aspect of the case as I am. I can tell you that during the dry season, wells in the low lying districts begin to dry up, and in some instances they go completely dry. If you sink a few feet lower, you find water again. Under this Bill you will not be able to do that anymore, except you seek the permission of the Board.

Those are sound facts. The Bill is good in principle, and no one would dispute the fact that we should do all that we can to conserve the island's water supply. I agree with the hon'ble member for St. Joseph about his definition of well. It is not the definition that is worrying me. If you are talking about developing an area, it is easy to make regulations and laws to make the people in that area toe the line. But when you are dealing with these people in the low lying districts, you will have to zone them, as the hon'ble senior member for St. John said.

The hon'ble senior member for St. Joseph will tell you that all wells in big countries are not six feet by ten. They are wells of tremendous depth that pump thousands of gallons of water per hour. But they are as much wells as the small ones. The thing does not end there. We all know that owing to the high cost of water, many sugar factories here have to use the water in the land. It is not so bad to make regulations of this sort if you are going to give the factories government supplied water at a cheaper rate. But the small people have to be considered. I know sir, and so do you, that there are certain small people living away from the pipe line who have sunk wells on their land in order to get water for domestic purposes. What about these people?

I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that some method will be found to amend this section. I feel that the proper thing for the Government to do is to get these figures for themselves. Let them appoint their own agents, whether the Sanitary Inspectors or else. If a person wants to dig a new well, that is a different matter, but when you come to existing wells, I suggest that the proper person to get the information is the Government's own agents. As a matter of fact, the figures are already there. It is not my intention to follow the hon'ble senior member for the City all through his arguments. Everyone knows that the old bucket system is dead. Everyone knows that every parish is insisting on the sinking of pits.

Take the parish of Christ Church. When I was a lad and I took a bath at St. Lawrence coast I had to step very carefully. To-day the Commissioners of Health are seeing to it that the bucket system is eradicated and pits are dug, and you can now take a safe bath. What are we going to do. All along the Christ Church coast there are places where you will find water just below the surface. There will be enough conserving of the purity of water by saying you must notify us of the existence of the wells that are here now and notify us of any wells that you intend to dig. I do not know anyone who would be so rash as to prevent anyone from erecting a small bungalow and sinking a well to take off sewage.

I think that the Courts will be kept very busy with the Bill as it is now. I have said enough, I believe, but I will repeat that I entirely agree that we should do everything to keep our water supply pure. But the question is whether we will succeed in doing so in this Bill. I say no.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman, I begin by saying that I was most surprised to hear of the number of friends that the poor man has on the opposite side of the table. That being the case, I see no reason why the poor man should not progress very rapidly indeed, because he also has friends, and many friends on this side of the table.

I should say, Mr. Chairman, that when I was introducing the Bill the hon'ble senior member for the City was sitting in the chair on the left side of the Leader of the House. When I had spoken for about five minutes, he said, "don't worry to go on any more. You will have no opposition; everything is alright." I, foolishly not remembering that it was he, took his words and sat down. It was, however, not long before a point was raised by the hon'ble junior member for Christ Church, and I saw that the hon'ble senior member for the City had changed his mind.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt, but you are not dealing with Section 5. You are dealing with No. 6. Please stick to section 6.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman, why I started out like that was because the junior member for Christ Church made a second reading speech on this Bill, and dealt with the very points with which he dealt when he was speaking on this Bill.

Mr. REECE: I did not speak on the second reading.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of explanation, Sir. I do not object to the hon'ble member for St. Michael quoting me, but he should have gone on to say that when I said what I said about the Bill it was in reply to something which the hon'ble Leader of the House said and which I do not care to say on the floor of the House. I said that I had not even read the Bill. It was when the hon'ble junior member for St. Lucy drew it to my attention that I took the Bill seriously.

The hon'ble senior member for St. Michael should not make a point saying that I impressed him that the Bill was alright and then fooled him.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I did make a second reading speech.

Mr. COX: Sir, I think that the first point deals with the principle of the Bill. It was the hon'ble senior member for St. John who first raised the point about the burying of dead animals and things of that sort. He went as far as to say—

Mr. ALLDER: Sir, I did not raise the point about burying animals. I said that as far as I could see, if your dog was troublesome and went and scratched a deep hole you might be involved with the law.

Mr. COX: I must apologise to the hon'ble member. I will go on by asking what does this particular

section say. I think that when hon'ble members raised the point about burying animals they gave a reason why some control should be exercised over the burying of these animals in these holes.

The section does not mean that anyone who has a well in existence or who contemplates digging one will have any difficulty in notifying the Board. As the hon'ble leader of the House has already pointed out, what is to prevent the Regulations from saying that the Sanitary Inspectors who visit people's houses in the various areas are to get the necessary information? It does not necessarily mean that everyone must wend his way from St. John to notify the Board. Even if it were so I am sure that the hon'ble senior member for St. John would pay their transport for them.

The Bill does not create any hardship when it comes to the burying of animals. I do not see why there should not be some control over that, because if someone sinks a hole or pit to water level and buries a horse or donkey, it is clear that the water supply will be contaminated by burying that animal. I go further, Mr. Chairman. The hon'ble senior member for St. John mentioned something about pits two feet and four feet deep in the beach area. I know a particular district which is two and a half miles from any beach, in which you hit water when a well or pit is sunk three and a half to four feet deep. What is to prevent contamination in a case like that? Why should there not be some control?

When the honourable senior member for St. John raised that point he did not realise that he was helping us. We do not have the bucket system as in the past. That shows that we are trying to bring sanitation to such a standard as to reduce epidemics to a minimum. The hon'ble junior member for Christ Church talks about wells which poor people use for irrigating their spots of land, and is envisaging hardship to these people when the water gets low. But if the hon'ble member had read sub-section 2 of section 8 he would have seen that those persons who already have wells sunk for that purpose will always be granted licenses. I will read it:—

"A licence to abstract water shall not be refused in the case of a well which is in existence at the commencement of this Act which is then used for the abstraction of underground water, but such licence may be granted subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Board shall determine."

I would like to say for the benefit of the hon'ble junior member for St. George who spoke about referring the matter to the Sugar Producers' Association as well as the Board of Agriculture, that he would be surprised to know that the Director of Science and Agriculture was—

Mr. DOWDING: The Board of Agriculture is a different body from the Agricultural Society.

Mr. COX: The honourable member having said that, I withdraw my remarks. I merely wanted to point out that the hardship which honourable members envisage does not in any way exist. In the first place they have the assurance — I am sure that they have some confidence in the honourable leader of the House — they have the assurance that regulations will be so drafted so as to prevent any inconvenience as far as the digging of holes for this purpose is concerned.

I would like to tell honourable members that similar legislation exists in many other countries, even, as I read when I was introducing the Bill, in Malta. Honourable members have spoken as if we need in Barbados no such controls as exist in other countries, forgetting that Barbados has over 1,200 people to the square mile. If there is any place that needs these controls it is Barbados, so that we can bring our sanitation and our health standards up to a certain point.

I will go further, Mr. Chairman, and say that these controls are not only for health purposes, although as regards health they are very important, but also for the purpose of irrigation. It has been found in some countries that it is necessary to control the drawing off of water. I have read that in New Mexico or California, it has been found that when the water reserves are heavily drawn on, in many cases poor people who are not able to get the equipment to bring water from a far depth to the surface are put to a difficulty, while the rich who can afford to buy the equipment to bring the water to the surface are always able to develop their areas as a result of their financial position.

I repeat, Mr. Chairman, that in section 5 I can see no cause for fear. I doubt even if a Conservative Government was in power they would restrict the activities of these people to such an extent as to cause frustration. I am sure that if honourable members will give this Bill a chance they would be satisfied in process of time that such a Bill is in the interest of the community, if we are to get the maximum productivity that we desire.

The question that further consideration of Clause 5 be postponed was put and decided in the affirmative on a division as follows:—

Ayes: MESSRS. O. T. ALLDER, J. E. T. BRANCKER, D. D. GARNER, E. D. MOTTLEY, H. A. DOWDING, F. C. GODDARD, F. E. C. BETHELL, J. H. WILKINSON, L. E. R. GILL, and W. W. REECE.—(10).

Noes: DR. H. G. CUMMINS, MESSRS. F. L. WALCOTT, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX, and G. H. ADAMS.—(7).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I now declare the *Ayes* have it.

Clause 6 was read by the Clerk.

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Clause 6 stand part.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is that Clause 6 stand part.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The same argument that we used with regard to Section 5 applies to Section 6, and I am moving that it be postponed.

