THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

.. *Tuesday, 11th September,* 1951.

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

Present

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

Prayers were read.

Messrs. E. K. WALCOTT and ALLDER entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 28th August, 1951, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Honourable the Legislative Council Messages returning (a) the Bill intituled an Act to provide for the institution of a Public Service Commission and matters incidental thereto, with an amendment; and (b) the Bill intituled an Act to encourage the establishment and development of new industries and matters connected therewith, with amendments.

Messrs. MOTTLEY and GARNER entered the House and took their seats.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of $870 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. 24 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: This Resolution is for the purpose of making a grant to the Chapter of St. Michael's Cathedral in connection with the recent enthronement of the Lord Bishop of Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to make better provision for Local Government in the Island.

Mr. ADAMS for Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Bill to encourage the Fishing Industry in the Island.

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

QUESTIONS

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

1. Is the Government aware that children are being employed in field work at the Pine Plantation?
2. What are the ages of the children so employed?
3. In view of the fact that Government has abolished child labour in its schools and in view of its policy towards child labour will the Government take steps to end this practice of the management of this plantation?

Mr. MOTTLEY: To enquire from the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House.

1. Is it a fact that persons suspected as suffering from or showing clinical signs of tuberculosis are being treated in the same wards at the Barbados General Hospital as patients suffering from typhoid fever and other communicable diseases?
2. If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, is Government aware of the dangers to which
   (a) persons in a poor state of health due to the ravages of typhoid fever and other diseases are exposed by being brought into contact with persons suffering from tuberculosis and in such confined quarters?
   (b) tuberculosis patients are exposed in being housed in such poorly ventilated quarters and in contact with persons suffering from typhoid fever and other communicable diseases?
   (c) nurses on duty in these wards are exposed in having to attend to tuberculosis patients in such confined and poorly ventilated quarters?

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

1. On what items of food and drugs has price control been removed during this year?
2. What considerations led to the removal of price control from these items?
3. What are the retail prices of these items subsequent to the removal of price control and the comparative prices before such removal?
4. Does the Government consider re-imposing price control on any of these items?
5. If not, why not?

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

1. Have returns been made by the Churchwarden of St. Thomas as to the distribution of relief monies paid to persons whose homes were damaged by high winds?
2. Was there a sufferer named Effie Hewitt among those in that parish to whom relief was to be paid?
3. How much was to be granted to this person?
4. Has she received the amount intended to be given her?
5. If not, why not?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Bill to make better provision for Local Government in the island, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS for Mr. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Bill to encourage the Fishing Industry in the island was read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

RESOLUTIONS POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, — I ask leave to postpone the first two Resolutions—the Resolution for $480 relative to making a loan to Mr. A. L. King, and the Resolution for $7,800 in respect of the purchase of a State car for the use of His Excellency the Governor.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of $40,020 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. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Honourable members will see what the items are and if there is any of these items about which I can give any further information than what is supplied in the notes, I shall be very pleased to do so. I suggest that these Heads of the Schedule be taken one by one. Perhaps the Resolution can be taken as a whole and if there is under any Head any item about which honourable members want information we can postpone that item and go on to another Head.

Mr. LEWIS: I suggest that we take each of these Heads separately and let the items be passed in the usual way; that will simplify the matter of getting through the Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I entirely agree with my colleague.

Mr. ADAMS: I made that suggestion in introducing the Resolution.

Head III—Colonial Treasurer

Head III—Colonial Treasurer—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head III stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRYAN: I beg to second that.

Messrs WARD and CRAWFORD came into the Committee and took their seats.

Mr. LEWIS: In connection with this item "Allowances for Shortages," I take this opportunity to say that a shortage was discovered in the Treasury and there seems to be an unexplained delay by the Head of the Administration in allowing this shortage to be known to the House of Assembly. I register that protest in the hope that some member of the Executive Committee will have an explanation to make, because I feel that this branch of the Legislature more than any other, is responsible to the people for their taxes, and immediately anything is discovered it should be reported here. I think it is a serious oversight when the people's representatives can only know about this shortage in the Treasury when the Authorities have sanctioned the putting of a notice in the newspaper. I feel that this branch of the Legislature should have known about this matter and given some details as to the method of working in this particular Department. The representatives of the people should have been expeditiously given a statement of fact as to what has happened.

Mr. ADAMS: I am surprised at the honourable junior member for the City. This matter was discovered by accident, because you do not discover these things except by accident. You might be lucky enough to find somebody putting his hands in the cash. Here you have the Administration making exhaustive enquiries, the Police are called in and the matter is being taken very seriously because it is intended to make a criminal prosecution; but because the Administration does not say anything about what is taking place you make a protest? That is absolute nonsense. If everybody knows that you are trying to find out an individual, he will keep his mouth shut; if anything, the Administration should have kept more quiet about this matter and thereby possibly get somebody to blame. I have no more information about the matter than any other member of this House has; I merely know that these exhaustive enquiries have been made, and more money has been found to be missing than what was thought to be missing at first. It is true that further enquiries are being made and the more secret the enquiries are the better it will be from the point of view of discovering who is responsible for this loss. The honourable member is right in maintaining the rights of the Assembly, but he could hardly be right in this instance.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is true that we have had a serious cash shortage in the Treasury and there are many of us who read about it in the first place in the *Trinidad Guardian*. That shows that the Administration does not treat this Assembly with any

respect, because the information which was given to the *Trinidad Guardian* must have been obtained from some part of the Administration. Everybody is enquiring about the shortage in the Treasury; we hold the purse strings and while it is true that enquiries are being made, we should have been informed about the matter instead of wild rumours being allowed to go around. I am not going to condemn the investigators or say that they are not doing their job properly; I agree that it would not be proper to report a part of your findings to a public body; I feel however that the comment made today about not allowing us to know about this matter earlier is perfectly in order. I hope that as a result of these investigations somebody will be brought before the public and we will be able to see what has been happening in that Department. If these investigations are properly carried out, results are bound to be obtained. We have a limited number of people working in that Department; we have the Police Department with all sorts of specialists coming in, and I say that we, who represent the people of this colony, are looking forward to having these investigations properly done and results obtained. I do not expect the honourable Leader of the House to tell us how far they have got in connection with the investigations; I would like to say that it has been brought forcibly to my notice that during the investigations certain Heads were allowed to sit down and hear statements made by subordinates. I will tell this House that no Police Department in the world should allow any Head of a Department to sit down during investigations and hear what juniors are saying. When you are suspicious, you must be suspicious from top to bottom; you cannot be suspicious of the porter and not of the Head of the Department. I repeat that during investigations as to defalcations in any Department the Head of the Department should not be allowed to sit and hear statements which are being made by subordinates.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to make my position clear. There might be a discussion of the matter at a later stage, but I am protesting against the fact that this cash shortage in the Treasury was discovered and no information about the loss was communicated to this House at an early time.

