

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th May, 1951.

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

Present

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings which were held on the 24th April and the 15th May, 1951, respectively, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Messrs. MOTTLEY and F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took their seats.

DOCUMENTS

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

Statement of Accounts of the Commissioners of Highway of the parish of St. Thomas for the half year ended the 31st March, 1951.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure on Tenantry Roads for the parish of St. Thomas during the half year ended the 31st March, 1951.

Mr. GILL entered the House and took his seat.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House a Message as follows:—

MESSAGE No. 16/1951.

His Excellency the Governor
To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Resolution passed by the House of As-

sembly on the 24th of April, 1951, approving of the Supplementary Estimates 1951—52, No. 3, under which the sum of \$440,000 was provided for the purpose of sending up to 4,000 Barbadians to work in the United States of America for a period of at least 10—12 weeks during the course of this year, and to forward for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly further information which has been received since that Resolution was passed.

2. It is now expected that approximately 2,000 Barbadians will shortly be required for agricultural work in the Mid-West of the United States, and agents of the prospective employers have arranged to arrive in Barbados on the 29th of May with the object of selecting the workers whom they require. There are at present no firm indications that employment will continue beyond 12 weeks, although certification for longer periods has been granted by the United States Employment Service in respect of Barbadian workers. The earnings of the workers will vary, and no firm estimate can be given at this stage. The minimum wage rates will be 75c. per hour, and in some cases, 80c. per hour.

3. Tenders for transporting the workers to their respective places of work have been called for, and the cost of the upward passage of each worker from Barbados to Jamaica (or its equivalent), which will be borne in the first instance by the Government of Barbados, and which, at the time the Resolution was prepared, was estimated to be B.W.I. \$62.00, is now known to amount to B.W.I. \$73.36. The whole of this cost of upward transportation will be charged against the worker's account; deductions will be made from his wages in the United States and any balance due will be deducted from his account in Barbados.

4. Deductions will also be made from the account of each worker in Barbados at the rate of B.W.I. \$2.00 a week to meet at least part of the cost of his repatriation from Jamaica (or its equivalent) to Barbados. These deductions will continue to be made so long as the worker remains in the United States until he has repaid the actual cost of his repatriation (B.W.I. \$73.36) from Jamaica (or its equivalent) to Barbados.

5. The revised cost of recruitment is \$15,000 (in respect of 2,000 workers) compared with \$40,000 (in respect of 4,000 workers) at the time when the Resolution was prepared. It has subsequently been verified that in accordance with the Migration for Employ-

ment Convention (Revised) 1949, Government Employment services in connection with the recruitment, introduction or placing of migrants for employment should be rendered free and that the administrative costs of recruitment, introduction and placing should not be borne by the migrants. In view of this convention, coupled with the fact that the revised cost of the repatriation of the worker from Jamaica (or its equivalent) to Barbados is greater than the previously estimated combined cost of repatriation and recruitment expenses, it is not proposed to make any attempt to recover from the worker the cost of his recruitment expenses. Other factors to be borne in mind in this connection are that, on previous occasions when workers have been sent to the United States of America, no attempt has been made to recover any part of the repatriation expenses, and that a large number of workers, in respect of whom recruitment expenses will be incurred, will be rejected for medical or other reasons.

L. SAVAGE,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,
29th May, 1951.

PAPERS LAID

Dr. CUMMINS: On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I have the honour to lay on the Table the following Papers:—

Post Office advances for payment of money orders to 30th April, 1951.

Trade Act (Temporary Importation of Motor Vehicles) Regulations, 1951.

The Co-operative Societies Rules, 1950.

Messrs. ADAMS and WARD entered the House and took their seats.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$5,890 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. 6 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. COX: Resolution to sanction the Regulations entitled "The Trade Act (Temporary Importation of Motor Vehicles) Regulations, 1951" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the Twenty-Sixth day of May 1951, under the provisions of Section 177 of the Trade Act, 1910 (1910—4).

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.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to postpone the consideration of Orders Nos. 1 to 6.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION OF DISTRICTS (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day now stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of the

following Resolution:—Resolution to approve the Order made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the Third day of May 1951, under the provisions of Section 4, of the Special Registration of Voters (General Assembly) Act, 1951.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution seeks to amend a former Order made under the provisions of section 4 of the Special Registration of Voters (General Assembly) Act, 1951, not so much in the changing of the Districts as in the changing of the names. In the former Order the Island Supervisor made a mistake as far as names are concerned and the object of this Resolution is to correct that mistake. For instance, what was once called Jack-My-Nanny Gap is now called Wavell Avenue. As I have said, this is only a matter of changing the title of the District and not the District. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WILKINSON: I hope that the Government is taking care to see that registration forms are issued to every householder and that they are collected. Up to this week complaints were made by some people that they have not received their forms while others complained that forms have been left with them but they have not been collected. I understand that the district officers have been very busy during the last few days and probably the forms have been collected, but I think they should be handed in by the end of the month. I hope that the Government is taking every precaution to see that the district officers are doing all they possibly can to get all the forms collected.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It strikes me that in matters of this sort, you must have errors and omissions taking place; there is therefore no surprise that an error like this has crept in. It appears to me that due to the lack of sufficient information at first, the Government will have to extend the time for a few days beyond the end of the month so that every opportunity might be given to persons to have their names placed on the list. I can substantiate what the last speaker has said, because several persons have represented to me that due to the fact that they leave their homes early on mornings and return late on afternoons, they have not got in touch with the registering officers for their districts. I think that candidates have been doing everything in their power to get people's names on the list, although people do not like prospective candidates to do that. However, as I have said, it is nothing surprising that this error to which reference has been made has crept in because things of that sort will happen. A notice appearing in the *Advocate* has been drawn to my attention; that notice suggested that if you did not actually register as a voter in Form "A" you would find yourself in the position of not being able to vote. That is misleading; if you have not registered in Form "A", you can be registered in Form "E"; it is better to get people to register in Form "A" but do not let it be said that if you did not register in form "A", you cannot vote. Rather than have a hard and fast regulation that the forms must be handed in by the end of this month, I think the opportunity should be given the officers to collect all the forms. I appeal to the Government to see that every opportunity is given so as to allow people to vote; if the list is closed at the end of the month the names of a lot of people will not be on it. I say that it is a part of our duty to assist in one way or another in getting knowledge into people's heads and getting them registered. Despite that misleading notice for which some very irresponsible person seems to be responsible, nobody will stop me—I have read the Act—from getting all the names of the people I

want to be on the list by the use of Form "E". Let that misleading notice be corrected.

Messrs. DOWDING, BETHELL and CRAWFORD entered the House and took their seats while Mr. MOTTLEY was speaking.

Mr. ALLDER: From the outset criticisms have been offered to the Government in connection with this matter of registration: the enumerators were dissatisfied because their task was a difficult one and the people were not co-operating due to their ignorance of the matter. As a result, the registration of voters has not gone on as easily as was expected, and in the face of public criticism the Department responsible for this registration appears as if it was not willing to amend the situation. I personally, have spoken to the officer responsible for the arrangements and the suggestion was made that the Mobile Cinema should have been used as a means of instructing the people as to what the new registration means to them. I think that the Mobile Cinema should have been pressed into service; it should have been taken into the various country districts where thousands of people congregate, and other means of propaganda should have been used so as to enlighten the people about the matter. It is very obvious that the scheme lacked the necessary measure of propaganda; even the newspapers should have been used for the purpose during the period allowed for registration, but nothing of that sort was done. Today there are many people who are unwilling to be registered and I think that the cause of dissatisfaction among the enumerators should have been removed. One of the principal inconveniences experienced by the enumerators is that of having to travel through the various districts—I speak especially of the country districts—and, on arriving at the home of possible voters, find that they are not at home. In many instances an enumerator has to return to a particular house three or four times without succeeding in getting that person registered. Even if that person were found the scheme might not have been made clear enough to him so as to make the work of the enumerator easy in getting that potential voter to be registered; but things have gone on until now and two days hence the time for registration will have passed without people being registered. I always look at this matter of registration as a very important piece of legislation which must mean a lot to the people of this colony. That being so, everything should have been done in order to facilitate matters. The setting up of this machinery is something that causes trouble in all countries and those in authority should realise how serious a matter that is. I am still feeling that the period allowed for registration should be extended to, say fifteen days or thirty days longer and what has not been done in the past could be done now so as to make sure that by the shortsightedness of those who are responsible for the scheme, they have not prevented those who are not well informed from being able to exercise the right which they had been hoping to exercise for the past 300 years. I agree that if the period allowed for registration is extended, that will definitely mean a lot to the scheme.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The last speaker has actually anticipated one or two suggestions which I intended to make. The first is that the period originally scheduled for the return of these forms will have to be extended either by a fortnight or a month in order to permit of a more general registration than has taken place so far. There are, of course, two days more before the end of the month but in various parishes I have heard many people

complain that they have not yet got their forms and in cases where the forms have been left, they have not been called for. Although we have two days more to go before the end of the month arrives, yet one feels that within that time neither will all the forms which should have been left at people's homes be left there, nor will all the forms which have been left be collected. It also appears to me that a little more publicity might have been used so as to place more on the mind of the public the necessity for registration. We got a lecture by the Colonial Secretary in that connection and a few small notices appeared in the Press; but in addition to the suggestion made by the hon. senior member for St. John, the Government might, perhaps, have used its loud-speaking apparatus in the various villages about the country and various persons could have spoken to the people acquainting them of the importance and advisability of getting registered at an early date. I am sure that in respect of what might be regarded as full-scale registration, the extension of the period originally fixed for the return of the forms for another month will not interfere with the holding of the General Elections according to schedule.

Another point is this: It is common knowledge that approximately 4,000 people might go abroad within the next few weeks for work under contract on United States farms; the contract calls for three months' work, but it is highly possible that that period will be extended and in that case I do not think that these people should be disenfranchised because they will be out of the island. I think it should be quite easy for the Government to establish the machinery whereby the votes of those who are absent during the Election period can still be recorded along with those who remain in the island. It might be argued that the votes of these people will have no effect one way or the other in determining the outcome of the political struggle; but the point is that so long as these people are within easy reach in the colony there is no reason why they should not be able to record their votes merely because in the interest of obtaining employment they find themselves out of the colony at the time when the Elections are taking place. I hope that it is the intention of the Government to act along the lines suggested.