Mr. ADAMS: If you want the whole bill withdrawn why not vote against it? It appears that they do not agree with the principle of the Bill, and they want the public to feel otherwise. Instead of being brave enough to vote against it outright, they want to emasculate it and completely kill it. Has a single member made a suggestion as to how section 5 could be amended? I said that I would not accept an amendment to the word "well" because it would be unscientific to put in a definition of "well," just as it would be to define "house", or "tree" or "goat".

If hon'ble members do not want the bill let them vote against it. Voting for postponement is cowardice. I am not agreeing to any postponement. Government could not possibly agree.

Mr. MOTTLEY: He said he was not accepting any amendment. He is not dictating to anyone over here. It is not my duty to draft an amendment. I have the right to talk as much as anyone else. I am moving the postponement of section 6. If hon'ble members do not agree to the postponement they can vote against it. I am a man, and I was elected here as a man. You cannot tell me that I came here on anyone's money.

The hon'ble Leader of the House is a good lawyer, and won his position because of his ability. I have expressed my views as a layman. He said that he was not taking any adjournment. I formally move the postponement of section 6.

Mr. BETHELL: I beg to second that.

The question that section 6 be postponed was put and on the declaration of the Chairman that the

noes have it, a division was called for. The Committee then divided as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. O. T. ALLDER, Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Mr. D. D. GARNER, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. H. A. DOWDING, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. F. E. C. BETHELL, Mr. J. H. WILKINSON, Mr. L. E. R. GILL and Mr. W. W. REECE—(10).

Noes: Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. R. G. MAPP, Mr. T. O. BRYAN, Mr. M. E. COX, and Mr. G. H. ADAMS—(7).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I now declare the *Ayes* have it.

Mr. ADAMS: In view of that vote it is useless carrying on. Every other section dealing with the point about the license depends on Section 5 and 6. The Committee will therefore have to report progress and ask for leave to sit again. I now formally make that motion.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The Committee on the declaration of the Chairman that the *Ayes* have it reported progress and asked for leave to sit again.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking the leave of the House to withdraw notice of the resolution which I gave earlier in the day. When it was put into my hands I did not notice that it referred to a matter which was not yet ready for consideration. The resolution is for \$800.00.

There being no objection leave to withdraw notice of the resolution was given.

Mr. Adams withdrew notice of the Resolution.

ADDRESS RE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,— there has been on the Order Paper for sometime Message No. 6 from His Excellency the Governor in connection with a representative from the Legislature to the Festival of Britain. I understand that Barbados is the only colony which has not replied, and we are being pressed for an answer. I am craving the indulgence of the House for a few minutes to deal with the reply to the Message.

I beg therefore to move the passing of the following Address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to His Excellency's message No. 6 of 1951:—

The House Of Assembly To His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 6/1951 relating to an invitation by His Majesty's Government for two members of the Legislature to attend the Festival of Britain.

The House of Assembly beg to nominate Mr. G. H. Adams as their representative to attend the said Festival.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The Address was passed on a division as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. L. E. SMITH, O. T. ALLDER, F. E. MILLER, T. O. BRYAN, M. E. COX, Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, E. D. MOTTLEY, J. E. T. BRANCKER, D. D. GARNER, H. A. DOWDING, F. E. C. BETHELL, F. C. GODDARD, F. L. WALCOTT and W. W. REECE—(15).

Noes: Messrs. J. H. WILKINSON and L. E. R. GILL—(2).

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the Hon'ble Senior Member for St. Thomas to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,— I realise that hon'ble members are anxious to have a long vacation. I can assure hon'ble members that that is coming soon. But we are anxious to get the Water Bill through, and we are asking hon'ble members to come here on Tuesday next to do that. I cannot say that I will make a definite promise but the question of prorogation may be raised. We hope to have on Tuesday next something along the lines that hon'ble members have been asking for. I move the adjournment of the House until Tuesday next at 3 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that. If hon'ble members will look at the Order Paper they will see that Government has to pass money resolutions which if not passed will make it difficult to carry on the Government.

The motion that the House adjourn until Tuesday next was put and passed *nem. con.*

The House was accordingly adjourned until Tuesday, April 10, 1951, at 3 p.m.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950--51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th April, 1951.

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

Present:

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings which were held on the 21st and 29th 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. Joseph for the year, 1950.

PAPER LAID

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

“The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1951.”

NOTICES

A Government notice was given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled “The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order 1951” made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat. Mr. MOTTLEY gave notice of the following Address.—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

WHEREAS this Honourable House of Assembly is disturbed by the persistent rumours of contemplated Cuba-United Kingdom and Canada-Cuba reciprocal trade pacts which might result in a reduction of the preferential markets, especially sugar, in the United Kingdom and Canada.

BE IT RESOLVED that this House requests the Government to enter a strong protest against the conclusion of a United Kingdom-Cuba pact without prior consultation and agreement with the British West Indies Sugar Association (Inc). and the British West Indian Governments.

Mr. MILLER entered the House and took his seat.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Before the Orders of the Day are called, I am asking leave to move for the suspension of Rule 60.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO VARY THE SCHEDULE TO THE LOCAL LOAN ACT, 1941.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that order No. 5 be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Local Loan Act, 1941, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised on Housing projects.

Mr. ADAMS: As hon. members will remember, in the course of the Budget Speech it was intimated that among the Government provisions in their Estimates of revenue and expenditure, outstanding loan balances would be used in the way suggested in this Order and in the next two Orders Nos. 6 and 7 on the

Order Paper. To deal with this Order No. 5, the Local Loan Act, 1941, provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to raise by the issue of debentures under the provisions of the General Local Loan Act, 1933, a sum not exceeding \$720,000 at such times and in such sums as the Governor-in-Executive Committee may decide for the purpose of meeting the cost of the various works and for the purposes described in the Schedule to the Act, and for such other works and purposes as the Legislature may from time to time add to the Schedule. It is also provided by the Act that the Legislature may from time to time vary the said Schedule or any item therein, or may delete any one or more of the items therein and substitute therefor another or others or may introduce into the said Schedule any new item or items. It is therefore intended by this Resolution that there should be enacted a change in the Schedule by adding the sum of \$24,000 which is unexpended balance under the Local Loan Act, 1941, remaining at the end of March, 1951, so that this sum of money can be expended on housing projects. This is a simple matter; the House by its failure to criticize this suggestion of the Government during the consideration of the Estimates, has at least tacitly approved of this money being spent in this way. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. WARD entered the House and took his seat.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to postpone Orders Nos. 1 to 4 on the Order Paper.

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

RESOLUTION TO VARY THE SCHEDULE TO THE EDUCATION LOAN ACT, 1935.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Education Loan Act, 1935, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised for the provision of additional accommodation at the St. Leonard's Boys' School.

Mr. ADAMS: This Resolution is similar to the one which we have just passed, except that it refers to the Education Loan Act, 1935. If hon. members will refer to the Statutes they will see what provision has been made. A number of things were set out in the Schedule. The Education Loan Act, 1935, provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to raise by the issue of debentures under the provisions of the General Local Loan Act, 1933, a sum not exceeding four hundred and fifty-one thousand, two hundred dollars at such times and in such sums as the Governor-in-Executive Committee may decide for the purpose of meeting the cost of the various works and for the purposes described in the Schedule to this Act and for such other works and purposes as the Governor-in-Executive Committee, with the approval of the Legislature, may from time to time add to the said Schedule. The Schedule to the Education Loan Act runs into several pages and practically every elementary school is included. There is an unexpended balance at the end of March, 1951, of \$11,971.82; it is provided

that the sum of \$17,280 should be spent on St. Leonard's Boys' School and we are now varying that by altering the total shown under that item from \$17,280 to \$29,251.82. The unexpended balance of \$11,971.82 is now altogether to be expended on the St. Leonard's Boys' School; that is the purpose of this Resolution. The addendum to the Resolution says:

"This Resolution seeks the approval of the Legislature for varying the Schedule to the Education Loan Act, 1935, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised for the provision of additional accommodation at the St. Leonard's Boys' School."

The object of this Resolution is to amend the Schedule to the Education Loan Act, 1935, by adding the unexpended balance to the \$17,280 which was originally provided to be spent on the St. Leonard's Boys' School. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO VARY THE SCHEDULE TO THE PUBLIC LOAN ACT, 1928.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Public Loan Act, 1928, to enable the unexpended balance at the 31st of March, 1951, of the loan raised under the authority of this Act to be utilised on Housing projects.