Mr. ADAMS: Could anything be greater nonsense than that last remark? In any country somebody will put his hand into the cash. People have stolen money and they have been reported and fired; has that been reported to the House? If a public scandal has taken place and the Government is doing nothing about it, then hon. members should try and fire the Government; if we had ministerial status and the Minister in charge of the Department did nothing about a public scandal which has occurred, of course the matter should be aired on the floor of the House; but every time that something is committed by a member of the Civil Service must that thing be reported to the House? I would like to ask the hon. senior member for the City something; where is Linton? This is a small island and Linton comes from the parish of St. Philip of which one of the most astute politicians is a representative; he comes from a parish a representative of which is a newspaper editor who is always ready to expose things.

Mr. LEWIS: I am at liberty to say that the hon. member is talking nonsense; I cannot see where the cash to be audited by the Auditor has anything to do with the cash in the Treasury. The cash in the Treasury is not audited by the Auditor; there is a system of dealing with the cash for paying vouchers, which is an entirely different matter. Up to recently the House of Assembly assumed control of the Treasury and some of the money was stolen during the time when a person was responsible for this Department. This is a question of dealing with the money in the Treasury. and I am sure that there cannot be more than one or two members of this House who know the method of checking the money. To bring that red herring across the trail and talk about chucking the Government out of office does not come into the picture at all. The point I am making is unanswerable; the moment a shortage is discovered in the Treasury it should be reported to the House. That is all I am saying.

Mr. MAPP: The hon. senior member for the City has raised some protest against the alleged methods in which these investigations are being conducted, and I whole-heartedly agree with his protest. The entire investigations are apparently pointed at the clerks in the Department and nothing could be more irregular in a properly-conducted enquiry. That is a serious matter; not only is suspicion being thrown at the clerks, but the Head of the Department has taken it upon himself to punish the clerks. Before any guilt can be pointed at anybody, the Head of the Department has taken it upon himself to punish his clerks; he has stopped the commission which is paid to the clerks by the British Ministry of Pensions. I cannot imagine a more high-handed action than that which has been taken by the Head of this particular Department. I draw this matter to the attention of the Government in the hope that they will draw to the attention of the Police that when an investigation is taking place in any Department they must investigate from the top to the bottom of the Department. The Head of the Department himself should be suspected or do not let there be any investigation at all; if you cannot have a proper investigation carried out I think it is better in the interest of the character of persons that the investigation be discontinued. This investigation is apparently not being conducted along proper Police methods and I hope that the Government will bring that matter to the attention of the Police. It is almost asking the Head of the Department to throw suspicion off himself.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Mr. ADAMS: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that it may be convenient for you to leave the Chair at this stage. I therefore beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the Chairman of Committees cannot remain with us any longer to-day. I therefore beg to move that the hon. junior member for the City be appointed as Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the day's sitting.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the House do now resume Committee of Supply.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I wish to make a few remarks relative to what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has said, I think it was earlier in this session that His Honour the Speaker ruled that he would not allow hon. members to criticize members of the Civil Service who had no opportunity of replying to the criticisms. It is my duty as Leader of the House or the duty of any Government to reply on behalf of members of the Civil Service who are expressly prohibited by the Colonial Regulations from writing to the Press or defending themselves even orally against attacks. If attacks are going to be made on Civil Servants it is the duty of members on this side of the House to point out that such and such an attack will be made in order that the Leader of the House might be able to make the necessary explanation. For instance, we were informed by the hon. senior member for St. Philip that he intended to draw to the notice of the House the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner of Police; as soon as the hon. member mentioned that matter, an enquiry was made into it and we had to admit on the floor of the House that the Deputy Commissioner was at fault and the Government was investigating the matter. It is not a question of defending a man if he is wrong; it is the duty of the Government to say that a mistake has been made and we will put it right. I did that in the case of Major Holmes à Court: it was a most reprehensible act on his part to refuse to interview for membership of the Police Force applicants from the parish of St. Philip because Linton could not be found. Hon. members should not attack Civil Servants who cannot reply; what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has said might be quite true, but I am perfectly prepared to say that he has made a wanton attack on a man who cannot defend himself. I have gone to Government House and told the Governor to get rid of at least one official as quickly as possible, and in quick time that official was given promotion somewhere else. It is our duty to make it known that in the interest of Barbados "A" or "B" should not hold a particular job. It is not good enough for any hon. member to get up here and say or do things of which he should be ashamed; he should give the Government an opportunity of knowing what are the accusations against an official, because if that official has to answer all the accusations, the answers should be given through the mouthpiece of the Government. Hon. members should not make use of an opportunity of doing things which in their sober moments, they would not do, because it is the sort of thing which they would not like to have done to them. If we were prohibited from defending ourselves, how would we like to know that somebody could always chuck bricks at us and we could not defend ourselves however right we might be?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the benefit of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph I will say that I appreciate his remarks in so far as replying immediately on behalf of the Civil Servants is concerned; but it has been my experience in this House that accusations made against Civil Servants have been answered by a statement from the Government and sometimes such accusations have resulted in a Commission of Enquiry being held, so that, in my personal opinion, Civil Servants have more protection in this House through Government channels than anybody else. I do not share the view of the absolute helplessness of Civil Servants who are attacked in here, because that is not my experience.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest it is absolutely improper for an hon. member to make accusations against a Civil Servant whose mouth is shut, and then, when the only reply that can be given has to be given by the Leader of the Government, he is not warned beforehand. People might read the accusations but the reply might never be heard; it might be said that the Government had no reply to the accusations and therefore the person must be guilty of them. I think that honourable members like the honourable senior member for St. Andrew and the honourable junior member for St. Lucy will agree with me, that if you are making an accusation against any human being you should afford him a fair chance to make his defence. And the best time for making a defence is when a charge is made.

Mr. MAPP: I am absolutely not ashamed of what I have done; if there is anybody that I am protecting in my speech it is the Civil Servants who are at the bottom. This matter has already been drawn to the attention of the Head of the Administration and nothing has been done about it. I feel that an enquiry like this should be carried on along proper lines; but it is a fact that this enquiry has not been conducted in a proper way. I said that the Head of this Department has gone so far as to stop the allowances which used to be given to the Civil Servants by the British Ministry of Pensions, and that is wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable member absolutely sure about that?

Mr. MAPP: That is so.