Dr. CUMMINS: I want to assure this House that it is the intention of the Government to do all in their power to give every person the opportunity of being registered as a voter. We have had Progress Reports as to the registration which has been done up to the end of April and, undoubtedly, we will have in a couple of days' time the progress which has been made up to the end of May. We are watching the situation and if it appears advisable to extend the time for registration I am sure that every facility will be given to those persons who want to be registered. I saw in the Press the notice mentioned by the hon. senior member for the City and I should like to say that it is not correct to state that you cannot be registered after the 31st May. There is Form "E" in the Schedule to the Act and in addition to that, after a list has been compiled it will be posted up in certain places so that people will be in a position to find out whether they are registered or not. If they have not been registered they will be given a further two weeks in which they can be registered.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PAYMENT OF PASSAGES) ORDER, 1951"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Payment of Passages) Order, 1951," made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the Third day of May, 1951, under the provisions of Section 3, of the Civil Establishment Act 1949.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—This is a Resolution which seeks to increase the amount allowed for the payment of passages of officers coming from abroad to Barbados. The maximum amount which is now paid is £200, but it has been found advisable to increase that amount because in one or two cases officers who could not get passages by steamship have had to arrive in Barbados by air in order to get here and take up their duties, thereby facilitating the Government in the running of certain Departments. Consequently, the Government is asking this House for permission to expend up to £300 for the payment of passages in the case of persons who have to travel by air in coming here. This money will be administered by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: In this Payment of Passages Order we are increasing the maximum amount from £200 to a sum not exceeding £300. I am not very familiar with what amount is paid now, but I see here that the payment of the return passage of a Scientific Officer is included in this Order, and the expression "Scientific Officer" has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the Department of Science and Agriculture Act, 1925. I am merely asking whether it is a new principle to include employees of the Department of Science and Agriculture in the payment of return passages; I know that the principle applies to the Medical and Scientific Officers employed at the General Hospital and other places on contract. I do not know for what I am letting myself in now; I would suggest to the Government that they should put down in respect of passages for a single person a sum not exceeding so much, for a married man without any children, a sum not exceeding so much and in the case of a married man with children, so much for each child. As the position is here, it appears that a single man would be entitled to the extended amount; the position seems to be a little wide to me and I am merely throwing out a suggestion. If we provide these facilities, officers will say that they cannot get here by steamship and they had to travel by plane. We have had officers doing that; we have found them going to America and then coming out here and contracting debts. I say that we should allow people to know what they must expect when they are taking up duties here. I notice that this Order is operative as from the 1st April last year. I am saying that when a person applies for a job and is told the conditions attaching to it, he should either stick to those conditions or refuse the job; he should not come out here and then a year afterwards, because he finds himself out of pocket, want the Government to recoup him. We have to be very careful as to how these things are done; some of these officers who have been appointed at the General Hospital have had their emoluments increased and in the same session we will be increasing their allowances. We should have a definite amount fixed for passages and when an officer is accepting a post he will know what that amount is. It is regrettable

if we have to lose the services of an officer because we do not pay sufficient by way of passages, but at the same time we have to watch ourselves that we do not become involved in a large sum of money. Even now I feel we should be told what the liability of a year ago is; it might be difficult to get that information but if hon. members know what the amount of a year ago is, they will know what they are doing. I would like to say in conclusion that this is a question of taking money out of the Treasury and we are dealing with it in the House; we cannot speak more than once because we do not go into Committee on these Resolutions.

Dr. CUMMINS: I think that the hon. junior member for the City has gone a little wrong when he refers to this matter of passages and questions the allowance. A person has to present his bills and vouchers which will be very carefully scrutinized by the Government. It is not a question of a person asking for £300 and the Government saying: "Well, here it is;" he has to satisfy the Government that he has spent £300. The hon. member says that officers should bear in mind the terms of their appointments and stick to them; I have in mind the case in which the Acting Financial Secretary was asked to come here as soon as possible because of the more or less chaotic state which existed in the Colonial Secretary's office at the time. One Assistant Colonial Secretary was on leave, the Financial Secretary was due to go off, the Colonial Secretary had already gone on leave and an Assistant Colonial Secretary was then acting as Colonial Secretary. The Acting Financial Secretary was asked to get here as soon as possible, as I have already said; he did so and travelled by air so as to facilitate the Government in the running of the Department. You cannot exactly call for the conditions of the office; the hon. member ought to know that the bills which are presented by these officers have to be scrutinized and the Government has to be satisfied as to the validity of the matter.

Mr. REECE: The hon. member has not answered a point made by the hon. junior member for the City and that is as to the position of a Scientific Officer at the moment. That point is covered by section 7 of the Department of Science and Agriculture Act, 1925, which says:

"When vacancies occur in the scientific staff, a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds for each of such vacancies is hereby granted to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the payment of the passage money and appointment expenses of Scientific Officers to fill those vacancies. Any Scientific Officer who shall resign his office before the expiration of a period of three years from the date of his appointment shall refund a proportionate part of the passage money and appointment expenses paid on his appointment for the unexpired portion of the three years. The Governor-in-Executive Committee may pay the return passage of any Scientific Officer who shall not have been confirmed in his appointment at the end of the period of probation, or whose appointment shall have been terminated during the period of probation on the grounds of ill health not arising out of the officer's misconduct."

This Order reproduces the provisions of the last part of that section of the Act but is absolutely silent on the first part of the section and as regards the officer remaining in the island after a period of three years from the date of his appointment. I think that the honourable junior member for the City has raised one or two very good points indeed; I think that every attempt should be made to keep these expenses at as low a rate as possible and officers should be required to travel as cheaply as possible. Occasions may arise when

it is necessary to have officers on the spot quickly, but those occasions are few and far between. We should attempt to get officers here by steamship passages rather than by air passages because of the expenses involved in the latter case. Unless it is necessary to have an officer on the spot immediately, I do not think that any harm can be done in having somebody acting in an office until the substantive holder of the office arrives.

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

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE WATER WORKS IN ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to approve the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of the Water Works in the parish of St. Michael.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—This is another of these formal Resolutions which come before the House for its approval. In this case it is proposed to allow the Waterworks Department to lay a 4 in. diameter main at the Pine Estate Housing Scheme's land and to erect two standpipes and two fire hydrants. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BRYAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am glad to see that the Government is extending the water supply to the Pine Estate Housing Scheme, but I must remind the honourable senior member for St. Michael that this parish is not the only parish in the island which needs an extension of the water supply. I admit that there is a large population in St. Michael but the Government must give more attention to some other parishes. I am asking them not to forget other parishes in respect of water supply and of course I have in mind the parish of St. James particularly. In many parishes people are suffering from the lack of water and I hope that the proposal which is now before us is an indication that the Government will pay attention to the extension of the water supply all over the island.

Mr. REECE: We were led to understand that wonderful things would have happened in connection with the water supply of this island, but what has happened is that people all over the island are exactly in the same position with respect to the water supply as they were years ago. We want to know what is happening, what is the cause of the delay in the extension of the water supply? Is it that the Government is unable to get the pipe? In every parish the people are suffering from the lack of water but in no parish are they suffering more than in the parish of Christ Church. That parish is, after the parish of St. Michael, the most thickly populated; large villages have sprung up there and the people have been clamouring for an extension of the water system ever since. I would like to know why the water supply is not being extended; we have been assured that orders have been placed with the Crown Agents but the extension of the water supply is being held up and people are continuing to suffer thereby. I hope that some member of the Government will be able to give us some information about this matter; if we are not given any information about it we will feel that the Government is to be blamed. We expected that when the new Waterworks head was appointed, matters would have been gone

into and developments would have taken place within a reasonable time; it cannot be said that a reasonable time has not elapsed. I hope that the Government will give us a little enlightenment as to the cause of the delay in this matter so that the poor people who have been suffering from the lack of water for all these long years will know the reason why they have been kept out of the supply of this vital necessity.

Mr. BRANCKER entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. HAYNES: As the honourable junior member for Christ Church has just intimated, it seems that there is something wrong with the organization at the Waterworks Department. In the parish of St. Andrew about five months ago we received a communication stating that they had the pipe and asked us to recommend some extensions of the water supply in the parish. We did that immediately but up to the present time we have not had any sign of any extension being carried out. There is no lack of labour, I am sure about that; people would be glad to work. It is a great shame that these extensions of the water supply cannot be carried out. I agree that some information as to this matter should be available from the Government or the appropriate member of the Government should get behind the engineer and ask him why he cannot undertake these commitments. After all, this engineer wrote to ask us for the information with which he was supplied, and he must have been in a position to carry out the extensions.

Mr. WARD: We are not suffering from the lack of pipe; we are suffering from the lack of water flowing through the pipe. I feel that it is unfair to place the pipe in certain areas when there are other areas in which there is no water at all. It looks as if the Government is overlooking areas in which there is no water and laying down the pipe in certain other areas. I do not think that the Government should make extensions of the water supply simply to say that they are carrying on schemes; I feel that all the mains should be laid down first. I also feel that it is of no use our having the pipe without any water flowing through it because the people will not be any better off. I realize that it is a question of slow movement with the Government; the pipe must be laid down but there is much pipe laid down without any water being in it. The Government should get the water in the pipe which has been laid down in certain areas before laying down any more pipe in other areas. There are some areas which have not had any water for years and I think that the taxpayers in those areas should have their water just as other taxpayers in other areas have been given theirs.