Mr. ADAMS: This is a similar Resolution to those which have just been passed. There is a small sum left over from the Public Loan Act, 1928. That Act was for the purpose of raising the sum of \$1,080,000 in respect of a variety of things including the extension of the water supply of the island, the purchase of a site at the Belle, provision of a room at the Central Police Station for ammunition, female ward at the Lazaretto, and so on. A small sum of \$851.23 is left and it is proposed, as in the case of the other balances, to put it to something which we think is more useful. It is also proposed to use this small balance on housing projects. The sum of \$851.23 will not go very far where housing is concerned, but whatever you can add to housing it is good to add it. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. BETHELL entered the House and took his seat.

THE WATERWORKS (FURTHER APPLICATION OF SURPLUS FUNDS) BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the expenditure of such sums of money as remain unspent out of the amount of one million twelve thousand, three hundred and twenty dollars raised by way of loan under the Waterworks Loan Act 1935, and the Waterworks Loan Act, 1941, for the improvement and extension of the water supply and the completion of other works connected therewith.

Mr. ADAMS: Honourable members will see that although this item is in the form of a Bill, in effect it is the same thing as the Resolutions which have just been passed dealing with unexpended balances from loans. In this case there is an unexpended balance of \$93,076. The Waterworks Loan Act, 1935, and the Waterworks Loan Act, 1941, set out specifically in the Schedules on what items the loans are to be expended. The Government has decided, as appears in the Preamble to this Bill, that this unexpended balance should be used to carry out other work for the further improvement and extension of the water supply. If honourable members look up these two Acts they will see under the Act, 1935-10, a long list of items to be dealt with in the several parishes; they range from the purchase of land at Brittons Hill and building a reservoir to providing 450 yards of 3-inch main at Stewarts Hill and erecting a standpipe in the parish of St. John and doing other things in that distinguished parish. There were 165 items and every specific item had a specific sum of money allotted to it. The provisions of that Act can only be varied by introducing a Bill setting out that the unexpended balance in respect of the specific items set out in the Schedule should be used for the further extension and improvement of the water supply. This Bill authorises the expending of the \$93,076 which has remained unexpended from the sum of \$746,400 raised by way of loan under the 1935 Act, and from the sum of \$169,920 raised by way of loan under the 1941 Act. According to Clause 2 of this Bill, that balance is to be applied for the purpose of meeting the cost of various works and for the purposes described in the Schedule to the Bill, and for such other works and purposes as the Governor-in-Executive Committee, with the approval of the Legislature, may, from time to time, determine. This balance will be used for assisting in carrying out some of the schemes which are now being carried out, but which have not yet been completed. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

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

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed, Clause I, the title Clause, was read and passed. Clause 2 was read.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill, I think I should correct what will prove to be a mistake. When the Waterworks Department drew the matter to the attention of the Government, the unexpended balance was \$93,076, but it was also drawn to the Government's attention that possibly \$18,000 would be expended in carrying out more work; so that it is just possible that the \$93,076 might have been reduced to \$75,076. In any event, whatever sum remains unspent is to be spent now. A Schedule was not sent down with this Bill because we had to ask for figures as to the standpipes which are needed, and we found it difficult to decide what priorities to give in respect of these standpipes. If it had been possible, hon. members would have been told specifically on what items this money is being spent. I have now discovered that there is a Schedule to the Bill, and it says: "Provision of additional Mains and Standpipes—\$75,076". I had to make that explanation; the sum which the Waterworks Department said they would expend by

the end of March, 1951, was \$18,000. I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The Schedule was read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Mr. MAPP entered the House and took his seat.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the consideration of the amendments of the Honourable Legislative Council to the Bill to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, 1908.

Mr. ADAMS: If honourable members have had time to appreciate the amendments made by the Other Place to this Bill, I will deal with them now. The amendments are verbal and they set out carefully that anything affecting Vestry rates shall also be liable to investigation by a Commission of Enquiry. Section 2 of the Bill as passed by the House reads as follows:—

"Section two of the Commissions of Enquiry Act, 1908, is hereby amended by deleting the words from "to enquire" occurring in line five thereof to "local institution" occurring in line ten thereof and substituting therefor the following words:—

"to enquire into the conduct of any officer in the public service of the Island, the conduct or management of any department of the public service or of any public or local institution", and then this comprehensive phrase was added: "or into any matter in which an enquiry would, in the opinion of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, be in the public interest."

The Other Place considered that the last portion of that sentence was too wide and they have amended it by using these words:—

"To enquire into the conduct of any officer in the public service of the Island, the conduct and management of any department of the public service, the conduct and management of any parochial or local government body, and the conduct and management of any public or local institution or body which is in receipt of or entrusted with public funds whether provided by the Treasury or otherwise, by any vestry of the Island or from Imperial funds, and into which an enquiry in the opinion of the Governor-in-Executive Committee would be for the public welfare."

I do not know if the use of the words "or body" occurring after the words "local institution" means a public or private body or either. In short, the Other Place have used a qualifying phrase; the phrase "and into which an enquiry in the opinion of the Governor-in-Executive Committee would be for the public welfare" qualifies the investigations which may be made; whereas as the Bill left the House, it was intended that whether it was a public local body or any private body, if it was considered that an enquiry should be held, that enquiry would be held. By adding that phrase, the Other Place have covered bodies which may be using local funds

and bodies which may be using Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, Labour Welfare Funds, and so on. The spirit of the Bill as it left this Place has not really been changed. The Other Place have attempted to make more specific the funds which would be used by public, parochial or other bodies, and have given the right to the Executive Committee to hold an enquiry in case the conduct of the management of any of these bodies may be questioned. These amendments may be accepted; the language of the Section is changed, but the object to be attained has not been changed. I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914.

Mr. ADAMS: As honourable members will see from the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill that the Bill is for the purpose of amending the original Act in order to provide for the addition of a stenographer-typist to the staff of the Bank. Clause 5 of the Act provides that the staff of the Bank shall consist of the following officers to be appointed by the Governor:—

Manager
Accountant
Two Cashiers
Five Clerks

The work of the Bank has increased considerably and it was thought necessary that an additional stenographer-typist should be appointed to the staff. This Bill also seeks to give effect to the proposal of the Re-organisation Committee that the office of "Principal Clerk & Accountant" be replaced by that of "Accountant" so as to bring it into line with its counterpart in the Civil Establishment. Clause 5 of the original Act is to be amended, and as honourable members will see from the second paragraph of the "Objects and Reasons", this Clause has already been amended on numerous occasions, and the opportunity has been taken in the drafting to substitute an entirely new Sub-clause embodying all the previous amendments rather than make a further amendment. Hon. members will see what is proposed to be done by Clause 2 of this Bill. Originally there was no stenographer-typist then one was appointed, and now there is the necessity for appointing another one. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

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

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

Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2. Section five of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (1) by deleting subsection (1) thereof and substituting therefor the following subsection—

"(1) (a) The staff of the Bank shall consist of the following officers to be appointed by the Governor:—

Manager
Accountant
Nine Clerks
Stenographer Typists;

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection, the Governor, on the recommendation of the Directors of the Bank, may from time to time appoint such additional clerks not exceeding two in number as he shall consider necessary."

- (2) by substituting a comma for the full stop in subsection (2) and adding the following words thereto "and the salary of the Accountant shall be at the rate of \$1,728 rising by annual increments of \$72 to \$2,160 then by annual increments of \$96 to \$3,024 and then by annual increments of \$144 to \$3,456 per annum."

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I did not read this Bill until 2.30 o'clock this afternoon and I did not have time to compare the salaries as set out in Sub-clause (2); however, I presume that these are the salaries which have always been provided. I ask the hon. member to tell me if any change has been made.

Mr. ADAMS: The present Accountants in the Civil Establishment receive salaries of \$1,728 rising to \$3,456 per annum, and it is proposed that the Accountant at the Savings Bank should be placed in the same category. That salary is what is being paid Accountants under the re-organisation. The Re-organisation Committee proposed that there should be on the staff of the Bank, an Accountant, and the addition of two Senior Clerks and one Stenographer-Typist. The original posts which have been abolished are: Principal Clerk and Accountant, the salary of which was \$2,880—\$3,456, and Clerk, the salary of which was \$480—\$2,160.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of an additional gratuity and pension to James Daniel.

Mr. ADAMS: As honourable members will see from the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill, James Daniel used to work with the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St Michael for a period of 14 years. Mr. Speaker, in view of some information which I have just received, I am asking leave to postpone the consideration of this Order.

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

THE ROCK PENSION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of a gratuity and pension to Charles Bransway Adolphus Rock.