Mr. ADAMS: How could the Head of a Department do anything without the Colonial Secretary agreeing with it? The honourable member has a habit of making statements which he cannot verify; how can the Head of a Department stop something which is the policy of the Administration? What the honourable member has said is not true; I give him the lie direct.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable junior member for St. Thomas absolutely sure that the method of enquiry in this matter has been drawn to the Head of the Administration?

Mr. MAPP: I am sure it is known that the Head of the Department has stopped these allowances.

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

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I would like to support some of the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. It should be a pleasure to an old Civil Servant like me to realise that the honourable member is attempting the correct procedure in saying that he is there to prevent any undue advantage being taken of Civil Servants. I agree with some of the remarks which the honourable member has made; it is sometimes inevitable that under the system which we have today, we undoubtedly make accusations to which we require the reply at the time. In that case I think we should certainly give notice of these accusations so that we can prevent a man's reputation from being tarnished. However, I do not think the honourable member will ever find any Rule which will prevent honourable members from exercising their freedom. The honourable member can appeal to our sense of justice and decency to keep accusations from descending to such a stage that he is unable to give the requisite answer; but I would like to say that our debate is in the interest of the public and we have to raise matters at times. If this investigation is being conducted along lines such that they are allowing the Head of the Department to sit in judgment instead of being merely one of those who are being examined, then of course, without casting the

slightest slur on the officer concerned, the investigation should not be conducted in that way.

I think the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will agree with me that what we are worried about is that we are only hearing bare facts and the Message which was sent to the House only gave bare facts. The honoura' le member says that he does not know anything more about the matter than anyone of us, but he has the advantage of being a trained lawyer and therefore he is in a position to be able to tell us that which we can hear and to keep back that which would injure the investigation. I should like to ask whether they know what was the lapse which caused this occurrence to take place; if they have not found that out would the honourable senior member for St. Joseph mind telling us what steps have been taken, if any, to avoid a mistake like this being made in the future? Looking at the matter from outside, it is impossible to say who is likely to be involved; I think we could be granted the right to say that it would be very much easier for the Head of the Department to be involved than a junior, but we are not saying that he is involved. A search along certain lines should be helpful. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph might be able to help us as to whether any precaution has been taken to prevent a lapse like this from taking place in the future, whether they know under whose regime a part if any of this lapse took place or whether there has been any neglect on the part of the people in higher authority; otherwise we are left in a very unhappy position. I am told that this matter merely concerns the Treasury and not the Currency Department, but I say that my remarks as to whether they have any information or not will still apply. If we cannot be told anything, we are left absolutely futile; if the way in which the Department is run is such that more than $14,000 can disappear from time to time and nobody knows about its disappearance, how are we going to prevent $14,000 from disappearing again? Even those of us who are refraining from asking certain things are very anxious to be acquainted with the steps which might be taken to prevent a recurrence of this matter.

Mr. ADAMS: I think the honourable member has been extremely moderate in his speech and I thank him for that; his little criticism is justified and it is fair to him to say "thanks". As I have said, I know nothing more about this matter than any other honourable member; if the Police are making investigations I do not want to put myself in the position of asking for inner secrets, so to speak, I will say that it is only when things like this happen that you have to take extra precautions. This abstraction of notes is due to the fact that, in checking up, a bundle of notes was taken as a bundle of notes when it was not a bundle of notes; that is the everyday confidence trick; a man turns over a few notes which are genuine but the others are false. You take a big bundle of notes without checking them all and when you get home you find that some of them are counterfeit and you cannot take them back. The same risk is taken by the Government as is taken in respect of the banks. I know that a man was charged with uttering counterfeit coin, he came to me to defend him and in my fee he gave me eight half-crowns six of which I afterwards discovered to be counterfeit. (Laughter). I had put the money in my pocket without looking at it If I were not a barrister I could have got into the box and given evidence against him. In this particular case before us, paper which was cut in the shape of a dollar note or a five-dollar note was substituted for a dollar note or a five-dollar note. I will enquire as to what precautions are being taken to prevent a recurrence of this state of affairs in the future.

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

Head VI — Customs

Head VI—Customs—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head VI stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Head X — Fire Brigade

Head X—Fire Brigade—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head X stand part of the Schedule.

Dr CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Head XIII — Legislature

Head XIII—Legislature—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XIII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Head XV — Police

Head XV—Police—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XV stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put, Mr. Chairman, I should just like to refer to the position of cleaners or janitors at the Elementary Schools. (MEMBERS: That comes under the next Head).

Mr. CRAWFORD: Very well.

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

Head XX — Education

Head XX — Education — was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XX stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to draw to the attention of the Government the position of the janitors at the Elementary Schools. Since the appointment of these employees has been taken over by the Government, these employees are, in the majority of cases, getting less than what they were paid by the Church Authorities or the collection which was made from among the teachers at the Schools. Several cases have been brought to my attention and in one particular case the salary of the janitor was $9.88 per month a certain amount of which was paid by the Church Authorities and the remainder was subscribed by the teachers at the School, but since the Government is now completely responsible for the payment, the janitor has only got $3.58 per month. The difference is so striking as to make the position almost incredible. I am sure that there must be something wrong somewhere, and if the attention of the Government is drawn to the matter, some steps should be taken to remedy it with the least possible delay. My informant, who is a janitor has assured me that the figures I have given are correct; there is no reason why there should be this disparity in the remuneration for janitors because their employment is

now a little more secure. One hopes that the matter will be looked into with the least possible delay.

Mr. ADAMS: This is the first time I have heard about this matter; now that it has been mentioned I will draw it to the attention of the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Some time ago an Address was passed in this House asking the Government to appoint janitors at the Elementary Schools because the day has passed when the teachers should be pulling their pockets as they still do in a great many cases, to pay somebody to assist in cleaning the Schools. About five years ago I spoke from my seat in this House on the question of appointing janitors to these Schools and it is only here and there that one or two janitors have been appointed. I think that paying a janitor $4.00 a month for sweeping a school every day is scandalous. There are some people on the Education Board who do not seem to know how the cost of living affects other people. I feel that the Education Board is too cheeseparing: I am surprised that the honourable Leader of the House has said he has heard of this matter for the first time, I have heard the honourable senior member for St. Peter say that the teachers had to pull their pockets and pay these janitors. I supported the motion of the honourable senior member for St. Peter in respect of the appointment of janitors, and I also supported the honourable senior member for St. Joseph in that provision should be made in the Estimates for the payment of janitors at these Schools.