Mr. COX: I should like to say that I am in sympathy with the remarks which have been made by hon. members. Although it might appear that the parish of St. Michael is getting its full supply of pipe and water, yet there are many people in this parish who find it very difficult to get water at times on account of our not being in a position to lay down mains so that standpipes can be erected. It must be realised that the parish of St. Michael carries approximately one-half of the population of the colony and that being so, this parish should be given priority where this question of water is concerned, because in the case of the outbreak of an epidemic, it would spread in the most built-up areas. I want to assure hon. members that the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks, from the time he came to this island, has been doing his best to improve the

water situation in this island; but, as honourable members know, it is very difficult to get the necessary material in order to lay down the mains. We have very great trouble in getting the Crown Agents to send down the pipe; when any of this pipe arrives, it is used as soon as it is here. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks has just discovered some sources of water in the St. Lucy area and he is working as speedily as possible to develop those sources in order that he can get water placed in the Warleigh reservoir so that the Boscobel and other areas can be supplied with water. We are hoping to have these sources of water supply developed before the end of the year in order that the water can flow through the pipe. Your Honour will remember that only a few weeks ago we had a very difficult time in trying to convince people in these areas that we are doing our best to help them with the water supply. In so far as this Resolution is concerned, this is in connection with a development scheme; it is logical that as soon as we put people in housing areas we must supply them with water. This area at the Pine should have prior consideration in respect of water supply but I want to assure hon. members that the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks and his Board are working twenty-four hours a day on this water programme and he hopes very soon to report favourable progress where the water supply is concerned. I hope very soon to be able to present a progress Report to this House, which will satisfy honourable members even the most critical of them.

Mr. DOWDING: I intended to wait and hear from the hon. member what were the replies to the points raised in connection with this question of the water supply, and, in my opinion, the hon. member has not attempted, in any way, to strike the nail on the head. To begin with, I personally, do not believe that there is any hold up or any difficulty where the Waterworks Department is concerned; I do not believe that it is on account of the work which is being done in St. Michael that we are not getting any standpipes installed in the country districts. I do not think that the Government is to be blamed in this matter except in the fact that they have failed to make representations in the right quarter which is to be blamed, that is the British Government. That is where the Government should be blamed. As a person who is interested in a factory, I can speak definitely about the amount of pipe which has been imported by private individuals into this island during the past five years, and, in my opinion, the supply has been reasonably good. In St. George we have only now got two additional standpipes for which money was voted before I became a member of this House in 1946 and there must be something wrong somewhere. As I have said, I do not think that the fault lies either with the Waterworks Department or with the Government, except that there has been failure on the part of the Government to urge in the proper quarter the necessity for the supply of the material which has been placed on order. I will repeat what I was told by the hon. Mr. Bustamante, that they could not get their pipe in Jamaica and he, himself, went to the Crown Agents and got the pipe he wanted for Jamaica. It is sorrowful to think that people in this island should be without water in their villages but which is, in some cases, about two miles from their villages. It is sorrowful that the British Government should have us under such conditions with respect to sugar particularly; I am sure that the small amount of pipe needed in this colony could not make any difference having regard to any effort which they are making whether it is for their

own economy, for War or anything else. I hope the hon. member will be able to give us some assurance that representation will be made to the United Kingdom Government as to the absolute necessity for our having the pipe which is so necessary.

Mr. ADAMS: I have not heard all the debate on this Resolution and I am not attempting to do what the hon. senior member for St. Michael should do, that is, to reply to criticisms; but some of the remarks which the hon. junior member for St. George has just made has brought me to my feet. The hon. Mr. Bustamante is the head of a friendly West Indian Government but I would have to see for myself the circumstances in which he went to England and got pipe which could not be obtained by the Government of Jamaica otherwise. Mr. Bustamante has made mention of an order having been made for a quantity of cigars and when some Jamaican more curious than the average Jamaican enquired about the matter, it turned out that the order comprised hundreds and hundreds of cigars which would take years and years to smoke; so that airy claims of the sort mentioned ought not to influence a debate in this House. Certainly during my last visit to the Colonial Office I pressed the matter that hon. members on both sides of the House did not think the British Government was doing enough on this question of the supply of pipe for the West Indies, how essential it was to supply water in the villages and that they should look upon the West Indies as a priority area. I remember the Crown Agents being asked to get in touch with the firm which would supply us with the pipe and the date was given when the pipe would be supplied. It is not true that this Government has not made the United Kingdom Government aware of our position as regards the question of water supply or that the United Kingdom Government has not tried to help us in the matter. I was assured that a promise was made to supply us with pipe but the delivery had to be postponed because a subsequent order for pipe in Persia had to be fulfilled and that is why we were pushed off for some months. This question of the supply of pipe for this colony has been pressed and I can only say that the United Kingdom Government has tried their best to help us. It does seem to me that if private interests are satisfied with their supply of pipe, it must be that the Government is getting what it has been promised. It would be remarkable for the Government to press the claims of private interests and deprive itself of pipe. On this particular question of the supply of pipe, it seems, from the interest which the Colonial Office showed on the occasion to which I have referred, even mentioning a date, that they were trying to do their best for us as far as the supply of pipe is concerned. I do not know if the position has become worse since then and they cannot help us as they have been doing in the past. There is in London a West Indian who has drawn to my attention that I should draw to the attention of the Colonial Office that there is a quantity of pipe of different sizes, which was used for fire-fighting and which would be suitable for the extension of the water supply. All of that I brought to the notice of the Government who passed it on to the Colonial Office but it was not thought that this pipe was sufficiently good for carrying out a real extension of the Waterworks in Barbados. I mention all that to show that the United Kingdom Government is constantly kept aware of our needs and, as far as we know, they are trying to help us as quickly as possible.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not suppose that any hon. member of this House would be so silly as to believe that there is no other Leader of a majority Party in the West Indies who speaks with the same great sense of responsibility as the hon. member on my right. The hon. member will say that he is speaking with a great sense of responsibility when he wants to pontificate. The hon. junior member for St. George has referred to hon. Mr. Bustamante's efforts to get pipe for Jamaica and the same statement the hon. member made was made in Queen's Park by Hon. Mr. Bustamante himself. He said: "I know what I am saying tonight will appear in your Press and in the Jamaica Press." The Leader of the majority party in Jamaica would not have come here, and during a speech on a public platform, make a statement which he knew could be easily disproved. If the statement were not true he could be asked where the pipe was. Hon. Mr. Bustamante spoke on several other matters; he spoke on emigration to the United States of America, on the sugar question—

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the honourable member is diverting too much from this Resolution. I have allowed him to make some reference to some of the remarks made by the honourable junior member for St. George but I think he should confine his remarks now to this Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The final point I was making is that whether on the question of making the strongest possible representations in respect of the water supply or any matter of vital importance to the West Indies whether it is the price of sugar or anything else, the people of this colony have had the lead given by Jamaica brought before them. I would like to remind honourable members that about four or five years ago this House voted, I think, £100,000—I am told the amount was £112,000—for the purchase of equipment for the extension of the water supply of this island. In this connection, the honourable junior member for St. George claims that if the local Government is to be blamed it is to be blamed for not making strong representations to the United Kingdom Government; on the other hand the honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that the local Government has made representations. The honourable member, speaking with a great sense of responsibility, says that he went to the Colonial Office and told them that we have not got the pipe. The British Government, we are told by the honourable senior member for Joseph, sent the pipe to Persia; we get nothing from Persia and we are left with our people having to walk two or three miles for water. Chickens are coming to roost here and we are being squeezed in order to make up for what is being lost elsewhere. The honourable junior member for St. George was getting warm when he said that, to some extent, the United Kingdom is to be blamed for our not having this equipment, but the local Government is also to be blamed for it, and certainly, honourable members on my right know better than the British Government, the lack of water in the several rural districts in this island. They must know that people have to travel two or three miles in order to get water and if we cannot get the pipe from the United Kingdom let us get it from other sources. Unless we are told by the Government that they have actually asked the British Government to give them more dollars so that they can get the pipe outside the sterling area, I am not satisfied that adequate representation has been made in this matter. If the honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that they have asked for more dollars and they have been refused or that they have been given the dollars and they cannot get the pipe from the dollar area—unless and until we have been

told that—I am not satisfied that sufficient representation has been made and I blame both the United Kingdom Government and the local Government in this matter. We know the extreme hardship which is being suffered by people in the rural areas in getting water and it is not sufficient to claim that the pipe had to be sent to Persia when we have already made the money available for purchasing this pipe. I hope that the Government will try with all possible speed to get this pipe from outside the sterling area even if they have to tell our British friends: "You cannot supply the pipe and we are trying to get it from outside the sterling area. The condition of the people of this colony warrants our taking this step."

Mr. BRANCKER: The point which has just been made by the honourable member who has just sat down needs to be emphasized. No matter whence the pipe is available let priority be given in respect of the release of dollars for the purchase of the pipe. During the War we were told that material was not available and now the War is over we still cannot get this material. Extensions of the water supply are being carried out in St. Michael but there are other parts of the island besides the metropolitan parish which need to be treated in this way. In the rural districts there are very few houses at which water is installed; when it is a question of supplying water at the new bungalows which are springing up all over the island, material is available somehow or other, but water should be installed in people's premises whether they are bungalows or chattel houses. There is obviously no shortage of the labour required in the erection of standpipes and it is only a question of getting the material irrespective of how we get it. It should be urged upon the Government that if we are allowed only a certain amount by way of American dollars, we should have standpipes exclusive of anything else. As a matter of fact you cannot cook, you cannot do anything without water. Nothing is more essential than water and at all costs whatever is the difficulty in getting it, let us overcome the difficulty. We have an Engineer at the head of the Waterworks Department and I hope he will go full speed ahead with the programme of work which the Commissioners of Health of various parishes have submitted to the Department, and which have been found to be absolutely necessary and indispensable. Do not let us wait for World War III when we will be told that another War is on and material is not available for carrying out any works.