Mr. ADAMS: Honourable members know all about this Bill already. Mr. Charlie Rock, as he is familiarly known, the Official Reporter of the Legislative Council, has unfortunately had to resign his office on account of continued illness. The Government has agreed that he should be given a gratuity and reduced pension in the usual way, and we are informed that that will work out at the sum of \$1,074 as gratuity and \$322.20 per annum as pension. This Bill seeks to make provision for the payment of that gratuity and pension to Mr. Rock. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

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

The three Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ADDRESS RE CONCLUSION OF A UNITED KINGDOM—CUBA TRADE PACT

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to proceed with the Address of which I gave notice earlier today.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

WHEREAS this Honourable House of Assembly is disturbed by the persistent rumours of contemplated Cuba-United Kingdom and Canada-Cuba reciprocal trade pacts which might result in a reduction of the preferential markets, especially sugar, in the United Kingdom and Canada,

BE IT RESOLVED that this House requests the Government to enter a strong protest against the conclusion of a United Kingdom-Cuba pact without prior consultation and agreement with the British West Indies Sugar Association (Inc.) and the British West Indian Governments.

Copies of this Address have been circulated among honourable members, and, as usual, if there is any hon. member who wants to offer any amendment to the phraseology of the Address so as to make it stronger, I am willing to accept the amend-

ment. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saying this: in dealing with an Address of this sort, I believe that hon. members will restrain themselves from using any very strong language. On a previous occasion I have taken the opportunity from the floor of this House to ask the Government to support the action of British West Indies Sugar Association with which we were then negotiating: I said then, and I still feel so now, that if the present Leader of the House, with his influence and the respect which he holds at the Colonial Office, were to add his support to an Address of this nature, much good would result. Honourable members will observe that in Trinidad, Jamaica and several other West Indian Colonies where this rumour—well it is not a rumour now—where the publication of this proposed pact has been made, it has caused the various Governments to sit up and get going. As I read that publication I was mindful of what was said to me a few weeks ago when I visited Trinidad: the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce in that colony said that Barbados was standing in the way of federation. I suppose that, not knowing to what Party I belong, he associated me then with the present Government by saying that they were favourable to federation. I would like to say that the more I read and re-read of the negotiations which are apparently going on, the more I come to the conclusion that in matters of this sort, if West Indians must survive as a nation, they must present a united front. No voice of Jamaica, Trinidad or Barbados alone will ever carry as much weight in a matter of this sort as the voices of the West Indian Colonies as a whole, for indeed sugar is the life blood of these colonies. All thinking people whether they are labourers, planters, civil servants or peasants, must view this matter rather gravely, because with all we have been doing within recent years, with all our social progress which has been made within recent years, negotiations which I have referred to, must affect the standard of living of the people of these colonies. If sugar negotiations must affect colonies like Trinidad and Jamaica where the sugar industry is not the prime industry, they must affect Barbados more so because we have only the sugar industry to depend upon; and honourable members must appreciate that we are more concerned with such negotiations which will throw us in the open market where our sugar is concerned, than Trinidad Jamaica, British Guiana or any other sugar-producing colony in the West Indies. Personally, my reason for moving the passing of this Address is because the British Government is apparently more concerned today with the various West Indian Governments or forms of Government than it is concerned with the economic status of the inhabitants of this island. I feel that the voices of the various Governments will carry some weight; it is not yet possible to pass one Address in a federated Chamber in the West Indies to deal with this matter, and therefore it is evident that when anything of this nature affects Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados or any other West Indian colony, we in Barbados should pass an Address the principle of which should be as near as possible to what other colonies have passed. In other words, if this Address is passed, we are asking the Government of this colony to do what the Governments of Trinidad and other colonies have been asked to do. I do not take the credit for drafting this Address in the way in which it has been drafted: honourable members must realise the force with which this Address has been put and the wording has been copied from Addresses passed in other colonies asking their Governments to protest against the conclusion of this pact. This is a matter with which we must

deal as calmly as we possibly can. The facts are that prior to World War I, the West Indies were forced to sell their sugar at world market prices plus preference. Prices were low with a consequent low standard of living in the colonies. With the outbreak of the War when there would have been a scarcity of sugar and, as a consequence, world prices would have risen, the price of sugar was pegged; but the prices of those commodities which the colonies purchased remained unpegged. Between the two World Wars the British West Indies were again forced to sell their sugar at world prices, and in consequence there was a low standard of living. With the outbreak of the second World War when prices would have risen, we were again under control.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am trying my best to hear the hon. member who is debating, but it is difficult to do so because other hon. members are also debating.

Mr. MORTLEY: I was saying that when World War II was declared, the price of sugar would have risen, and we were controlled. I digress here to say that we did not object to that; it was part of our duty to make some contribution to the War effort, and indeed we in Barbados were proud to be able to make that contribution. Do not let it be felt that I am making a criticism and saying that we had no right to make that contribution during War II; we were proud of being able to make that contribution so as to enable the British Government to regain the position which she now occupies. To get back to what I was saying, at the outbreak of the second World War, we were again under control when prices would have risen. On this occasion His Majesty's Government undertook to purchase our sugar at prices to be negotiated, but which in effect were fixed by the Ministry of Food. This agreement was renewed in 1946 to extend to 1949, and it was again renewed in 1948 to extend to 1952. We have debated in this House the whole question as regards sugar, the question of the standard of living and what it would mean to us if we were thrown into the open market. In 1949 the British West Indies Sugar Association having reason to believe that after 1952 we would be again thrown on the world market, pressed for a long-term agreement. They considered it unfair that in the days of plenty they should have to sell their sugar at world market prices, but in the days of scarcity they should be forced to forego world prices and accept a controlled price in the interest of the British consumer. There was the consideration that it was the first duty of the various Governments in the West Indies to raise the standard of the West Indian people. The long-term agreement finally negotiated was that the British West Indies should produce 900,000 tons of sugar; that was the limit, the present exports being between 750,000 and 775,000 tons. There was also the condition that up to 1952 His Majesty's Government would purchase all our exports of sugar—a portion of which the British Government re-exports to Canada at a profit—but from 1953 to 1957, that period was subsequently extended to 1958, they could guarantee us a market for only 670,000 tons at reasonably remunerative prices, the remaining 230,000 tons to be sold at world prices.

The only sugar preference markets which we have at our disposal are the United Kingdom and the Canadian markets, and it can be well understood how shocked the Colonial and Dominion sugar producers and members of the West Indian Governments were to hear or read, because there must be some people who have more information than I have or than those who only read from newspapers have, that the United Kingdom was negotiating sugar pacts with Cuba, and that in consequence of the difficulties which

Canada has experienced in her export trade to the West Indies, the Canadian Government was also carrying on negotiations with Cuba. An Address of this nature might be dry and boring, but I want to tell hon. members here and now that whatever increases you have offered to your civil servants, whatever social reforms you have embarked upon and whatever bonuses or increases you have got for agricultural labourers, I can foresee that, unless a strong protest is made, unless a united front is presented to the British Government and some guarantee is given to us in respect of our sugar after 1952, there will have to be some retrenchment carried out. I hate to sound that note; every Labour or Socialist member who takes his politics seriously must realise that whatever promises you make to people, you make them on the basis of getting a good sugar crop and a proper remunerative price for your sugar. Needless to say, both the Dominion sugar producers and the British West Indies Sugar Association have already vigorously protested against the conclusion of any long-term agreement with Cuba, which would be prejudicial to our interests in this matter. From the latest information which I have been able to glean, the Government of Australia has given strong support to the protests of Australian sugar producers and other Governments in the West Indies have also supported the action of the British West Indies Sugar Association. Hon. members will recall that when representatives of the British West Indies Sugar Association were in England and negotiations were made with the Australian delegates and they went back home, we were tempted to ask where we stood; on this occasion, however, the Australian sugar producers have registered their protest. This Address seeks to obtain the support of the Legislature of Barbados in the protests lodged by the sugar producers.

I am going to say something which I do not believe it is necessary to say on this occasion; when I spoke on a similar Address on a former occasion, the hon. senior member for St. Peter told hon. members of this House that they should be careful how they vote for an Address of this sort. There are still some people who think that they can offer themselves as members of this House not realising their responsibility or knowing or caring that all progress, social or otherwise, depends upon sugar; and as I have said here on several occasions, we should negotiate for a good price for sugar and bring money into this colony. When the money is here, then let the Union make negotiations for the workers and all who are interested in the industry. If hon. members merely get up in this House to say that I am moving the passing of an Address with a view of helping planters or merchants or negotiations with the British West Indies Sugar Association, I would smile and say to the narrow-minded; imagine our getting money from the British Government to pay for labour without first getting a good price for our sugar! If we can get a good price for our sugar, then we will have done a good job. Every legislator in this colony must realise the serious consequences which must ensue if the United Kingdom—Cuba pact is finally negotiated, and I have no hesitation in saying that none of us will fail to give our support to the British West Indies Sugar Association in the fight for justice in this matter.