Mr. GARNER: In connection with this Head, sometime ago I told this House that I, along with hundreds of families, did not feel satisfied with the results which we are getting for the money which we are spending. I make bold to say that since I made my remarks here parents are even more dissatisfied than when I spoke. I want to re-emphasize my position and I want to say that all is not well where the matter of education is concerned. The Government has promised me solemnly to do something but nothing has been done yet. I see something published in the Press as regards what the Government intends to do about the matter of age-grouping and superannuation; it is absolutely a disgrace, to put it mildly, as to what is happening among our young people today. You cannot build good citizens unless they have a certain amount of elementary education; I am hoping that the members of the Government will take into consideration the fact that education is of primary importance today, and we cannot afford to allow a system, which does not give children the necessary amount of education, to supersede the old system which we have had bearing fruit in the past. If you have fantastic ideas which are not workable and from which we are not getting any results, it is time that we do something about the matter, because we are only turning out of the schools idiots and ignoramuses. I am sorry that I have to make this comment today, because I thought, by now, that something would have been done to help the children of this colony. I want to say that the Government should take a strong hand and stop the Director of Education or whoever is responsible for this age-grouping and superannuation, and see that the children get a solid foundation in the Elementary Schools. We should have vocational schools and technical schools, but we are trying to cram the children with all sorts of things when they should be more interested in the three "R's" at first. I think it is an unhappy state of affairs going on today: this fantastic idea of doing certain things in the schools is wrong. I am not an educationalist; all I can do is to watch results. I know that there are very many families in this colony who pay teachers to coach their children. We want these matters remedied; we are playing with the children's future. A lot of people cannot get on because they have not had an elementary education, and a lot of us around this Table owe what success we have achieved in life to having an elementary education. I want to see that the children of this colony get a proper elementary education at least. For God's sake, let us see that these children get a solid elementary education; let us remove all the obstacles which are in the way to the attainment of that education. The former Inspectors of Schools, Mr. Greenhalgh and Rev. Nichols, had a proper system here, but now we are getting these high-falutin Englishmen coming down here and sabotaging our Education Department. I have no grudge or anything like that against these Englishmen, but how can you judge any system except by results? And the results which we are getting from education for our money today are not adequate. I know that the future belongs to the children and I say that if we do not give them a proper education they will go back to what our forefathers were. This age calls for elementary education at least.

Last Saturday a man asked me if I knew where he could get somebody to teach him to read and write; he has some relative in America, but, poor man, he cannot read and write. That relative would like to send for him, but he cannot go; and you can multiply such a case many times over. Let us see that the children are given a proper elementary education at least; education must be for everybody; every man and woman should be able to read and write. We do not want the children to be brought up like pigs in a pen; I say that whoever is responsible for the existing state of affairs must go and leave the children to learn the three "R's." I know the value of education; the honourable senior member for St. Joseph can justify what education means; he is an example of what education can do and he should join with me in seeing that the poor children in this colony get proper education because they are going to be future leaders. (Cheers).

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I never agreed with the wholesale way in which the secondary schools were taken over; they are so taken over now that the Director of Education is able to direct everything which should be done in them. I am sure that if the Headmasters of the respective schools were asked about this matter, they would say that the persons who are finding the money should maintain control of the schools and that more freedom should be allowed the Governing Bodies of the schools as in the old days. One Headmaster has reported to me that whereas there was a difference of opinion between himself and the Director of Education as to how something should be done at a school, the Director was able to compel him to do something which was not for the benefit of the school. I do not think it has worked out satisfactorily. I hope that the Schemes in respect of the government of these schools may be modified to such an extent that the Governing Bodies may have more power than they have now. I think that the true position should be investigated whether or not we desire to have it varied.

The question of the examination for the School Certificate and the Higher Certificate definitely needs a little bit of investigation by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. These examinations have been mainly held at Harrison College and I suggest that we revert to the old days and provide some person, who is not partisan, to be responsible for the preparation

of the necessary apparatus and material for these examinations. That used to be the case in the old days; I understand that that is not being done now and it may work all right where you have a man who is 100% honest; but I think it may be said with some degree of certainty, that the position is not all right when you have a man with a fictitious degree or no degree at all being responsible. After all, it is not fair for anything to be known by some of the boys before they reach the examination room. I am appealing to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph because I know that he will know what I am saying. I do not desire to cause any investigation which will hurt anybody; I must say in fairness to the Education Department that they removed the examination this year from Harrison College to another school, but I regret to say that they did not adopt the system obtaining in the English Schools. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will make an investigation into these matters and see whether or not there should be any alteration in these Schemes. Complaints are being made that a certain amount of independence in respect of these schools has been lost and the position is not working for the benefit of the schools; perhaps the Education Board could look into the matter along with the honourable senior member for St. Joseph as distinct from the Director of Education. We will all admit that we owe much to the conditions which obtained by having the system which worked so well in the old days, and it would be worth while to see whether or not we are going to make certain changes. When it comes to a question of deciding between a good Governing Body with a good Headmaster, and a Director of Education, so far as I am concerned, I will vote for the Governing Body and the Headmaster as against a Director of Education no matter how good he is.

Mr. DOWDING: On the last occasion on which I spoke on this Head in the Estimates, I spoke on a matter about which I felt very strongly. I never believe in hiding anything that is wrong, because in doing so, I commit another wrong and two wrongs do not make a right. Like the honourable senior member for St. Philip, I feel very strongly about this system of education which has been thrown around us and if we allow these things to go on, people will want to push everything down our throats. It is regrettable that those who know the facts do not bring them to the knowledge of the public; it is time that this Government conduct an investigation into the subversive activities which are taking place in the Education Department. I have been reliably informed that on no fewer than two occasions this island has had thrown upon it persons who supposedly had qualifications for teaching, persons with a lot of letters after their names, but when you came down to brass tacks they had no letters after their names at all. In this island we have numerous people who are capable of teaching in the Elementary Schools, but on account of the call to-day for these highly-trained experts, these capable teachers are kept down. I think we should make sure that these supposedly qualified people do not thrust themselves upon Barbados again under a different name. When we hear what the honourable member on my left has said, we only have to read between the lines and listen to the rumours which are going around in the island. Whereas people in other colonies used to look to Barbados to have their children educated, they are now trying to get their children to any place other than Barbados (MR. ADAMS: That is not true). I am glad to hear that that is not true; I hope the honourable member will give all the reasons why it is not true. If the honourable senior member for St. Joseph is making a plea for our educational system in this island without the facts that he should know, facts which should be at his disposal, it is a sad state of affairs, and our children are those who are suffering. It is time that the Government make an investigation into what is happening and take some disciplinary action against those against whom it is possible to take such action. I will not say anything more at this stage; I will await further light on the matter.

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

Mr. ALLDER: From the speeches I have heard I have been given the impression that the fault for the existing state of affairs is that of the Director of Education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not been given that impression.