Mr. MILLER: We have spent quite a while in discussing the question of the erection of standpipes. Much has been said about the extension of the water service but nothing can be done until we have got the pipe. I appeal to my colleague to let us wait for the arrival of the pipe. There are several districts in which people are crying out for water; the mains are in the streets but you cannot do anything to supply the water unless you have the cast iron pipe for making extensions. In several villages in the parish of St. George people are actually suffering from the lack of water, but I repeat, nothing can be done until we get the pipe. I am not defending the Government; the Government will always be in the position of being criticised in respect of this pipe. Some mention was made of the Crown Agents in connection with the supply of this pipe and I am appealing to the honourable Leader of the House to find out whether money could not be released to cover the cost of pipe from elsewhere rather than our continuing to say that we are British subjects and that there is nothing better than buying British. I am wondering if the honourable Leader of the House

would satisfy my feeling by asking the Colonial Office to allow us to get this pipe from Canada where it is available; there is no point in having the sum of £112,000 lying down for five years and then finding that we are still without the pipe. I should like some assurance from the honourable Leader of the House that he would ask the Colonial Office to give us the necessary dollars so that we can buy in the market where we can get this pipe. If the cost of the pipe has increased, that does not matter; what is important is to have the extension of the water supply carried out. I am not concerned with the salary of the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks; I am concerned about getting the work done. We are paying this hydraulic Engineer a lot of money and he must do work for this colony. I am wondering if we will be allowed to go to another market, foreign or otherwise, and get this pipe so that water can be supplied to the people; if this pipe can be obtained in Canada we should not suffer here even if getting it from that country will cost us more money.

Mr. ALLDER: It is a fact that the whole scheme for the extension of the water supply in this island needs to be gone into. A specific amount of material is imported annually and allocations are made to private residences and public extensions. We have noticed that in the tenancies where people have been clamouring for extensions of the water service they have not been able to get them while suburban areas have been built up and in St. Michael and in Christ Church bungalows have been erected. An average bungalow with three bedrooms has about five or six pipes within an area of 40 or 50 square feet and besides that, it might also have lawns and gardens with two or three pipes running during the day and night. That is because we have not paid proper attention to the allocations; we have been more interested in getting material for private services than for public extensions and that is why we have experienced this difficulty with regard to carrying out public extensions. I feel that the Government should maintain greater scrutiny in respect of these allocations; if I was able to build a bungalow and I applied for water service, I would obtain it but you will find that to a great extent, the tenancies have been left out. Unless the Government pays attention to the type of material which is imported every year and see how that material is allocated around the island, there will always be some dissatisfaction taking place. If a new suburban area were to be opened in any isolated district, you will see that water is installed before any construction is started. With world problems arising and the price of material increasing, you must expect a lessening of supplies, and it would be rather unfortunate if another War were to break out and the population is told: "You must wait until the War is over before you can get supplies." Another point is this: we are discussing the question of the extension of the water supply in St. Michael but we have lost sight of the fact that many taps are given to one home which, sometimes, only has two or three occupants. I hope that the "Minister" in charge of affairs relating to the Waterworks will consider what I am saying now; the owners of bungalows must not be allowed to have a water tap in each bedroom until we are able to get an adequate amount of material to afford that being done. That is the only way in which you can solve the present problem; even if you vote all the money which is required for getting down material, the source of supply will make it very difficult for you to carry out your programme. I say that you should not permit the installation of four and five taps at one bungalow

so as to accommodate a few people; when that is allowed it takes away from the supply of material which could be used for public extensions. If a person has to walk from one bedroom to another in a bungalow so as to bathe his face, that is nothing as compared with one who has to walk half a mile or a mile in order to get water? We have to think in terms of the benefit of the majority of people; when people in the country districts have to walk half a mile so as to get water, do you think they can feel satisfied when they come to Bridgetown and see lawns being watered all through the day? I do not mind people indulging in things but when that indulgence affects the public, the Government should do something about it. In this particular case, the Government should not allow too many taps to be installed in one home; no amenities for watering gardens should be allowed unless they are allowed to people who are producing vegetables in their gardens. People can have their indulgence when things return to normal; they should not have it at the expense of the masses. We have a high-salaried Engineer out here on a three-year contract; I feel that he is an efficient man but I also feel we have to see that for three years we get sufficient service from him as to warrant the salary which we have been paying him. In conclusion I want to say that I feel that if the suggestions I have made were adopted, the result would be some assistance in solving the problem with which we are faced. I have been told that certain extensions are to be carried out and the Government is waiting on a labour gang; I do not know that the Government should be waiting on a labour gang when there are so many unemployed people in the community.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I must say that debates of this nature must do some good. When there are still members of this House who are courageous enough to express an opinion as to the policy of the British Government and that is read at the Colonial Office, it will be seen that the people of Barbados are not sleeping. It is a fact which cannot be denied that the present policy of the British Government is to sell their goods in those countries where they hope to regain their export trade and disregard the social improvement of the Colonial Empire. That is a statement of fact. I say that the British Government's policy is to sell their goods in foreign markets in the hope of regaining their commercial prestige and forget, to a certain extent, the people of these colonies. A debate of this nature will show that the people of these colonies are wide awake. With regard to the Waterworks Department, I think we should pay tribute where tribute is due. The bringing down of the present Engineer of the Department is a good job; we have a good man who is doing a good job. The supply of water is a very important matter; I have had the opportunity of discussing this matter with the Engineer on several occasions and I feel that his greatest difficulty is to get the pipe for conveying water from the areas in which there are reservoirs to those areas which are not now supplied with water. It is a question of the sufficiency of water and the availability of pipe. There is a system by which the Government imports pipe and by which private importers also import pipe. I want to say that the speech made by the hon. senior member for St. John is exactly that which was made years ago by some of the members of the Government including the hon. senior member for St. Michael; however if you run a water main into a man's premises, from that main he can be supplied with four or five or six taps. The idea of asking a "Minister" to be so stupid as to prohibit people from

putting taps in bungalows is asking for the prohibition of the erection of bungalows. It is a fact that when people are erecting these buildings they employ about 20 or 30 persons for some months. Everybody is going in for building houses; the average man who has a house is looking forward to getting a better type of house. The real point is this; the extension of the water supply in this colony means much to the people of the colony, and if you must improve the social standard of the people of the colony, you must begin with health; and if you must begin with health you must begin with a proper water supply.

There is some apprehension that the Crown Agents are not paying sufficient attention to getting material for this colony; but whether that is so or not, the supply of the material is controlled by the British Government, the policy of the British Government is to sell their material to countries where they will regain their export trade. They realise that all the talk about federation is so much air; their object is to build themselves up and forget the people of these colonies. Somebody should be courageous enough to say that the British Government should release more dollars to us and the time has come when we cannot continue to wait on the Crown Agents to export this most essential material to us. Somebody must tell them: "We must have the right to get this pipe." The development of the water supply is most important to this colony. I am going to be quite frank and say that while we would like to see something more done as regards the water supply, you have only to speak with the Head of the Waterworks Department for fifteen minutes and you will realise that he knows his job. Work is being done in the Waterworks Department because wherever you go you will find that, with the limited amount of pipe available, every effort is being made to carry water into the villages. It is a question of getting water to places where there is no water and that entails engineering skill. I hope that the Government will not countenance the stupid idea of preventing people from installing the necessary taps in bungalows because that would be equivalent to saying that if you instal electricity in a house, you only want a light in the bedroom. It is not only a question of erecting standpipes but of encouraging people to build houses because that is a question of so much money being put into circulation as against the hoarding of that money.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking permission to make a few further remarks in view of what has been said by some hon. members.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is definitely against the Rules of this House.

Mr. COX: Very well, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

On re-assembling:—

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox)—to move the passing of a Resolution that the House of Assembly approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of all that certain parcel of land (part of the tenantry lands of a place called "Bosvigo") containing by estimation 13,870 square feet bounding on other lands of the same tenantry, on a private

roadway fifteen feet wide on Eagle Hall Road and Bank Hall Cross Road said to be in the ownership of the Honourable Mrs. Muriel Hanschell, M.B.E., M.L.C., for public purposes, that is to say, for establishing a district market.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—this Resolution as honourable members will see seeks legislative authority for the compulsory acquisition of land at "Bosvigo". It is 13,870 square feet and is the property of Honourable Mrs. Muriel Hanschell, M.B.E. For some time now, the question of district markets has been engaging the attention of the public. Since 1940, the Sanitary Authorities of the Parish of St. Michael as well as the Chief Medical Officer, have been busily engaged in selecting sites for the establishment of such markets and have been making recommendations to the various authorities. Secondly, as honourable members will remember, a Bill was passed giving the Vestry the right to purchase these various sites. There are some sites such as Eagle Hall, Carrington Village, the Ruins etc, as well as the old Railway site which are said to be suitable sites at which to erect these markets. However, nothing has yet been done by way of actual erection. This Resolution represents the first attempt to get on with the establishment of one of these markets. As honourable members may have heard the price asked for this land is one dollar a square foot. It is felt by Government that that price is exorbitant, and that being the case, it became necessary to bring such a Resolution as this before the House for the compulsory acquisition of the land. The addendum, in my opinion explains the matter quite fully. It says:

In accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, the approval of the Legislature is sought for the compulsory acquisition of an area of land at Eagle Hall for the purpose set out in the Resolution.

2. It has not been possible to acquire the land by private treaty.

3. It is proposed as soon as the land is acquired by the Government to lease it to the St. Michael's Vestry at a peppercorn rental for a period of 21 years. It is the intention of the Government to provide the initial cost of establishing district markets, allowing the Vestries to build, maintain and control them.