There is just one final observation which I would like to make. We have been reading of conditions in the neighbouring colonies; we have read where the infiltration of Communism is apparently making some headway in other colonies, and we shall endeavour to stave off Communism with all our might. We, in this colony, shall ever be loyal to the British Government; but I throw out the warning that the

greatest breeding ground for Communism is dire poverty. Communism will make no headway where a Government is mindful of the social conditions of the people. However well meaning the Government of any West Indian colony might be, it must get a remunerative price for sugar so that an increase can be passed on to the workers in the industry. This is a matter which needs the support of every West Indian colony; I say that even if we disagree on certain internal points, on a matter of getting a price for the only product which we have to offer—sugar—we should close our ranks; there must not be any infiltration. I sit down by saying that if it becomes necessary to have a West Indian Conference on this matter—if West Indian delegates are appointed—I hope that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph will be able to present the case for Barbados at that Conference. I have much pleasure in moving that this Address do now pass.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Address. The House of Assembly of Barbados has been known to be the mouthpiece for the West Indies in matters of this sort; we used to lead other colonies in passing Addresses of this sort we found that the British Government was not giving these colonies a square deal. However, Jamaica and Trinidad have taken the lead in this matter and I am glad to see that they are assisting us in the protest which we have always had to fight alone. I should like to say that in the case of the West Indies Cricket team, we were united and we won; similarly we were united at the last sugar talks and we won. It was with dismay that the British West Indian Colonies learned that talks between the British Government and Cuba on the one hand and between Canada and Cuba on the other hand, were going on with a view to their buying the large amount of one and a half million tons of Cuban sugar over a period of three years. We cannot prevent any Government from making trade deals, but we can protest when we feel that those deals will interfere with our interests. Cuba sells her sugar mainly to America; she enjoys a very good preferential treatment there, based on some definite understanding of, and relationship to the cost of living and the goods which she buys from America. Cuba has a well-established industry and she can very well take care of herself; on the other hand over a long period of years, we, in these colonies have had struggles and we have had days of depression. Prior to the first World War everyone knows that we got a low price for our only commodity; the War came along and the price of sugar was controlled below market prices. Then we were thrown on world market prices until 1939 when the second World War began. In days of crisis when there were shortages of commodities, prices rose and we were again controlled, and, as the hon. senior member for the City has said, we felt that we should contribute to the War effort. However, at the conclusion of the second World War we had hoped that the British Government would have given us a reasonable price for our sugar having regard to our contribution to the War effort. I foresee that at the end of 1952 when the present arrangement with the British Government has expired, we might again be thrown on the world market and be again in a very depressed state. If Trinidad with her other industries such as oil, cocoa and so on, and Jamaica with her fruit and other industries can be so concerned about the price of sugar, what about humble Barbados, the inhabitants of which are entirely dependent upon the price of sugar for a reasonable standard of living? I cannot see any hon. member of this House speaking in any tone different from that in which the hon. senior member for the City and myself have spoken

this afternoon. We cannot be too critical of the negotiations which are taking place because we do not know how far they are going; but we are protesting today so as to let it be known in England that we will not stand idly by and see our interests being dissipated. We will not be satisfied to know that the United Kingdom has negotiated a pact with Cuba, which will affect the interests of these colonies. We cannot sell our sugar in any other market and it is unfortunate that owing to the strain of trade relations between Canada and these colonies, Canada has seen fit to negotiate a sugar agreement with Cuba. We view this matters with alarm and I hope that when this protest is made, it will bear fruit, and we will be assured that this deal with Cuba will not affect the economics of these colonies.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: As Your Honour pleases.

THE DANIEL PENSION BILL, 1951

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 11, the consideration of which was postponed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of an additional gratuity and pension to James Daniel.

Mr. ADAMS: As hon. members will see from the "Objects and Reasons," James Daniel was employed in the service of the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. Michael from 1912 until 1926. In 1926 he was employed by the Central Road Board and then by the Department of Highways and Transport which came into operation in 1945. He remained in the employ of the Department until his retirement in 1949. It was drawn to my attention that apparently Daniel was employed by Messrs D. M. Simpson & Co., and not by the Highway Commissioners. Investigation has proved that Daniel was appointed by the Board as a sort of assistant and was paid a few shillings a week and then as a roller driver. This Bill follows the well-founded precedent that where people have given public services which are not pensionable, the period of time when they were in effect working for the community should be taken into consideration. As usual, these figures which are set out in the Bill have been computed by the Auditor General. I beg to move that this Bill be now read for a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put, in view of the principle which has just been enunciated by the hon. introducer of this Bill, I should like him to inquire into the case of George Chase who used to be a mason foreman at the public Hospital for over 21 years. (A MEMBER: The Hospital was a private institution). It has since been taken over by the Government, but, in any case, I should be surprised to learn that after having given 21 years' service at the Hospital working permanently every day of the week, this man was not given any gratuity or pension. Chase retired in 1949 and applied for a pension later that year, but up to now he has not received either a pension or gratuity. A year or two previous to his retirement, Chase was informed by the Hospital Board that as a foreman, he would be entitled to two weeks' holiday with pay, and although they could not put him on the Government list so to

speak, they would endeavour to see that he got a pension when he retired. Chase has retired, he has made his application but has not heard anything about it. I have mentioned the matter in passing so that it might well be considered by the appropriate authorities in case that their attention has not, so far, been drawn to the particular case.

Mr. ADAMS: We have previously passed a Bill of this sort in which the Legislature approved of the grant of a pension to a person for services which were not pensionable by law but which became pensionable as soon as we passed a special Act to cover the case. Where a man was a supernumerary in the Fire Brigade and switched over to the Police Force and became eligible for a pension, in a case of that sort, his period of service as a supernumerary in the Fire Brigade is taken into account; but there is, a vastly different principle where a man is employed by a private body and then comes over to the Government. When any case comes before the Government in which it may be necessary to extend the principle I have just mentioned to persons who were not employed by the Central Government—whenever the occasion arises the Government will doubtless give careful consideration to the question as to whether the principle should be extended or not.

Mr. DOWDING entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am supporting the argument of the hon. junior member for St. Philip that after a man has worked at the Hospital for 21 years he should be given a pension. I associate myself with the hon. member in asking the Leader of the House to give favourable consideration to the application of this man for a pension, even although it may be considered that the Hospital was an institution which got a grant-in-aid from the Government. The Elementary Schools also get a grant-in-aid from the Government and the teachers get their pension.

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

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

The three Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

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

On resumption,

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to deal with Item No. 52 on the Order Paper—to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to itinerant pedlars. I am asking leave that it be taken as the next Order.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

ADDRESS RE ITINERANT PEDLARS

Mr. ALLDER: I beg to move the passing of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly To His Excellency the Governor

WHEREAS itinerant pedlars for some time have been hawking merchandise about this Island in motor cars, charging exorbitant prices for their goods and succeeding in disposing of them by offering credit on easy terms, and

WHEREAS, such practices offer unlimited competition to the small traders of Bridgetown, who, have to employ assistants, and pay Trade and Income Tax,

The House of Assembly feel that unless a check is put to the unfair trading of these itinerant traders many small traders might be forced to close their business and consequently, have to lay off employees further that much Revenue from this source is sent out of the colony annually.

The House of Assembly therefore respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation for the setting up of a Committee to enquire into the matter and make recommendations to protect the small traders of Bridgetown and the poorer classes from unfair trading of this nature.

Mr. Speaker, other honourable members of this House I dare say have noticed this growing tendency especially in recent times. There were many years ago a few traders from India, and more recently Jews from other parts of Europe who have come to this island as traders, and as such have adopted the practice of buying merchandise from stores in Bridgetown and taking them to the country areas where they dispose of them on a credit basis to workers. The evil did not show itself to the extent that it has recently. What has been drawn to the attention of the public is that the numbers have been increasing weekly. I mean the numbers of these people who seem to feel that it is a lucrative practice to take part in this kind of illicit trade.