Mr. ALLDER: The Director of Education is a servant of the Government and he can only carry out the policy which has been given to him by the Administration to carry out; he cannot do anything unless he gets the permission of the Government to do it. I feel that we are definitely lacking in our educational system and there are a few incidents which have taken place and which have given a very bad impression. Some time ago when the Westbury Girls' School was to be occupied, instead of labourers being employed to clean it and prepare it for the pupils, the pupils had to do the scrubbing and cleaning themselves. On one day the pupils were sent home for lunch with their uniforms all wet and soiled, and when the Headmistress was approached about the matter, she said that her hands were tied in view of the fact that she had appealed to the Government for assistance in the carrying out of those duties; she said that her only alternative was to allow the children to do the cleaning. Not only have these children got to scrub and clean the school but they also have to clean the toilet bowls. A few parents were annoyed about the matter but the Headmistress could not do otherwise. I brought forward this question long ago and the promise was made that janitors would be appointed at these schools. A Resolution in respect of payment for janitors was brought down but the amount was insufficient. I know of cases in which the teachers have had to contribute among themselves the payment for cleaning the schools, and on the other hand, I have noticed that there is a definite discrimination as regards the provision of amenities at the various schools. While the Secondary Schools are given all that is needed, on the other hand the Elementary Schools are left out of the several things which they need; the weight falls on the staff and on the children who have to attend these schools.

As regards the failure experienced in our educational set-up, the Government has to be blamed for that as much as those who are responsible for carrying out the duties. There is definitely a breaking down of discipline among the staff of the Schools; the teachers are dissatisfied because the salaries are too low and the question of age-grouping has contributed to the difficulty. You will find that the Government pays a teacher to teach children and in the afternoon the same teacher will teach one of those same children at his home, for which the parent pays. As a result of that, the teacher may be over-worked and he has no time for recreation; he is paid what the parent can afford to pay. That is where you will get a breakdown of the whole scheme. We cannot afford to allow these conditions to continue because it means that there is a waste of time, energy and money. The state of affairs is very unfortunate; if you want a gardener you demand of him certain educational qualifications, and on the other hand, the children are meeting it very difficult to get education of the

quality that we used to get years ago. I cannot refrain from observing that the public has been clamouring for a technical school added to our educational policy, and with our population of 200,000 with so many being unemployed, provision has only been made for 48 pupils to attend bursary classes, and our workers are regarded as being the best in any emigration scheme. We have failed to teach trades to a sufficient number of our children: if more people were trained to do skilled work, this colony would be looked upon as the source of supply for skilled labour not only in the West Indies but further afield. I hope that with all the agitation which has taken place for improvement in our educational policy, the Government will take an active part in the immediate future in bringing about the necessary improvement.

Mr. MAPP: I do not want to dwell at any length on this question; this is the second occasion on which honourable members have debated this question of age-grouping in schools, and the honourable senior member for St. Joseph promised to make some enquiry into the matter. Doubtless the honourable member will tell us something about the enquiry and the decision reached by the Education Department. The Committee will recall that the opinion of Headteachers and other teachers as to the question of age-grouping was taken at a meeting of the Teachers' Association, but there was a very poor turnout of teachers on that occasion and they were not representative of the entire teaching population in this colony. However, the majority of the teachers decided in favour of age-grouping. I can say that teachers in the parish of which I have the honour to be a representative are opposed to age-grouping, and it is in that very parish that we have had the calamitous results of no boys being able to pass the examination held for entering secondary schools. The Committee will agree that that is a very serious matter; at the very schools where the teachers are opposed to age-grouping we have had the worst results in so far as academic attainment of the children is concerned. That is a serious matter for the colony as a whole and the Government should look into it; the entire colony knows that something is wrong. Although children have not failed to the extent to which they have failed in the parish of which I am a representative, there have been results which are far from being satisfactory.

The honourable member who has just spoken seems to think that the Government has to dictate policy to the Director of Education; but we have appointed a Director of Education and the Government must take advice from the Head of the Department. In England all the schools have adopted the system of age-grouping and in those countries which have adopted the system, the results are worse than in other countries which have not adopted it. There is a general outcry against the intelligence test, the system by which children go into some stream at the age of 11 plus. Every human being does not develop in the same way; some children develop in the early stages while others develop later on. When a child reaches the age of 14 and 15 years you may see that development which you did not see when that child was at the age of 12. I know my colleague is absolutely against age-grouping, and it is time that we told the Director of Education that we are not in favour of that system; we know from the Replies given to the Questions I asked on the subject, that the Director is absolutely in favour of retaining this system. When this system was introduced in England it was found to be absolutely unsuccessful. (Mr. ADAMS: That is absolutely untrue). I do not know what evidence the honourable member has for saying that; but I have been told, and members of this Party have been told by someone who has been living in England for a long time, that this system of age-grouping has not been successful. From the reports we have had, the system has not been successful; it is not what the Socialist in England wants, and it is not what the Socialist in Barbados wants. I say it is very unfortunate that in the very parish where the teachers are opposed to age-grouping that the sort of thing I have mentioned has taken place; and you do not get teachers coming around and telling you that something is wrong unless something is wrong. In view of the results obtained in St. Thomas and in view of the fact that we were promised that some enquiry would be made into the matter, I think it is my duty to make these remarks here this afternoon.

Along with the question of age-grouping there is also the question of an overcrowded curriculum, and the teachers cannot get the time to teach the children properly. These are things which should be brought to the attention of the Government. The Government is not comprised of superhuman beings; they cannot be expected to attend to all the things that are brought to their attention in the way we would like them to attend to those things; therefore when we bring matters to their attention they should be glad to hear them. Anyone who has spoken with the teachers or who has been observing the results in this island, will say it is time that something be done, that some enquiry be made into the Education Department itself.

Mr. ADAMS: Some important points and some extraordinary statements have been made by honourable members I entirely agree with the honourable senior member for St. James especially as regards the fundamental point as to the position of the Director of Education and the Headmasters and Governing Bodies of schools. It is a knotty problem in the sense that if you are providing the money to support a school you feel that you should have a say in what that school is doing; at the same time it is fundamentally wrong for anybody to direct the course of education in a school merely because he is financially supporting it. Education should be free and I certainly try to be impartial in saying that I honestly feel that we have reached the stage when education should have a democratic bias, and only to that extent should a Government endeavour to direct the policy of education; but as I say the problem is that if you cannot run a school on your own without financial assistance from the Government, you must expect the Government to say something as regards your curriculum. There is difficulty in striking a balance between the freedom that a University or Secondary School should have in teaching and your right, inasmuch as you are paying the piper, to call the tune. Unless the Director of Education is a most exceptional man, you would probably find that he is incapable of telling the Headmaster of Harrison College or the Headmaster of some Elementary School how the show should be run; if you have a Director of Education who is supposed to say what is the best curriculum Combermere School should take or what is the best curriculum Harrison College should take, you do not find a man who is ordinarily able to do a thing of that sort. The Government has the right to say, generally speaking, what examination you should have, and at the same time you should not unduly limit the functions of a Headmaster who probably knows far more about the matter than yourself; but I would be inclined to say what the honourable senior member for St. James has said; you should choose a first-class Headmaster and a first-class Director of Education who can assist the Headmaster with the

curriculum. I do not think that a Governing Body should interfere with the curriculum of a School.