As I said before, the Government is anxious to have these markets erected at the various points. But as we all know, the price of land has been skyrocketed in many areas. If therefore it becomes necessary for the improving of conditions in the parish and the island to acquire these spots by compulsory acquisition the Government will have to do so. Therefore, I now formally move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker—I am glad to see that at last the Government is getting on with the erection of district markets. But I am sorry that it should have taken this form. The Compulsory Acquisition Act is necessary, but it should only be used when land owners are obstinate, and expect the Government to pay through the nose for any land they may require. But I do not think that the case under discussion is one in point. We all know this particular portion of land. Anyone who knows the value of land in St. Michael and the City to-day will readily agree that one dollar a square foot is not too much for the Government to pay for this land. I know for a fact that land on the opposite side to this corner has been sold at \$1.20 a square foot. My information is that Mrs. Hanschell was only too willing to sell this land at what was considered a reasonable price, and that the price was not fixed by her, but by the people who advised her and who

had a better knowledge of real estate than she has. Again I say that I regret that this method should be resorted to in order to acquire this land which I feel and many others with whom I have spoken feel is worth a dollar a square foot. If it was put in the open market the owner would get that for it or more from many willing buyers. I know many people who would be only too glad to get this and other business sites. This is a business site; it is not a residential area. Business is expanding, and Eagle Hall is really an admirable place for business. I cannot agree with Government for bringing the compulsory acquisition powers to bear in getting this land.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:—I too am glad to see that the Government has started to do something about these district markets. But I remember that the last occasion on which the Government acquired land under the Compulsory Powers Act they eventually paid more for it than they would have paid otherwise. I hope that that will not happen again. If an exorbitant price is being asked for this site I suppose that the Government has no alternative but to try to acquire it in this way. I hope, however, that they will be successful in acquiring this site, which is regarded as ideal for a district market, and that they will get it at a cheaper price than otherwise.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,—I think that the Government should be commended for its attempt by this method to acquire this land at a reasonable price, and I hope that the Government will see that it is necessary to take even stronger measures with regard to the cost of land in this island. That was why at one time the honourable senior member for St. Michael and myself pressed most strongly for an amendment to the Bill amending the Public Health Act calling for more control over the price of land. In Great Britain there was a section of the Act by which you cannot purchase land at a greater price than that at which it could be sold some years after the war began. I think that in this island that is a very necessary provision. It enters into the cost of living and the cost of rent far more so than many other things. It is absolutely necessary to take strong measures with these real estate agents who jump up the price of land, house rents etc. You must control them by saying "You cannot charge more than the price which prevailed, say, five years back." Let us not forget. We had more sugar this year, and land will go up next year. I agree with the honourable senior member for Christ Church that you should not have to come here using the powers under the Compulsory Acquisition Act. That is right. The price of land should be so controlled that it should not be necessary. I hope that the Government will pay early attention to the skyrocketing cost of things like land and houses in this island. These district markets are necessary things just like playing fields. In the parish I represent we cannot get a playing field yet. You then find a member of the Opposition saying that one dollar a square foot is a reasonable price for this land. Quite recently land was being sold in this same vicinity for 40 cents a square foot. I say that when it comes to ideas about our duty to the community some of us are as far back as the Conservatives in Great Britain 40 years ago. It is ridiculous to say that one dollar a square foot is a reasonable price for this land when it is twice as much as the land next door to it was sold for six or eight months ago. I hope that the Government will amend the Act and put a strict control on the prices charged by land racketeers.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker—Whatever is said about the price of land at Eagle Hall, we have set the pace in paying high prices for land, and therefore we have to expect whatever comes. What I do say is this: when you compare the two areas, and what is paid for one and what is expected that we will pay for the other, you must agree that the price for the area under consideration is quite reasonable. This is the second time in my memory that this Act is going to be invoked for the acquisition of land. I am hoping that not very long from now it will be used for the taking over of the 7,000 odd acres which are owned by absentee proprietors the money from which is going into the pockets of strangers. We should take into consideration how those estates were acquired 300 years ago, and how they were passed on to the present generation. I hope that this Act will be used more often than we are using it now. The Government has agreed to have several more district markets around the city. I notice that areas which are named as the possible sites are becoming built up areas. That of course will make them more valuable when the Government is ready to buy them. I think that if the Government plans to buy those areas they should say so and prevent people from putting up buildings on them and thus increasing the value. Notify the people that these are the areas where you intend to erect these district markets, and that therefore no improvements should be carried out. I think that the Government should consider doing that.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker—In connection with the Resolution before the House, I am myself very disturbed about it. When you think of our Socialist set-up and the purpose for which this land is required, I think that this Resolution will appear as an ugly page in our history. Among the thousands of ladies of this island the owner of this land was singled out to serve as a member of the Other Place. That position should give to the holder some sense of responsibility. But what do you find? The Government has to invoke the Compulsory Acquisition Act to get this land for erecting a district market! It is ugly. I make no apologies for anything that I say. I say that it is shocking that in this age this should have to be done to acquire this land owned by a member of the Other Place and a Member of the British Empire. Any honourable member who does not like what I am saying can get up and denounce it. We are searching for a place at a reasonable sum, and we find that we have to use the powers of this Act. Today, for the first time, you find a Socialist Government seeking to provide a district market, and you have to use the force of law to get the land. What are we coming to? Government should never have found itself in this position.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I did not intend to speak upon this Resolution, but after listening to the last honourable member I think that I must clarify some points. The history behind these district markets goes back to the time when the Sanitary Authorities of St. Michael after the Government Market had been turned into a bond realised that the people of this parish had no place at all to offer their wares, and made representations to the Government pointing out how undesirable it was to have people squatting alongside the various streets selling their ware, and having goods like fish, etc., being set down in the gutters by day—the same gutters which were used as sanitary conveniences at night. Incidentally, let me say that the Government Spirit bond is not a bond for the rich, but a bond of the Government from which they collect revenue. As I was saying, Sir, the Sanitary Authorities of this parish, of which at the time I had the honour to be a mem-

ber, made representations to the Government. A deputation waited on Sir Hilary Blood and suggested that the district markets should be administered by the Vestries. As a result, Sir Hilary made a promise that he would have sent down to the Legislature an amendment to the Vestries Act authorising the several vestries to administer these markets if it became necessary for them to do so. As a result of that, the Commissioners of Health made further representations to the Government pointing out how vendors had already established what were so to speak unofficial district markets in various areas at points convenient to the inhabitants of those areas, and that no useful purpose would be served in removing them. The best thing therefore would be to acquire land in the same areas for the establishment of these district markets. As a result of that, Eagle Hall was the area that was among the first recommended. Others were Busby Alley, part of Weymouth and the area at the corner of Fairchild Street. As I said, it was felt that Eagle Hall should be the first due to the number of people who sell there. The Commissioners were then asked to make negotiations and inform the Government as to the area of the site they selected, the cost of establishing the district market, etc. This information was given to the Government some two years ago. I regret very much that they have taken so much time to decide that this was the policy to adopt. What I want to say is that the first thing that we the Commissioners knew after making these recommendations was when a notice appeared in the Press that this land which seemed to be on the right side of the road would be acquired compulsorily. No one can be annoyed with the Government if they are of the opinion that the best means of acquiring this land is by the Compulsory Powers Act, more especially if they have come to the conclusion that they can get it at a cheaper price that way. What we can say is that the Government should be consistent in whatever policy they adopt. I have not been a member of the House for a very long time; but this is not the first lot of land that the Government has attempted to acquire, nor is it the first lot of land that is costing the Government in the vicinity of one dollar a square foot. Land at one cent a square foot may be too dear. I recall that in the Estimates Government has put down a certain amount to acquire Clinketts in St. Lucy. You, sir, are as fully acquainted with Clinketts as I am. As I said, land at one cent a square foot may be too dear. We must all be realists. It is all very well to get up and make the sort of flamboyant speech that the honourable senior member for St. George made. But no one has got up and said that at whatever price he bought a property before the war he would exercise his socialist spirit and sell it at the same price. Government has every right if this is their view, to use the compulsory powers. But they must be consistent. We are all Barbadians and we all know Eagle Hall. One honourable member said that in this same vicinity land was sold at 40 cents per square foot. I do not know if he means down Black Rock where the Government put up the new police station and post office. If he means the site where the theatre was put he is not correct. I think that the honourable leader of the House can tell him that it was sold at 60 per square foot. But it is a matter of indifference to me. I am not interested. If I was interested I would say so. I do not work for anyone for a living and I would mince no matters about it. I am not like some honourable members who will get there and blow hot air and are in serious competition with me whatever the Government is buying. Now this site was rather carefully selected by the Commissioners. It is at the exact corner of Eagle Hall. In saying all this I am approving the

Government's acquiring the land compulsorily. It is their right if they want to do it that way. I will vote for it, and I hope they will see their folly. There are two sites at that corner. The Commissioners felt that it would be folly to remove people from the corner where a market has been established for many years and carry them further. Because you can take them further where the land is cheaper. The Commissioners working in conjunction with the suggestions of the Director of Medical Services suggested this corner spot, and Mrs. Hanschell was approached. The good lady never suggested selling her land. She said she did not want to sell her property, but it was the opinion of the Government, or those in authority that that was the best site for the market she would be perfectly willing to sell.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker—On a point of order. The addendum to the Resolution says it has not been possible to acquire the land by private treaty. I am thinking that the Government tried to do so and failed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am coming to that, sir. I was making the point that Mrs. Hanschell said she would be willing to sell if the Government thought the site was the best one for the market. The Commissioners made it perfectly clear that they considered that that was the better site, having approached the owner of the site on the other side—Mr. J. W. Parris—who said he was prepared to sell, and who asked a price which was much higher than a dollar a square foot. That is two years ago. The Commissioners felt that the price was too high, and they approached Mrs. Hanschell. She said that she would get people who knew about land and ask them what they thought it was worth. She got her solicitors and others, and then asked a price of one dollar a square foot. Now I want the Government to listen to this carefully. The hon'ble senior member for St. George has said that he would not have spoken so drastically if the addendum was not worded as it is. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed by Mr. H. Sealy of the Firm of Messrs Carrington & Sealy in contradiction to this paragraph in the addendum that after the Commissioners had written the letter to the Government saying that that was the site selected and telling them the price asked, Mrs. Hanschell had come to him and said that she had never heard a word from the Government or the Solicitor representing them, and that no one had discussed the matter with her. Then suddenly, she had seen in the Press that the land was to be acquired compulsorily. That is contrary to the statement in the addendum. I hope that the Government will be able to contradict that. I have made statements on the floor of this House and they have been contradicted. But I have seen subsequently in black and white that my statements were right. I do not think that it was done wilfully in many cases. As I have said more than once, land at a cent a square foot can be too dear, just as some honourable member will say that the Government, not by the Land Acquisition Act, but by private treaty paid £4 per square foot for the Central Foundry land. Just as I stood here and speaking from my knowledge of real estate, said that the price seemed reasonable to me, so I have the courage to say today what was said then on the spot by the Commissioners of Health including Hon'ble V. C. Gale, the hon'ble senior member for St. John and several others. At my own instance I suggested that it was time that we got on with the markets. It is pathetic to watch these women in the hot sun and other bad conditions, I said, and suggested that we had better notify the Leader of the House and see if he liked the site. That we did. During this period