I have been approached by several of these same traders, as well as to other persons who have credited things from them. These traders have reached a stage of exploitation, and as a result the cost of living has been carried up by a higher degree than it has been in the past. This exploitation to which I have referred has caused the cost of living to reach such a proportion that unless some step is taken to stop it the economic problems which we already have will certainly develop further.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to what has been happening recently following the influx of these traders to this colony. I have been told here that some time ago the Grenada Legislature took steps to curtail their activities, and some of them have had to leave that colony. They have now found their way here.

I want to say at this point that there is a necessity for greater control in the Immigration Regulations. I had hoped that since it was taken from the hands of the Harbour and Shipping Master and given to the Police Department that a greater control would have been exercised. But instead of that I have been notified that even during last week about 19 new pedlars have entered the colony for the carrying on of the trade which this address makes mention of. Besides that, I was told that 60 entered a couple of months ago.

One can easily see how great this problem will become if these pedlars are allowed to come here in such large numbers. I have been told that they go into Bridgetown and purchase their merchandise from the stores—such merchandise as Tweeds etc., which cost around three dollars and some cents a yard. The practise is that they take it to the country districts and approach workers who are always eager to have

such privileges. They tell the workers that they are passengers passing through the colony and that they have brought this merchandise with them, and that they are in straitened circumstances and that they have to dispose of their merchandise as cheaply as possible.

Others pretend to be stranded sailors who have got hold of some contraband stuff that they have to dispose of as quickly as possible before they are caught. We all know the type of buyer who likes to feel that a seller is in straitened circumstances and that therefore he (the buyer) can get an article at the cheapest possible rate. But it does not always turn out as intended, and on many occasions the buyers find that after paying \$30.00 for a suit length of three and a quarter yards, when he comes to town he finds that the cloth is much cheaper than he has been asked to pay for it when he took it from the pedlar.

That is a very bad practice, because although they agree to collect the amount in weekly instalments, many of the workers find it difficult to remove the debt after several months. They find it difficult to pay the debt, and as such they continue to be in debt, and that is less than they can save out of their earnings for the purpose of providing the necessary amenities for their families. It has even grown worse by the fact that even cash money is loaned to them.

I have been told that these pedlars are willing to lend them say, \$10.00, and then the person who makes the loan has to sign a paper to repay \$15.00. Sometimes the condition of the worker is such that he is often willing to sign for this \$15.00 which the trader is loaning to him. I feel sir, that this is a very bad practice, and it has reached a stage of usury. I think that the law is very stringent upon usury. We cannot allow such a practice to continue because inasmuch as if we do not stop it now that we have a very large crop, we will find that instead of the worker being able to save his earnings so that he can provide proper amenities for himself and his family, he has paid them out to persons who are only here for a couple of months for the purpose of reaping the benefits that such persons would get out of the industry of the island.

These traders come here during the crop time and put up at a boarding house at \$5.00 to \$6.00 a day. During the crop season they go around and dispose of their merchandise in the country districts. One of those same people who go around trading thus has told me that as soon as the crop is over they go over to some other colony and make their rounds anew.

Although it might sound difficult for the average pedlar to get rid of a large number of suits within a week, I am told that some weeks they can get rid of three dozen suits around the country districts, and they make as high as 300 per cent on the cost. One can realise the difficulty that these people are placed in.

I am told, Sir, that some of these traders come here with just a couple of dollars, only as much as would purchase the first quarter dozen suits. But after they have been here for a couple weeks they start to expand so rapidly, that they acquire a motor car—not that I am denying anyone the right to acquire a motor car. In addition, Sir, after being here for some months the trader goes back to India or wherever his family is and brings them over here too to join in this trade.

Besides overcharging, they are contributing to the acute housing situation which we have in this colony. Again, their mode of living does not compel them to offer employment to local people. In fact, sir, they do not really offer anything to the industrial and economic development of the community. They only carry on a parasitic kind of living, because of

which, every colony, Trinidad, Jamaica, British Guiana, and the last of which I have heard—Grenada—is doing all possible to control them.

I do not know, but we seem to have some method of perpetuating an international system of politics, by which nationals of every country that has shown friendliness to the British Empire are allowed to come here without prohibition. I feel that we in Barbados, as small as we are, cannot close our eyes to the problems that the unlimited influx these people are creating. Not only should we demand that they contribute something to the revenue of the colony by way of taxation, but we should also try to control their illicit practices.

I am told, sir, that they are hard to get by the Income Tax people. There might be several of them living in one house and not having a stable place of business in the sense that you can walk into this or that street and find it. I am told that some of them do not even pay trade tax. My suggestion is that if you do not want to stop them from coming here, the least that you can do is to control the prices at which they sell. I am told, sir, that in America there is a system of easy purchase, but the State sets up a percentage of profit beyond which the seller is not allowed to go.

Our Price Control Inspectors should be given instructions to keep a closer eye on these traders, because although it may be difficult for an inspector to catch up with a moving motor car, yet they would still have the feeling that the inspector is always behind them, and that he would catch up with them some day. I have just read a case in the "Advocate" where one of these inspectors happened to be present when a transaction was being carried on. He got hold of the material, and preferred a charge against the trader who was convicted. That is the first case of this kind of which the public has been able to hear, and I feel that that inspector should be commended.

Besides that, sir, I am told that in the early days the Jews used to come here in large numbers, and the method used was to get some money out of them by way of taxation. I am wondering whether some investigation could not be carried out whereby you could know every intended pedlar who comes into the colony and make him pay a deposit into the Treasury before he starts to carry on his business. That would be making sure that you do get something out to him.

Where the Parochial Tax is concerned, the situation is just as bad. As I said before, many of them live in one house. In addition to that, the assessor does not assess the house on its rental value, but on what he thinks the house is worth. So you can easily see that since the Occupancy Tax has been abolished, if the landlord does not care to pass on the amount of that tax to the occupier by way of more rent, these renting traders contribute nothing at all by way of parochial taxation.

I think that it is necessary for us to view the situation more seriously, inasmuch as some of the same traders have been approaching politicians asking them to curb the influx of even their own nationals on the ground that they are offering undue competition, not to mention Barbadians who have got to be provided for by legislation which we pass in this House. What is more, sir, when these traders go in large numbers to the country districts and credit the workers, the small merchant in Swan Street suffers as a result, because it is chiefly on these workers that the small merchant depends to do business. But it is the Swan Street merchant who has to employ our young men and women, and he has to pay Income Tax and Trade Tax and other overhead expenses. On many days I have seen the employees of these small merchants leaning over the counter with nothing to

do. So, if you do not control these itinerant vendors you will find a situation in which a lot of money is being spent by the workers but which does not find its way back to the right channels to be used for the employment of other people of the colony. But every three, six or twelve months certain sums of money are posted overseas to be banked in the names of those who are doing such illicit trade here.

I do hope that this House will take the situation seriously and that not only will members give their vote to the passing of this Address, but the Administration will be impressed with the necessity of taking action on the matter, and that in a short time we will see fewer of these traders entering the colony, and a fair deal being given to these unfortunate workers, many of whom can only depend on what money they earn during the three or four months of the Crop to provide the necessities which a normal family desires.

I am told and I have observed that many of these traders are from Lithuania, Poland, and Czechoslovakia some of whom, passing through the British Empire from time to time, have become naturalised citizens. Many of them are from India, Burma, etc. but they are definitely foreigners to us Barbadians. In my view even if they were West Indians and it was considered that they interfered with the economy of Barbados they should be controlled. But I am told that they are most foreigners, and that some of them are even Russians.

Not only are they coming in to trade, however, they have political designs on the colonies which they invade. I am told that they have various organisations and societies incorporated. So you can imagine what would happen in little Barbados if we continue to recognise them, and if they begin to increase their numbers as prolifically as they do in India and elsewhere. We know already of the problems which have arisen in British Guiana and Trinidad to such an extent that it is felt that in the next ten or twelve years they will take over control of the political set-up of those colonies, and the colonies themselves might be considered as territories of India or of some other nation instead of the British Empire. With all respect to the desire of the British Government to keep the various Commonwealth Nations together, I feel that Barbados is too small to pay the price of such mutual relationships.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to know that one of them in discussing the matter with me not many days ago told me this: "We not only want to be free to do trade here, but we want our community to be recognised." He gave as his reason that many of them were taking unto themselves Barbadian wives or girl friends, and were producing children. But when they marry, they marry according to the Hindu or Moslem custom and the British Law does not recognise such marriages. One of these traders can therefore marry a wife here or in Trinidad, and marry another in India and another where ever he goes without any obligation whatsoever.

All around the various districts where they live, sir, you can see these traders making friends with our girls and in some cases marrying them at the age of 15 or 16. They may live with them for a couple of years, and when the trader feels like going back to his native land he just takes up his baggage and goes. The children that he might have got from his Barbadian wife are left with her to depend on the resources of the colony.