With regard to the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. George, I would ask the honourable member if he has never placed confidence in a manager and then found that he was pinching money; you cannot condemn a system because somebody has turned out to be a black sheep. There have been masters at Harrison College and at other schools, who did not walk the narrow path, but you cannot condemn a system because you occasionally discover that somebody has gone wrong. As regards the last master at Harrison College, he did not have a degree in the subject in which he was supposed to have a degree before getting the job. In life there is nothing 100% fool-proof; not even representation in the House of Assembly; electors make mistakes and send to the House representatives which they do not always send back. I am told that there are a good few members who are not likely to get back in the House and I hope so. As far as these unfortunate happenings at Harrison College and Combermere are concerned, it is a question of taking too much to trust. There are, for instance, practising barristers who have not been called to the Bar; and sometimes a man is discovered practising for years as a doctor, but he has not qualified as such. As far as I have been informed, the Colonial Office and the Crown Agents have been interviewed and instructions have been given to check every statement made by every potential candidate for the post of Assistant Master at Harrison College, Lodge School or Combermere School or for that of Assistant Mistress at Queen's College. Therefore I do not think that what has happened in these two recent cases is likely to happen again. In the last case at Harrison College, the gentleman had two previous appointments in public schools in England, one appointment being for four years, and he also said that he held this degree which he never held; so that he succeeded in fooling English educational authorities as well as in fooling ours. In actual practice, I am told that he was good.

When you come to practical examinations, you must trust somebody. An examiner sets a paper in Botany and you have to ask somebody to get the material for the practical examination. If you ask a science teacher at Harrison College to see after the material, as a teacher who is desirous of seeing his pupils pass, he may accidentally forget and give them a lesson on the subject a week or two before the examination comes off. These things happen; it is wrong, however, to ask a person who has to teach pupils to get specimens ready for a practical examination. The preparation of the material should be done at the Department of Education, and if there is no scientist in that Department there is bound to be one at some school or the Department of Science and Agriculture. As I say, these things happen, and it is regrettable that such a mistake was ever made although it is easy to see why the mistake was made, but it will never be made again.

I would like to point out that every member of this House is equally responsible for the position as regards janitors. We passed an amount in the Estimates and we thought that it was enough; but we are informed that teachers have to put their hands into their pockets and assist in paying the janitors. I believe that because some honourable members have said it, and I find that the teachers are always asking for more money. There are teachers who belong to the Labour Party, who have a sense of carrying on self-sacrifice on behalf of the community; and there are some other teachers who are willing to put their hands into their pockets rather than keep the schools dirty. I will draw the matter to the attention of the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

With regard to the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, he is young and perhaps I may not answer him as he should be answered. The Government's attitude towards age-grouping has been published in the Press; the Government has taken into account all that the teachers have said and the Government says that there is nothing wrong with the principle of age-grouping. There are millions of things which are right in principle, but they may be wrong in practice if you have not got your apparatus. I challenge the honourable junior member for St. Thomas to produce reports of authorities in Great Britain condemning the principle of age-grouping. The principle of age-grouping will never work if you have not got a sufficient number of schools and teachers, and, above all, a school for mentally backward children. We need a preparatory school to start with and we need properly trained teachers; the trouble in this island is the teachers who need teaching, not so much the children. Whatever principle you adopt it is bound to break down if you have not got the practical facilities for carrying out the principle.

I wish to thank honourable members for raising the points which have raised because education is dear to the hearts of Barbadians and inevitably the feelings of members of the House and the public will be aroused in connection with the subject. In this House we will have more criticism on matters relating to education than on any other matter, and Barbadians are more critical than people in any other part of the West Indian area.

Mr. DOWDING: I am not fully satisfied with the honourable member's reply; the responsibility for education in this island lies primarily with the Government. After all, those persons who have been appointed to the various offices must be made to carry out their duties. We have had two cases of the same thing occurring within a specific term of office, and is the honourable member going to tell me that that state of affairs can be taken lightly? If I were in the position of the Director of Education in this colony, as soon as the first case arose I would have every single master and mistress investigated.

Mr. ADAMS: I must interrupt the honourable member; what he says has been done. Enquiries have been made as to whether this gentleman went to Oxford or otherwise.

Mr. DOWDING: The second case should not have crossed these shores. (A MEMBER: He was already here).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have made enquiries and the second case was already in the island when the first case was discovered.

Mr. DOWDING: This applies in the same way as people coming to my place for work. Nobody gets a job at my place before I go to the telephone and find out what his credentials are. There are matters about which honourable members know a lot and I sincerely hope that an early start will be made to investigate them.