the Governor-in-Executive Committee had to deal with the purchasing of various lots. As a matter of fact, there have been several arguments in the Governor-in-Executive Committee as to why one price should be paid in one case, and another in another case. What I want to know is why in this particular case without saying one word to the owner—I want them to deny that if it is not true—without saying one word they have decided to acquire it compulsorily? Sometimes men must rise above petty things. It would have been the easiest thing in the world for a person who wanted to be spectacular to get on the floor of this House or on a public platform and although he knew that Broad Street is Broad Street and there is the question of supply and demand, shout, four pounds a square foot is too much money wasted—thrown away. I am not objecting to the Government seeking to acquire this land this way. But I am saying that when you have a public duty to perform you should not single out one person and say use the Land Acquisition Act. Who are the Government's valuers? They had valuers for the land for a playing field at Friendship. They had valuers for the Central Foundry land and for the little bit of land for the post office. Valuers guide you. The gentlemen who comprise the Executive cannot say they know all about land when it comes to the Central Foundry, Friendship and Clinketts but nothing about land when it comes to Eagle Hall, and therefore we must go to the Land Acquisition Act. Honourable members are bound to see the force of that argument. It may sound to the general public "land at Eagle Hall a dollar". But step down from one part at the corner; those of us who have any knowledge of land values would say that the drop would be something terrible. You may call it inflation or whatever you like, but whenever land is acquired and modern buildings are put up the country is improved. If it will enlighten honourable members I can tell them that only a few weeks ago the land we felt was too dear at \$1.20 a square foot has been sold at the same price. What I can understand from the addendum is that it was impossible to get this land by private treaty. I would have to assume that this lady through her solicitors drove a hard bargain with the Government. In these circumstances it would be in keeping with decency for the Government not just to make a bald statement. Every human being has a reputation to maintain, and we must remember that this lady is a member of the Other Place. For the Government just to make the bald statement that appears in the addendum is not satisfactory to honourable members. As it looks to me sir, before anything could be done or said the Executive decided on this means of acquiring the land. I can tell you that several other people wanted to acquire these sites because of the business which can be done there. Eagle Hall is not a residential district say like the St. James coast. It is a business district. Belfield is a residential district, and so is the Pine Hill. But you do not compare the Central Foundry site's price and say we buy land at Pine Hill or the Navy Gardens at 30 cents a square foot. I am going to vote for the Resolution. One honourable member said that the Government on a previous occasion paid dearer for land after using the Compulsory Powers Act. I hope that will not be the case this time. I just want the Government to be consistent. We on this side of the House must have our eyes open. Who are your advisers? Just saying we are buying this but we are not buying that is not good enough. I want an answer to what I have said. I would like to have it made out that I was misinformed by Mr. Sealy and that what I said is not true, even

for the benefit of the honourable senior member for St. George. What I want to know, Mr. Speaker, is whether the decision to acquire the land this way was made before any attempt at private treaty.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker—I do not know anything about land values, but it does seem to me that one dollar a square foot for land at Eagle Hall is a bit high. If it was lower Baxters Road or Tudor Street, it might be reasonable. I just want to repeat what I said about a year and a half ago: after paying £4 a square foot for the Central Foundry land you could expect to be charged any price for any land anywhere in St. Michael. I said that because by no stretch of the imagination could £4 a square foot be reasonable. But if you make it appear that the Government is throwing away money, you must expect everyone to try to milk the cow. I would not be surprised if in the near future we had to resort to this Act every time we want to acquire land.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker—I must thank the honourable senior member for the City for the comparatively mild way he has put his case; and I must thank him also for refraining on this occasion from repeating the mistake—I characterise it no stronger than that—the mistake originally made by the Commissioners of Health relative to the report of the meeting with myself at Eagle Hall. I am 51 years old and never for 50 minutes of my life have I made it my business to try to learn land values. I do not have the faintest idea what my own land is worth. I did agree that between \$1.28 and Mrs. Hanschell's dollar a square foot hers was the more reasonable offer. But when I am quoted as saying that I agreed that Mrs. Hanschell's offer was satisfactory, that is not correct. What I have to say is that all land in this island is too dear. I am still saying that we must appoint a commission to value land throughout the length and breadth of this island. Therefore if Government has to buy land it will buy it at the same price as that at which Mr. Clairmonte accepts it for death duties. That is a problem that exists all over the world. There was a solicitor in England who was knighted for his public service and who had made money out of a book written for the express purpose of showing how to avoid income tax and death duties. I want it to go on record that I have never said that the price was reasonable. I did say that Mrs. Hanschell's \$1.00 compared with Mr. Parris' \$1.28 was more reasonable. I admit that the wording of Paragraph 2 of the Addendum might give the impression that there were long drawn out negotiations and that no agreement was reached. But when you compress into seven or eight words what would better be expressed in 20, you sometimes create the wrong impression. I will say that the firm of Messrs. Cottle Catford & Co., acting on behalf of Mrs. Hanschell, wrote a letter addressed to Mr. E. D. Mottley and J. M. Kidney on February 16, 1949, in which they stated among other things that Mrs. Hanschell would not consider a sale at any price less than one dollar a square foot. In addition the Vestry would be required to pay the cost of the stamp duty on the plan and other expenses of the General Board of Health. If the maximum price offered was below a dollar a square foot, negotiations would of course come to an end immediately. It was signed by Messrs. Cottle Catford & Co. I repeat that at the Executive Committee meeting I did not agree with the dollar a square foot, and the Government considered that if a dollar a square foot was too high and Mrs. Hanschell was not prepared to take less, there was only one alternative—compulsory acquisition. The King's Solicitor wrote to the Colonial Secretary copies of the correspondence between the Vestry and Mrs. Han-

schell and the terms of sale as follows—I do not want to read all that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I made the point referring to Carrington & Sealy. I do not want the honourable member to think that I am misquoting anyone. I want him to read the letter from Messrs. Carrington & Sealy to the Government.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Sealy has written a letter which could only come from the mind of Mr. Sealy. In it he has said that you cannot trust the Government. That Government postponed this until they could pass the Land Acquisition Act. I would be perpetuating his slander by repeating the letter. The point at issue is whether the Government is lying or is misleading this House when it says that it was not possible to acquire the land by private treaty. The lady said clearly that she was not prepared to take less than a dollar a square foot. Mr. Shilstone reported to us. He said these were the terms of sale: if the land is appraised by the machinery of the Public Health Act at less than a dollar a square foot, no sale will be made. What was the Government to do? When you are told no sale if the offer is less than a dollar how can you go on? There are some people in the Real Estate business I believe who bargain like fish sellers—"I am selling at 20 cents not passing 16 cents." But the Government takes you at your word. Carrington & Sealy's letter was just foul abuse of the Government. Nothing can alter the fact that we got these terms from her solicitor—if the price offered is less than a dollar there will be no more negotiations. We came to the conclusion that it was no more use bargaining.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the House and agreed to.

ITEM POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking leave to postpone the next Order—Item 11 and that Item 12 be the next Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There was no objection and Item 11 was postponed.

AMENDMENT TO GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph—to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1949.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker—This is a Bill to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act of 1949. As honourable members will see from the Objects and Reasons, under the present Act a scholar is granted \$240.00 to help defray expenses

incidental to the tenure of his scholarship. The Legislature by Resolution 50 of the 10th August, 1943, granted an increase of incidental expenses by \$192.00 until such time as normal travelling conditions were restored, thus making a total grant of \$432.00. Since 1943 there has been a steady increase in the cost of passages, and it is considered that, in present conditions, the amount of \$432.00 to cover incidental expenses is inadequate and that it should be increased to \$576.00. The Bill amends the Act accordingly, and it gives retrospective effect as from the 28th September, 1950. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas earlier today, in dealing with a resolution for leave passages, drew the attention of the House to the increase in cost a year ago where passages are concerned. I am not quite sure if they are not even higher to-day. On the French Line there is only one class of fare between £85 and £130. The Royal Netherlands Steamship Line charges between £98 and £125. On the Elder & Fyffes it is between £80 and £110. Honourable members will know for themselves how the cost of passages has been rising, and they will realise that even this \$576.00 is not as much as will meet some classes of passages. But the Government feels that we should only go as far as that. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker—I understand that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph is not available to sit as Chairman of Committees, and I beg to move that the honourable junior member for the City be Chairman of Committees for the balance of the day.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded.

The motion was put and carried *nem. con.*

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS His Honour the Speaker left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. Lewis in the Chair.

The three clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

On the separate motions of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS the Chairman reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

On separate motions of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title was read and agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker:—That is the end of Government Business. I understand that the amendments of the Other Place to the next item have not yet been circulated. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week, June 5, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded.

The question was put and agreed to unanimously, and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th June, 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*),
His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS, (*Deputy Speaker*),
Mr. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr.
H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Messrs. M. E. Cox,
R. G. MAPP, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., J. H. WILKINSON,
O.B.E. and F. C. GODDARD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the 22nd May, 1951, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning the Bill intituled "An Act to amend the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act, 1937" with amendments.

DOCUMENT

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

Report of the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. Peter for the half year ended the 31st March, 1951.

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

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS (on behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Resolution to place the sum of \$186,429 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951-52, Part II—Capital, as shown in

Supplementary Estimates 1951-52, No. 2, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. COX: Bill intituled an Act to amend the Trade Act, 1910.

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

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

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Trade Act, 1910, was read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave that Order No. 9 on the Order Paper be taken as the first Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day now stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas:— To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Messrs. ADAMS, MOTTLEY and BETHELL came into Committee and took their seats.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,— This Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of \$5,890 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. 6 which form the Schedule to the Resolution. As is customary, I propose to take each Head of the Schedule separately.