I hope that if I have left out any point other hon'ble members will bring it up. I think we should take the lead towards controlling their activities. As I have said, sir, I hope that hon'ble members who

have been listening to the few points that I have raised will respond to them for the benefit of the colony and its population.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, I am prepared to second the motion for the passing of this Address, although in my opinion it emphasises too much the competition that is given to the small merchants by these hawkers. I am not much concerned with the fact that these itinerant traders are offering competition to the traders in Bridgetown whether large or small. As a matter of fact, if I could be sure that the prices at which they sold their goods were cheaper or more reasonable than those at which the same goods are sold in Bridgetown I would offer them any support, and would suggest that no one should interfere.

But I do know, sir, that they are actually exploiting the working classes of this colony, and I therefore hope that this matter will be given immediate and very serious attention on the part of the Government. At the moment we are suffering from a veritable invasion of these hawkers. The hon'ble member for St. John says that they are nationals of all countries, although from my own observation it does appear that the majority of them are Orientals—at least from the Near East. They are Syrians, Indians and a sprinkling of other Asiatics.

But I am not concerned with their nationality or with whether or not they are British subjects. What I am concerned with is that some control should be placed on their activities in so far as they are allowed indiscriminately to fleece the people to whom they sell goods. I have been told on authority that in many cases when the purchaser pays the initial instalment of roughly one third of the price which he is asked to pay for the particular article he has already paid the vendor the purchase price of the article and a handsome profit on it, while the remainder which he pays in small instalments is just additional profit. In other words, if he did not pay a single penny above the first payment, the vendor would have lost nothing, but would have been well paid for his goods and made a profit.

The truth is that the matter should receive greater attention on the part of the Control Authorities. More stringent measures should be taken to check up on the price at which these pedlars sell their goods. It will then be necessary for the Control Authorities, if they have not already done so, to fix a special price which will apply to traders of this sort.

With regard to the point sir, about their failure to contribute taxation, I have an idea that in one way a solution to the problem was found in some colonies by making them pay a very heavy license in order to get permission to peddle their goods. If such a license is imposed, and the price at which they sell is properly controlled, I do not think we would need have much fear about their activities, because an end would be put to the exploitation to which they are at present subjecting the unfortunate people in the country districts who patronise them.

It may be argued that people must be gullible to pay these exorbitant prices when they should know that the same articles are available in the city or in any one of the small country stores at a considerable reduction in price. But, I submit, it is easy to fool the average person in this colony with regards the values of cloth, whether those persons are male or female. In addition, the promise of easy credit has such a great attraction for people that even some of ordinarily good intelligence are taken in.

I do think, sir, that we owe it to the working classes of the country to give them more protection than they are presently being given in this matter.

It is true, sir, as the honourable senior member for St. John has said, that the influx of these traders is very much in evidence during the reaping season when they know that the working people have money. Then after they have properly fleeced them, they look for pastures new, taking their illegitimate gains outside the country.

As I have already said, if they were offering healthy competition to the traders in Bridgetown, helping the workers to get goods at a cheaper price than that at which they could be got in the city, I would not suggest that any steps should be taken to curb them. I can well imagine that the traders in Bridgetown, even the larger ones, are apprehensive about the activities of these traders, but as I said, I am much more concerned with the position from the point of view of the manner in which they fleece the more unfortunate sections of the population.

I repeat, sir, that the Control Board should exercise more control over the activities of the traders, and so improve the situation; also, the Government itself should fix a comparatively high license rate for permission to work as pedlars. We would thus be protected against this invasion by these unscrupulous people at a time when the earning capacity of the working classes is at its maximum.

I am sure that if a bigger staff of Price Control Inspectors is needed to deal with this that the Government will not grudge the money which will have to be spent, bearing in mind the benefits that will accrue to the people of this country.

I am not approaching the question from the point of view of preventing local people or enterprising foreigners from doing legitimate business, but I am strongly against any possibility of allowing people to come here, and because of loopholes in the law or because of other reasons, being able to rob the people of their hard earned wages. I do repeat, sir, that it is my sincere hope that this will be the last time that attention will have to be drawn in this Chamber to this matter, and that speedy action will be taken by the authorities to improve the situation.

The Clerk read the text of the Address.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I am sorry that the honourable junior member for St. Philip is not in his seat. In spite of the offensive and evil remarks that he has made in his newspaper recently, every one must see that it would be the height of absurdity for members of the Executive to sit here and pass an address to themselves. It is not that we agree or do not agree with any particular address. In the old days we could get up and say yes we agree to an address, because we would be simply saying before hand what we would say afterwards. But now that we are the judges of whether or not a certain policy should be adopted, a child could see that it would be the height of absurdity for us to take part in a vote.

At the same time, I must congratulate the honourable senior member for St. John, for the commonsense with which he has ended this address. He has ended it by asking that a committee be set up by the Government to inquire into the matter. If complaints are being made that some of these traders—chiefly Indians, but there may be others—are swindling people, and if complaints are being made that people are being charged extraordinarily usurious rates like five dollars on ten, the Law Courts are there.

I do feel at times that you could hear the honourable junior member for St. Philip feeling his way on what to say, and hesitating before calling Barbadians utter nitwits in order to prove his case. I am yet to find the average Barbadian who can be

easily fooled. The "average Barbadian" was the expression used by the honourable junior member for St. Philip. Well, he has been in the House for some time, and I do not know whether he has found that the masses in St. Philip are easily fooled. But as I was saying, to say that the average Barbadian can be easily fooled as to the quality of a piece of cloth is a matter of opinion.

I have been told that some of these Indians do these things to make up for their bad debts. Many an average Barbadian pays his first few instalments and then refuses to pay the balance. I have been told this, and one of the jobs of the committee which the honourable senior member for St. John is suggesting should be appointed, can be to inquire into the truth of this. I cannot believe that the people of this country have suddenly become some of the greatest idiots on earth.

The Jews came here and got a foot-hold. They established themselves well. But in spite of that they packed up like the Arabs and stole away, in many cases silently by night. If we were able to run out the Jews, why should we be afraid of East Indians? I do not believe that Barbadians have anything of which to be afraid. If British Guiana had the sense to invite 50,000 Barbadians down there, then the East Indians would soon cease to be a menace.

I do not believe that any Barbadian would allow himself to be tricked into buying cloth at a higher price than he could get it for in the city, except of course that he or she is attracted by the easy credit terms, nor do I believe that a Barbadian woman of any type is so foolish as not to know good cloth from bad. But nevertheless, these reports are worth investigating.

I must confess that it is a bit of a surprise to find the honourable senior member or St. John so reasonable today instead of using the sledge hammer accusing the Government of failing to do its duty. The hon'ble junior member for St. Philip gave the answer: it may be necessary to increase the number of Prices Inspectors. The remedy of course lies in the hands of the Vestries and the Controller of Prices. The remedy is in the hands of the Vestries from the point of view of taxation. That is not a matter for the Central Government.

The other remedy is that if they are breaking the law, put more inspectors behind them. I think myself, however, that clever as the Oriental is said to be, I have never met an Oriental as clever as an Englishman, nor an Englishman whom a Barbadian could not beat in cleverness. I do not think that it is beyond the average Barbadian to set a trap for the East Indian, borrow ten dollars for fifteen with a witness looking on and then go into the Law Courts and not have to pay back any at all. But as I have said, I do not believe that thousands of Barbadians have suddenly become so stupid as to be duped into buying at a high price cloth that they could get at a cheaper price. I believe the attraction is the credit facilities. Still the hon'ble member is right to bring it to the notice of the Government, and ask that a committee be set up to inquire into the matter. Had the Other Place not amended the Commission of Inquiry Act, such a Commission could be set up instead of a committee.

If a Commission was set up it could compel witnesses to give evidence. Look at what has happened where Rent Restriction is concerned. There was an outcry in the Island, and newspapers calling over and over again for Rent Restriction measures. We sent out investigators and asked people to give evidence. The report came back to the Government that there had been some increases in the cheaper types of houses, but the increases were not so great

as to merit a Rent Restriction Board. When it came to the small 2/- a week houses the increase was not so great as to justify the expenditure that would be incurred in investigating every rented house.

The Labour Commissioner asked people right and left to give us evidence and he is finding it one of the most difficult tasks on earth.

Look at what has happened about Age Grouping. A lot of noise was made about that by many people including the teachers. But the teachers met last Saturday and solemnly said "what we told the Government before is true. It is not age-grouping so much that is causing the trouble, but the lack of teachers and schools."