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

MR. MAPP seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

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

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

RESUMPTION

On the re-assembling:—

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the Committee reported progress Head XX was under debate.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—If one of us fails to participate in the discussion on this item, it is not because we do not regard the educational policy of the colony as of vital importance. It is purely because any comment on Education today must more or less be in the nature of an incidental discussion, while the matter itself actually deserves a full dress debate. I have been rather astonished at some of the glaring inconsistencies in the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. The principle of age grouping, says he, is not wrong. It has been found to be correct in practice and will work successfully, provided you have the necessary apparatus and accommodation at the schools, and teaching staffs to carry it through etc. Granted that that is correct, one would think that a Government which intends to pursue the policy of age grouping and wanted to make it work successfully, would see to it that it provided the necessary machinery which would help it to work successfully. Reference was made to the new statement by the Government on the question of age grouping. This statement did not say that the policy of age grouping would be suspended until such time as the Government provided the machinery to make it work successfully. As a matter of fact, that statement suggested some amendment to the present system, and in order to make the amended system work, the schools would actually need more teachers than they have at present, since the idea is that a teacher should not be responsible for more than a particular number of children in any one group. While formerly you may have had a teacher in charge of a particular group, under the new system you will divide the group itself into about three, and you would give each teacher one of the groups within that group. That means that the schools should have more teachers. If the teachers were insufficient before to make the old system work, how can you expect the new system to work without increasing the number of teachers? I am informed by people who should know that our second state is likely to be worse than the first. In any case, informed opinion on the matter seems to be that the policy of age grouping should in itself be preceded by at least 15 years of compulsory education. At least one must say that the Government has been consistent in the matter. While pursuing a policy in the Elementary Schools which makes definitely for retarding the progress of the children, on the other hand it is pursuing a policy in keeping with this in so far as secondary education is concerned. It fails in the first instance to provide an adequate number of Secondary Schools throughout the colony. The Education Code envisaged a secondary school in every parish. That code is over 15 years old, but so far as the secondary schools are concerned the number is almost what it was when the Code was formulated. There are secondary schools in St. Michael, in Christ Church and in one or two other parishes. In addition to not providing adequate secondary school accommodation, what are we doing at our secondary schools? If what we have been hearing is true, we will have to wait and see how many will be eligible to enter those schools in the future. Those who can enter, and enter a bit late, provided that they have not reached a certain form at a certain age are forced out. So you see there is one policy right through. In the Elementary schools the children learn very little. Providing that such a pupil gets the chance to enter a secondary school, if by a certain age he has not reached a certain form he is superannuated and sent out of school to do heaven knows what. We are demanding higher qualifications for entering into almost any job in the island. If you want to enter the General Hospital as a nurse you have to have the School Certificate. At one time in the educational history of the colony anyone who went to Harrison College or Combermere School could get a job in the Service. Today unless you have a School Certificate or its equivalent they do not want you. No one is against insisting against demanding the best possible qualifications; but it does seem that a Government which is pursuing a policy whereby we will turn out as few qualified people as possible should be the last to insist on a higher qualification for employment in the Service. As I have said, Sir, this question is of such vital importance that it requires a full dress debate on the matter. While it is true that the principle of a lot of these new fangled ideas may be correct, one is surprised to know that the Government appreciates the fact that an indispensable prerequisite is the provision of adequate machinery to make them work smoothly, and at the same time fails to provide that machinery, but persists in pursuing that policy to the utmost limit.

The motion that Head XX stand part was carried *nem. con.*

Head xxi—Science and Agriculture

Mr. ADAMS: I move that Head XXI — Science and Agriculture stand part.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded and the motion was put and carried *nem. con.*

Head xxiii—Medical Departments

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head XXIII—Medical Departments stand part, and the motion was put and carried *nem. con.*

Head xxviii—Subsidies and Grants

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Mr. Cox that Head XXVIII—Subsidies and Grants stand part, and the motion was put and carried *nem con.*

Head xxix—Miscellaneous Services

Mr. ADAMS moved, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head XXIX — Miscellaneous Services stand part, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

Head xxx—Income Tax And Death Duties

Mr. ADAMS moved, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head XXX — Income Tax and Death Duties stand part, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

Head xxxi—Labour Department

Mr. ADAMS moved, seconded by Mr.Cox that Head XXXI—Labour Department—stand part.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman—Only yesterday I received letters from emigrants to America complaining how hard the conditions that they are ex-

periencing there are, and claiming that they have posted money up to the 30th July, and up to the 3rd of this month their relatives have not received it. They claim that they have had it investigated from the American end and that it has been reported that the money was transmitted; but they are not sure where the hold up is. I am suggesting that inasmuch as we have a Liaison Officer from this colony in America, contact should be made with him and that he be asked to see that these kinks are made straight. I have one of the letters here; I do not intend to read it; but the disclosures in it convey what seems to be the fact that the men are meeting very hard conditions and are disappointed. They also claim that they have idled for nearly a month, and during the time that they are idling they have to pay the same way for their board and lodging as if they were working. The money is taken out of their earnings and they do not get the wages that were agreed upon. They are asking that a suggestion be made to the Liaison Officer so that he can investigate these conditions and see if he can have them improved.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman—If the honourable member has a letter from the American end, the proper person to forward it to would be the Postmaster General. Every letter of complaint that appears either in the Press or that comes to the notice of the Labour Department is properly investigated. The other morning a letter appeared in the *Advocate* and within a few minutes the Acting Labour Commissioner was taking the necessary steps to investigate the complaints made. Last week I got a letter from one of those emigrants. I think it is the fourth that I have got since the last batch went down. Complaints were made in those letters. When such letters are received by honourable members they should pass them over to the Labour Commissioner and let him see the nature of the complaint, so that he can get in touch with the employer and investigate the complaints. It is not enough to get up in the House and say that you have received these letters.

Motion that the Head stand part was carried *nem. con.*

Head xxxii—Department of Highways and Transport

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head XXXII—Department of Highways and Transport—stand part.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman — I notice that one of the amounts under this Head is to pay for work done by casual labourers of the Department. While on this I would like to express the hope that the Committee which the Government has set up to go into the question of a cost of living bonus will soon report. I say that because there are a lot of parochial boards who intend to give cost of living bonus to their employees, but who are waiting to see what Government's recommendations will be in the matter. It is not that some of these boards cannot act on their own; but no one with any sense of responsibility would like to disrupt the financial or economic equilibrium of the community by stepping before the Government in this matter, now that the Government has appointed this committee. It has been brought more forcibly to the minds of honourable members within the last week or two when since the last Oils and Fats Conference the price of edible oil and other things that come into direct contact with the people in the lower walk of life have risen a great deal. I think it is time for the Government to realise that while the grass is growing—or rather while this committee is disagreeing (because that is what I understand is happening) the people are starving, and that a lot of parochial boards are waiting on the Government's decision. I know that the committee's job is not an easy one, and that it has to be done very carefully. There is another matter which I want to speak on. I hold no brief for anyone in the Highways and Transport Department. But I noticed a few weeks ago that the Government had an advertisement in the Press calling for a qualified engineer or road overseer. Now for the last five years we have been hearing criticisms that the engineers in this Department are doing too much desk work, and not enough practical work outside. Only last Tuesday the honourable junior member for St. Andrew and the honourable junior member for St. Joseph gave us an idea of what was happening. I will say that in my experience, the speech made by the honourable junior member for St. Joseph was one of the most constructive we have heard on this matter, and he said that he would like to see more of these engineers doing outside work. It is no secret that in this Department there seems to be some inharmony. The heads, and the under heads and the engineers seem not to be agreeing with each other, and everyone seems to want a transfer. Now I cannot understand how they can be advertising for this road overseer when I understand that there has been a qualified man acting in that post for the last four or five years. No one can tell the Governor whom he should appoint. But the members of this House can tell the Governor what seems to be fair and just. I am waiting to see. When it comes to certain things in this country I am possibly stronger than anyone else around this table. I do not masquerade as a Socialist, but I like to call a spade a spade. If they have had a man acting in this post for the last five years and they have now advertised for someone else to fill the post it shows that they do not want the man who was acting. Do you believe that if he was an Englishman that treatment would be meted out to him? If a man is no good he should not be allowed to act for five years. But you should not keep a man for five years and then say that you are going to advertise for a man. If the man is no good chase him away. That is my considered opinion. We have seen right in this country people who are not West Indians, not Barbadians, coming and getting jobs. We have seen Englishmen, Irishmen, and even South Africans. While there is all this talk about South Africa, I am told that in one instance the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent a South African here as Harbour Master. (shame, shame). It is true. I am a West Indian. I am a Barbadian. I am one man who does not fool himself as to what he looks like. I know that some people get bad treatment meted out to them purely because they are not English. If you feel that you cannot trust a man, get rid of him. I do not know how the members of this Government feel about it. I speak the feelings of the senior member for the City, not the feelings of any party. Of course there are some members of the Government who will speak their minds on this matter. So often you find in this country that you appoint Boards. The Boards make their recommendations and they are flouted. It does not seem right. How can you argue on the one hand that this is a democratic age when the wish of the majority carries and then concentrate all the power in the hands of one man? This advertisement has appeared in the "Advocate" calling for this engineer when you have had a man acting in the post for the last five years. I think that one of the most dishonest things in the