Head VI — Customs

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head VI, Customs, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Head XXIX — Miscellaneous Services

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—In connection with item 60, "Representation of the Colony at the Festival of Britain, \$3,480" I would like to know on what basis is the subsistence allowances calculated. I see the amount in respect of that item is \$870.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am asking leave to postpone the consideration of this Head until we discover what the actual figures are.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not really want the consideration of the Head postponed; perhaps the honourable member will be able to give us the information a little later on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Surely it is customary to let us know what the amount for subsistence allowance is. It is bad to give an allowance which is too little and which will make the delegates from Barbados go around looking as if they are loafing. The honourable member on my left (Mr. Bethell) knows what I am saying. Anyhow, we are not asking for a postponement of the consideration of this Head; if the honourable member can give us the information later on, that will be perfectly all right as far as we are concerned.

Dr. CUMMINS: In the interest of all concerned, I will say that we are not armed with the figures, and I am therefore asking leave to postpone the consideration of this Head.

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

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

Head XL — Waterworks

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XL, Waterworks, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—In connection with this item "Springs," I should like to know the reason why it is proposed to increase from \$240 per annum to \$960 per annum the amount paid by the Waterworks Department to Codrington College for the privilege of drawing off water from springs situated in the grounds of the College, as is set out in the note to the item. That is an increase of 400%. Is it proposed to pay this increase because four times as much water is being drawn off or is it simply because the cost of everything else has been increased?

Mr. ALLDER: I intended to make a similar observation as the honourable member has made. Water, like all other natural resources, should not be considered as being absolutely the private

property of any individual. Water is a very essential item to any community and I consider that if you extract water from the lands of any individual or company, you should only compensate that individual or company for the inconvenience which was caused as a result of that extraction of water. In this particular case, I am told that there is no large area of land involved; that there is just a spring and, as I have said, water is a very important item to the community. The population cannot do without water and if water is found and the Government has to tap it, that item should be dealt with as in the case of the extraction of oil; that is to say the owner of the land under which the item is found is paid a peppercorn rent for any inconvenience which he might suffer in the extraction of the item. However, when it comes to increasing the amount here by so much, that is something which is left for questioning; water, like any natural resource, should be owned and controlled by the Government when it becomes a cost to the taxpayers. If the Government had not tapped this particular source of water supply it would have remained there quiescent. I am told that the water from these springs runs all the time and finds its way down to the sea; I do not see that the owners of these springs have to maintain any expense in connection with them and I feel that some explanation should be given for this increase from \$240 to \$960 as set out in the note. If negotiations have been carried on since 1865 you will still have to show some reason why it is only now that you are proposing to grant this increase. Is it that the owners have waited until now to ask for this increase? I do not think that any private individual should be allowed to capitalize on an essential item like water on which the people of this colony so greatly depend.

Dr. CUMMINS: This Water Agreement was made since 1865 at a flat rate of £50 a year for the supply of water. The amount of water drawn off per day for use by the Government is 200,000 gallons and it is felt that that amount of water is worth £500 a year. This agreement was made in perpetuity; it has never been changed and if this water was worth £50 a year in 1865, as I have said, it is felt that it is worth £500 a year today. The Government is therefore asking for an increase of \$720 in respect of this item; we are benefiting from this water which is drawn from these springs at Codrington College.

Mr. ALLDER: What the honourable member has said might suit a private individual who has something to sell and it would be justified if it was not a question of an item which is considered as a natural resource of the colony. All Governments of whatever complexion always try to see that natural wealth is not exploited for the benefit of private owners, but that it is utilized at reasonable cost for the benefit of the population. While the honourable member might have been justified in saying that if in 1865 this water was worth £50 per annum it is worth more today, he has not shown that the owners of these springs have added to their improvement, so that it could be said that they have cost the owners any sum of money. These are natural springs of water and, as I have said, if the Government did not tap them, the water would remain there and be wasted. If you decide that the owners of these springs should be given more money for this water, you should put forward some argument to justify the increase which you are about to grant; you cannot anticipate that the owners of these springs will say that this supply of

water is worth £500 per annum in 1951 and therefore in 1960 we will want an increase of so much per cent.

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that a Resolution to place the sum of \$1,210 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1951—52, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1951—52, No. 6, which form the Schedule to the Resolution, do now pass.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. COX in each case, the Resolution passed in Committee of Supply was read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO SANCTION "THE TRADE ACT (TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1951"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to sanction the Regulations entitled "The Trade Act (Temporary Importation of Motor Vehicles) Regulations, 1951," made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the Twenty-Sixth day of May, 1951, under the provisions of Section 177 of the Trade Act, 1910 (1910—4).

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution seeks to give approval to Regulations relative to a Bill which was passed by this House on the 6th of February this year. Honourable members will remember that when that Bill was before the House it was stated that Regulations would be brought down to this House giving effect to the Bill. The object of the Bill was to allow the Comptroller of Customs to extend from six months to twelve months the period during which vehicles imported into this island by strangers might remain here for temporary use. The Addendum to this Resolution says:

"This Resolution seeks to give Legislative approval to the Regulations entitled "The Trade Act (Temporary Importation of Motor Vehicles) Regulations, 1951" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the twenty-sixth day of May, 1951, under the provisions of Section 177 of the Trade Act, 1910 (1910—4), a copy of which has been laid on the Table of the Legislature." I think that that explains pretty clearly the purpose of this Resolution. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business. The

first Order under this Head is to resume Committee on the Bill to amend the Gas Works Act 1911 (1911—9).

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to postpone the consideration of this Order.

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

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to lay the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to incorporate the Barbados Boxing Board of Control. On the last occasion the Schedule to the Bill was omitted and I am also asking leave to lay the Schedule.

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

ORDER NOT PROCEEDED WITH

Mr. HAYNES: I ask leave to take Order No. 52 standing in my name as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I object to leave being granted the honourable member to deal with this Order which is the consideration of an Address. I am asking that Order No. 50 standing in my name be taken as the next Order of the Day. That Order is the consideration of a Bill with respect to a parochial body and it is therefore of more urgency than the Address with which the honourable member is asking leave to proceed.

The question that Order No. 50 be taken as the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

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

Noes: Messrs. ALLDER, BETHELL, DOWDING, GILL, HAYNES, GODDARD and WILKINSON—7.

ST. PETER'S PARISH LOAN BILL, 1951

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day now stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter:—To move the second reading of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. Peter to raise a loan not exceeding £1,500 to purchase land and erect Baths and Latrines, and also to purchase a refuse collector for the use of the said parish.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—This Bill is just a formality. The St. Peter's Vestry is asking the Legislature for permission to raise a loan of £1,500 for the purposes which are set out in the Bill. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker,—I have seen that a few parochial authorities are trying to improve the social amenities in their respective parishes; but I have also noticed that there are others who have somewhat failed to negotiate any scheme for the setting up of certain social amenities. If the Parochial Authorities have been set up by the Central Government, I would like to know whether the Administration would consider it advisable to circularise all these Parochial Authorities in order to find out if they are willing to adopt a programme of social amenities—if they are willing to do so and are unable to do it, or if they are not interested in this matter. The Vestry of the parish of St. John is comprised of members who are not particularly interested in extending social facilities to the people; there has not been any attempt on their part to—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is reflecting on parochial administration. The subject-matter of this Bill is the erection of baths and latrines in St. Peter for the service of the inhabitants of the parish and I do not think that the honourable member should indulge in reflecting on a matter which is not relative to the subject.

Mr. ALLDER: I have only made that point in passing. I am wondering if the Government would not recommend or order that similar amenities as are mentioned here be set up in all the parishes, because we do know that the local authorities are not interested in this matter and there is nothing to force their hands in respect of it unless the Central Government became interested in the matter. I want to compliment those local authorities who have already started to set up these amenities, but I must deprecate the failure on the part of other local authorities to initiate a similar scheme.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the Preamble be postponed.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The thirteen Clauses of the Bill and the two Schedules were read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

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

ADDRESS *RE* CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST COAST ROAD

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave to take Order No. 52 standing in my name as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Andrew:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the project known as the East Coast Road.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—This Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to put into effect the "Project" known as the East Coast Road from Belleplaine to the public road to Cattle Wash, St. Joseph particularly, as at present owing to the destruction of the bridge at Lakes by heavy rains, the Villages at Lakes, Corbins and other lands, are completely cut off from road communication.

This Address has been hanging fire for many sessions. It has met with much frustration but it seems inconceivable that such an important matter should have been so often turned down. First of all, there are many misconceptions about this road. In 1933 the then Governor appointed a Committee to consider

the question of the abolition of the Barbados railway and it was decided that the railway should be abolished and that this particular section of the railway line mentioned in this Address should be converted into a road. For many years—I think it was a period of about 50 years—this section from Belleplaine to Cattlewash has been served by the railway and since the abolition of the railway this district has been robbed of a road. It is entirely a misconception to say that this is a question of a new road; as you know, Mr. Speaker, by the closing down of the railway this area of approximately four miles has been cut off from communication. It is also a misconception to say that this road is owned by one or two landowners. I have statistics to show that there are about 54 individual landowners on this section alone and it seems hard for those people to be cut off from all communication because of the absence of this road. There are in this area 225 arable acres of land which used to be cultivated in the days of the railway and that amount of land is equal to a small estate.

This project, which is known as the East Coast Road, was put before a Committee appointed by the Governor in 1949 to provide seasonal and temporary employment for people in this colony and the Committee unhesitatingly approved of the project because they considered that it was a very essential matter. We hear every now and then of money being voted for making a survey of this road, but I do not consider that there is any need for a survey of this road to be made. The road was graded for a railway and that grade would be surely suitable for motor and horse-drawn vehicles. I have selected this particular section of the district because the other sections have leading roads but this particular section has no leading road. What has made this matter an urgent one is that during the heavy rains which we have had within the last five or six months the villages called Lakes and Corbins have been entirely cut off from communication on account of the destruction of Lakes Bridge. A deputation of the Vestry of St. Andrew met the Director of Highways and Transport in connection with this matter and he agreed that replacing the Lakes Bridge would be out of the question; because where this Bridge is situated, whenever the rivers meet there is a swirl of water and no matter what structure is erected, it will be destroyed. At the present time, one-third of the Bridge is there and the remainder of it has been washed away. The Director of Highways and Transport has agreed that the Bridge should be replaced below the old railway bridge. There is some talk about having mechanical equipment for making this road but that is not essential as the road has already been graded for a railway. We want to find employment for people and that alone should commend this project to the Government.