The hon'ble senior member for St. John has asked for a Committee to be set up and perhaps it would be a good thing for that to be done. But all I am saying is that after the Committee has been appointed the evidence may not be forthcoming. We set up a Price Committee, and the hon'ble senior member for Christ Church says we are swindling the wholesalers. I would like the hon'ble member to go down to St. Andrew and tell the people that we are swindling wholesalers out of large profits.

I will repeat: My opinion is that these buyers are attracted by the easy credit terms and the Indians do not force them. I have also had complaints from some of the Indians that people do not pay them and they have a lot of bad debts. If it is true that the initial payment of one third is sufficient to pay for the article, is not that also true of drug stores?

However, Mr. Chairman I want again to congratulate the hon'ble senior member for St. John on his reasonable request that a committee be set up to investigate the matter.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker,— I think I can lend a certain amount of weight and support to the hon'ble senior member for St. John, not necessarily in his address but in his arguments. I am wondering if the Police should not be notified to investigate this situation. I have never in my life before seen the type of person who is making the rounds of factory yards and the country districts as they are today. I have seen people of most of the nations of the world, but I have been unable, sir, to place this type of pedlar.

I do not believe that they have any license or right to be peddling cloth in this way. The way in which I look at it, it appears that these people are acquiring large amounts of this stuff from sources from which the ordinary person cannot acquire it, and that, first of all, causes the country to lose by way of custom dues. They then take this stuff out into the country districts.

Last Saturday, sir, I saw bales and bales of cloth and several men around it in my yard, and I actually had to dismiss them out of the yard. I do feel that the time has come when due notice should be taken of it. I hope that as the hon'ble senior member for St. Joseph has said, that some inquiry will be made. I do not think that the goods are *bona fide* in the majority of cases, and their sources of supply are far from *bona fide*.

I have some actual knowledge of what is going on, and it is urgent that the Government should make every effort to see that the people are not sold goods the most part of which is of bad quality and at high prices, so far as I can understand. I hope that the Police will be instructed to investigate the matter at an early opportunity.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,— I was not here when the hon'ble senior member for St. John spoke on the motion, but I need not say that I welcome the suggestion that the Government should take the necessary steps to inquire into the matters that are outlined

in this Address. I say that, although I cannot altogether subscribe to the entire wording of this Address and I intend to move certain amendments to it.

The matter, sir, is not as simple as the hon'ble senior member for St. Joseph has intimated. I believe he was speaking lightly. I agree that the Barbadian is not afraid of anyone, and that he is not afraid to make his way in the world when he can reasonably do so. But what all of us must be aware of is the fact that there is a big unemployment problem in this island, that people are returning from countries whence they emigrated in the past and competing for jobs here, and the situation is becoming worse, not improving.

I will not, however, open any discussion on that, but will limit my remarks to the terms of the Address. What we have to bear in mind is the fact that it is not a question of a woman not knowing inferior cloth or not knowing that she would not get it cheaper in Swan Street or Broad Street. It is a question of their being actually forced to come to terms with these traders because (1) they bring the stuff to them, and (2) they are offered terms that they might not get in Swan Street or Broad Street. I feel that the greatest factor is the fact that the goods are brought to their doors and they do not have to travel to purchase them.

I remember that a few months ago one of the smaller colonies, St. Kitts or Antigua had to take measures to control the activities of these pedlars. I am not in favour of the suggestion about unfair competition to the smaller trader in Bridgetown. But I certainly am in favour of seeing that these pedlars contribute something from their pockets to the economy of the island, and that they are prevented from fleecing poor people in the country.

The hon'ble senior member for St. Joseph mentioned something about Price Control Inspectors. I think that the suggestion which he should take back to the Government is that these inspectors should be given powers whereby they could take measures on the spot against such an evil. I understand that some time back one of these inspectors came upon one of these traders selling cloth at an exorbitant price. He attempted to seize the cloth. There was no one around and the cloth was forcibly taken from him. When he reported the matter to the police he was told that he would have to bring witnesses. Because he could not bring any witnesses no case was made against the pedlar. So it might be a good idea if the Price Inspectors were given more power than they now have.

I am going to move that the paragraph about competition to small traders be deleted. I am also going to move that paragraph 3 be amended by adding at the end of line 3 after the words "employees", the words "will take place" as well as the addition of the following paragraph to the Address: "The House further request Your Excellency to take steps to keep under strict control, the entry into this colony of those immigrants of the oriental type who usually indulge in this practice."

That motion may not be seconded, but I am putting forward my point of view for what it is worth. I feel very strongly on this question of keeping a strict control on the activities of these Syrians, Jews and other Orientals who indulge in these practices. I do not agree with everything that Hitler did in Germany when Germany was over-populated and was crying out for room. But he took measures to control the practices of Jews and other people like those who came into the country. I think that with Barbados already over-populated, and the war spirit abroad becoming stronger and stronger every day, in view of the problems that those conditions will

bring about I feel that we should take some drastic action in the matter of over-population.

The honourable senior member for St. John has approached the matter from the right point of view, asking that a committee be set up. This is no time to encourage people from abroad into this country.

Mr. SMITH : Mr. Speaker—I cannot agree with this Address. Speaking subject to correction, I do not think that this colony can stop people of other nationalities from doing trade here. It is largely people from the country districts that deal with these vendors, and that goes to show that they need help along the lines of easy terms. These people know as well as the honourable senior member for St. John that the itinerant vendors are charging prices that are too high. But it is better to pay a dollar on a suit length or a dress and have it to wear the next Sunday to a Service of Song than to be at home with 2s. and waiting for another shilling to make it up to go into town and lose a day, buy it and then come back home no wiser.

I understand, sir, that these vendors go into town and buy goods at the retail price, and that they then hire a motor car and go to the country driving miles and miles offering the goods for sale. They also meet up with a lot of bad debts. I can tell you what happens with some of these people. One of them may come to my home with goods, and while he is there another person comes up and makes a credit. He gives his name as Blackett, but he lives down Fryzers and not in the same village in which I live. The vendor does not know Blackett, and when he comes back next week to collect money and asks me if I have seen Blackett I say no. I do not blame the people for tricking them, but the people need help along the lines of easy credit. The honourable senior member for St. John should say what he would suggest putting in the place of this opportunity for easy buying that these vendors offer. Imagine that you can take a piece of cloth priced at eight, ten, twelve or fifteen dollars and pay for it at 25 cents a week. The people know that they are being robbed, but they cannot do any better.

I do not think that this Address will serve any useful purpose. You are only trying to prevent these people from getting a suit of clothes on easy terms. The vendors do not even always get the 25 cents a week according to arrangements. I am not going to sit here and try to stop people from doing business. The people to whom they give out goods have the remedy in their own hands—do not credit from them. If they credit from them it is because they need help. The people do not lose anything

over a period of years, because the material which they credited is worn out and gone by the time they have finished paying for it, if they ever complete the payments. If they do not pay and the vendor wants to have it collected he has to pay commission. It is not as easy as the honourable senior member for St. John thinks. I think that the customer makes the better profit.

Mr. ALLDER : Mr. Speaker, many points have been made by hon'ble members. The remarks made by the hon'ble junior member for St. Joseph only show that his politics are superficial. I take it that of all members he should know how the people in the country districts are being exploited. But to say that the people do not need to credit these goods if they do not want to is somewhat disparaging. I take it, however, that most hon'ble members do know of the plight in which the working class people find themselves as a result of the unreasonable methods of these itinerant vendors. I think that these practices should be controlled, and that is why I am asking the House to pass this Address. I want to say that I accept the slight amendment suggested by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas in Line 3 of Paragraph 3.

Question that the Address as amended do now pass was put and agreed to *nem. con.*

Mr. ADAMS : Mr. Speaker,—I am asking the permission of the House at this stage to lay the answer to Question No. 75 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, Mr. Brancker. It deals with rates of pay for male and female teachers.

ADJOURNMENT

I would like to point out to hon'ble members, sir, that it is likely that I shall proceed next Tuesday with a Resolution for a sum of money to meet the loan to any Co-operative Society that may be formed for the purpose of establishing a milk depot and creamery. I also hope to be able to proceed with and finish the Bill for the conservation of water, and there is also a Resolution of which I gave notice last Tuesday dealing with a sum of money to provide for the sitting of the Caribbean Commission.

I now move that the House adjourn until 3 o'clock p.m. next Tuesday.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded.

The question being put and resolved in the affirmative on the declaration of Mr. Speaker that the ayes have it, the House was accordingly adjourned.