As to the question of finance, in 1945 the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization granted money towards carrying out this project. This colony was given a lumpsum of £800,000. I think, and of that amount, only £300,000 has been spent at Seawell Airport. I have been told on good authority that the present Comptroller of the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation would be quite willing to allocate some of the remainder of the money which was granted this colony, for carrying out this project. We can get this project carried out at cost to the British Government instead of the Barbados Government. The matter is very urgent owing to the fact, as I have already mentioned, that Lakes and Corbins Villages with about 40 to 50 houses are absolutely isolated at present. A temporary path has been made

so that people can get over to these districts, but as soon as there is a good rainfall that path will be washed away. I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. REECE entered the House and took his seat while Mr. HAYNES was speaking.

Mr. GILL: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. The construction of the East Coast Road is absolutely essential, particularly for the parish of St. Andrew. This parish is situated in the hilly part of the island and whenever there is a heavy rainfall you find the roads slipping and sliding; sometimes for months two of the main highways are impassable. During the heavy rains of last year the Lakes district was and still is completely cut off from any public highway. Years ago, in the days of the old railway, I was told that people who owned land along the district where the East Coast Road would be constructed, cultivated their land and grew sugar canes which were taken by the railway to Three Houses Factory; but since the abolition of the railway no means of ingress or egress from the land have been given to these landowners who, I am informed, owned over 200 acres of land. As a result, this land has not been cultivated and has been more or less abandoned. The construction of the East Coast Road will mean that this land will again go into cultivation and, naturally, employment will be provided for people; there will also be an increase in the sugar output of the island. We have an appreciable number of unemployed people in this island and the construction of this road will not only provide employment for many of these people but it will be of lasting benefit to the island. I can think of no better way of attracting tourists to this island than by the construction of a proper East Coast Road—a lovely road running along the level foreshore in the most picturesque part of the island. The construction of such a road, the erection of houses and possibly hotels along its frontage will not only create employment for people but add to the parochial taxation and ultimately to the general revenue of the island. I should imagine that it would be far easier to travel along the level foreshore than to travel in overloaded buses up steep inclines overlooking deep ravines. I hope that the Government will, without unreasonable delay, implement this Address. In 1948—1949 the sum of \$2,400.00 was put down for making a survey of the East Coast Road; in 1949—1950 a token vote of \$1. was put down and this year that token vote has been removed. I do hope that the Government will really carry out the construction of this long-promised East Coast Road.

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. junior member for St. Andrew to present this Address.

Mr. HAYNES: As your Honour pleases.

ADDRESS *RE* ELECTION EXPENSES BEING BORNE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. HAYNES: I ask leave to take Order No. 53, also standing in my name, as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to an amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1901.

whereby the expenses of elections will be borne by the Central Government.

Mr. HAYNES: This Address, Mr. Speaker, reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly To His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to send down legislation having for its object the amending of the Representation of the People's Act, 1901, in which it is stated that the Expenses of Elections for the General Assembly of the Island should be borne by the various parishes of the Island: In view of the very increased cost of these elections under the Act to amend the law relating to the Representation of the People's Act, that these expenses be now borne by the Central Government.

This is not a controversial matter.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of Order. This is a rather irregular procedure. I have tried to call across the Table to the hon. member to inform him that the Acting Attorney General is actually drafting the necessary legislation to carry out the terms of this Address; so that there is no point in going on with the Address.

Mr. HAYNES: I do not see that there is any harm in passing this Address. It seems that when the new Representation of the People Act was drafted, this particular matter escaped the Draughtsman's notice. As you will remember, Sir, years ago it was seldom that any contested elections took place and even then they were conducted on a very small scale; but now that elections will be conducted on the principle of adult suffrage, there is the necessity for extra polling stations and so on, and it will be very difficult for the taxpayers to bear all these expenses, even although the deposits of candidates who fail to secure a certain number of votes will remain with the Colonial Treasurer. However, I shall not delay the House with this matter; I think that everybody realises that this is a very important matter to be urgently dealt with. I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. GILL: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. In view of the assurance which has been given by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, I shall not say anything further in the matter.

Mr. ADAMS: It is well known that a new broom sweeps clean but it looks as if an old broom re-wired sweeps even cleaner. I assured the hon. mover of the passing of this Address that the Government has agreed to the principle of what has been set out in the Address and that the Acting Attorney General is actually working on the Bill. The Acting Attorney General has had a few conversations with me on several points including the point which has been raised privately by the hon. member on my left, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, as to whether the counting of the votes should be done in districts or in a central place. All that is being gone into: I assure hon. members that the Acting Attorney General is working on these matters so that legislation might be brought down to the House at an early date and hon. members will have the opportunity of expressing their views on that legislation. If there is anything which the hon. junior member for St. Andrew will be willing to vouchsafe to the Government, the Government is willing to consider it; if there is anything which hon. members feel will help to simplify the working of the Bill, the Government will be grateful if they will pass on the information to it.

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. junior member for St. Andrew to present this Address.

Mr. HAYNES: As Your Honour pleases.

ADDRESS RE PURCHASE OF ESTATES OWNED BY ABSENTEE PROPRIETORS

Mr. ALLDER: I ask leave to take Order No. 37 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John:— To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the purchasing and taking over of all Estates in this Island owned by absentee proprietors.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker,— This Address reads as follows:—

*The House Of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly desire to set up a system for the redistribution of the landed areas in this colony among the local population. And as a step towards this end, respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation immediately making provision for the purchasing and taking over of all Estates in this Island owned by absentee proprietors.

Honourable members will know that there are in this colony many estates some of which were acquired as gifts and others were acquired on a very cheap basis. As such, these estates have passed from seed to seed, and there are now in England many persons—the great-grandsons and grand-daughters of the first owners of these estates still holding on to them. The number of acres comprising these estates is nearly 7,000 and we all know that the population of this island has increased tremendously since the time when these estates were first acquired, and the island is now overpopulated. Since the early acquisition of these estates scarcely any attempt has been made to accommodate the masses where the distribution of land is concerned, and, as a result, the price of land is above the means of the people to purchase it, along with the unwillingness of those who own large areas to give way to the needs of the increased population. It has been clearly shown that our problems will continue to increase unless the Government takes steps to give the people of this colony the opportunity to become independent citizens. It has been said that as long as an individual is not given the means whereby he can become independent he ceases to be a useful unit of the community in which he lives. The argument has been adduced that if much of the land in this colony is cut up and put into the hands of peasant proprietors, the sugar industry will suffer as a result. The most of the land is utilised for the purpose of sugar production and scarcely any consideration has been given to the accommodation of the people by way of their owning land or having it leased to them by the Government. As a result you find that many workers have to live on hills overlooking gullies and there is always a difficulty when doctors are asked to visit someone who is ill in these places. Many a doctor has turned back when he realises how difficult it is to get to the homes of people who are ill. We want to adopt a land policy in this colony, such as that which is now

being adopted in England where present landowners have to dispossess themselves of thousands of acres so as to be able to pay Death Duties, Income Tax and so on. I have read a couple of weeks ago where the Earl of Harewood who owns the Belle and the Mount has had to get rid of 10,000 acres; I feel that if he were asked to consider the population problem in this colony and to give up a couple of hundred acres of the amount which he owns, he could not consider that as being unreasonable. What is more, some of the present owners of estates in this colony do not know where the estates are situated; many of these owners have not been to the colony since they owned these estates. The profits from the cultivation of the land are sent out to Europe or England and this colony loses that money. I am not asking that an area of, say, 7,000 acres be cut up into houseplots, but a portion of such an acreage could be easily allocated to a co-operative scheme and also for the purpose of building up a peasant proprietorship system. I am sure that France is one of those countries which depend upon the peasant proprietorship system for their existence and there are Balkan countries which also depend upon that system. In Barbados there is really no regulation which will compel those who own large acreages to plant food for the population; such production of food on which the population depends, is left in the hands of people who are producing food and we have to import most of the articles which we consume. Whenever a food production programme has to be carried out, it is left to the persons who do not own any large acreages; apart from that, the owners of these acreages concentrate solely on the production of canes for the purpose of selling them to the sugar factories because they feel that they will get a lumpsum.

This Address, I feel, will have the sympathy of hon. members who feel that a scheme such as that I have put forward, should be adopted. I saw a paper which was sent out from England some time ago and in that paper was recommended this same scheme which this Address seeks to bring about; that shows you that those who are in authority have considered the necessity for such a scheme. We have our difficulties out here and the only way in which we can overcome them is to initiate here what has already been initiated in advanced countries. Such a scheme is more important in so far as this colony is concerned, because we cannot boast of having room for the expansion of the population as is the case in British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean. I feel that if such a scheme were brought about here, it would not only mean a measure of happiness to the thousands of people but it would also ensure that thousands of pounds do not leave this colony annually to go into the pockets of absentee proprietors overseas. I feel the time has come when every colony should try to conserve its resources and a start in this direction will have to be made at some point or other, otherwise we will continue to allow our problems to increase. There are some lands which are so located that they are peculiarly suitable for being taken over for the purpose of a peasant proprietorship system. The Poll district in the parish of St. John has become a built-up area and people would be glad to come to the front so that they could enjoy the social facilities which are sponsored by the Central Government, but because there is the difficulty of getting land to the front, even to purchase at a reasonable price, people have had to keep themselves in the back and so they have failed to improve their position. It is unfortunate that most of the estates of which I am speaking are situated in one parish, that is the parish of St. John. I have a list

of these estates to present to the Government and there is a state of affairs which reminds one of the most outstanding relic of the slave system which used to obtain here. The failure of the population to become independent landowners has brought about a system which should no longer obtain in this colony. It is only in parishes like St. Philip and St. George that some estates were cut up and people were able to purchase a couple of acres and rear up their families. Mr. Speaker, at this stage, I am asking leave to postpone the further consideration of this Address, in view of the fact that it is now time that we should adjourn.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to postpone the further consideration of this Address. If there is no objection, the hon. member will be granted leave. (After a pause). There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 3 p.m.

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