Government Service is for the head of a department to be able to write private reports on a man without telling him anything. It is dishonest and wicked. Heads of Departments who do it lie against a man in many instances. How do people know it? That is like asking me to say how you know what will be discussed in the Executive next Thursday. I have never yet heard of more than one person keeping a secret. I am saying that it does not seem fair to me to make these secret reports on people. An honourable member is saying that only the Governor can do it. I have known since I was a member of this House that a report went against a man. It was purely a question of colour, although the Colonial Secretary denied that. I do not consider that it is right. I am making this speech in defence of a principle, although I know there are people who will say that if I make a speech in defence of anyone, that person has political leanings towards me. But my friends and enemies know how it is with me when there is a principle involved. In a matter of this sort all the political views I am concerned with is whether the man can do the job, unlike some people who do not care how competent you are, but who feel that you must pay the penalty if your political views are not in conformity with theirs. I have a lot of good friends who do not share my political views. In my political life I have been always like that. I hope, sir, that other honourable members will be courageous enough to see this question as West Indians, that although we have no voice in the making of these appointments that they will let those who are responsible for making them know that the Legislature of this colony is wide awake, will not tolerate injustices, and will not tolerate the keeping of West Indians in acting positions and kicking them around, refusing to appoint them to substantive posts. If you have a man in a job and he is doing it well, do not give him a bad report. If he is not doing well chase him away. Do not hold him down to a job and then advertise for someone over his head because you do not want a West Indian. It is for us to let the Head of the Administration know that in this 20th Century we are not prepared to tolerate those things, and that if you are going to persist with that kind of thing we have the whip and we will use it.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker—I have made several speeches in connection with the Department of Highways and Transport. I think it is right to say that you should never say anything about an individual or a department unless you can say something good. The question is that if the Government which is the body that controls the policy of this department is not prepared to accept and examine the criticisms that are made against the department, there can be no hope of an improvement in the department. What worries me is that the officer in question has been recommended as a very efficient man. If, in spite of that you advertise over his head for another man, it can only be a question of racial discrimination. If an efficient man like this officer is fired out of the office in which he is at present acting, this Government can be branded as having been responsible for racial discrimination in one of their departments. I have been told that the Head of that Department is willing to recommend that officer as a good man, and yet you go over his head and advertise for another engineer. I do not know what to say about that. As I have said on other occasions, the Government is not getting the best it could out of this department. I want to repeat that with all my strength. The Assistant Director who happens to be an engineer of some standing is kept in the office writing minutes. I am referring to Mr. Minett. The country is losing his engineering skill. It would be on my conscience if I did not say something about that. I feel that this man's time is being wasted. I hate to start a discussion on something that is not the subject of this debate; but I must say that the Government is not getting the best out of the department when this man is kept writing minutes.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman—There are times when I thank God that I have an independent profession, and that I do not have to go to friends when I want a job. If this man is hoping to get this job will this debate help him? If there is any talk about racial discrimination, let me say that two Englishmen with no better qualifications than this man applied for the post and they were told that they could not get it.

Mr. MILLER: If because you criticise an advertisement for an officer who will be appointed over the head of another who has acted for three or four years and who is a good man you hurt that man's chances of getting the job, then democracy is a joke.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman—The Leader of the House has got up and tried to make people believe that all is well. But all is not well. I know that as well as he does. So long as the people choose me to represent St. Philip I will talk loud and long. Everyone knows what is happening in this colony. Everyone knows that there are people in that department who do not recognise certain people. But they did not send me here. I was set here to represent the oppressed people. How are you going to silence me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to know on what item the honourable member is speaking.

Mr. GARNER: I am speaking on "Highways and Transport", Head 32. I was only developing my point. There seems to be a dictator at the head of this department. He is a director, but he seems to have absolutely power. That is common knowledge. It is common knowledge that the majority of the staff would welcome his departure. If he got promotion tomorrow the majority of the staff would raise their hands in ecstasy. Some of us around this table also feel that we would be well rid of him. I know of an occasion on which he treated a member of this House like a boy. We are talking about someone whom we know well. I saw this post advertised. I thought it was about to be filled by the man who was acting all this time. I am appealing to the Head of the Administration to appoint this gentleman. I take it that the head of the Department does not want this man. He wants to flout every wish of this House. That is why we should join forces and break him. He should know that when this House says a thing it is the considered opinion of the elected representatives of the people. He should not have the last word and be able to ride rough-shod over the wishes of the House. I want to let the administration know that we are not going to countenance that sort of thing too long. If there is a West Indian who is capable of filling this post he should be appointed. It may be alright for some people to mince matters and talk with their tongues in their cheeks. But when I talk I express my honest view. I know on several occasions when certain people wanted help certain people have backed them a hundred per cent. The officer, who had been acting in this post was alright all the time. Suddenly this advertisement appears. They say that the man is capable and that he knows his job. I have seen him at work in my parish also. The first time that he came to St. Philip I was on the Road Board. The engineer on my board said, "this man knows what he is talking about," I

system of overlooking good government employees in every department it is going to affect the standard of work. I am appealing to the Government to see to it that this officer gets the reward which he so richly deserves. As I have already said, it is the concensus of opinion that he is a first class man. We in this House are the instruments for voicing the opinion of the people. It is not within our rights to make an appointment, but it is within our right to see that justice is done.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman—I would not be doing my duty if I did not make a few remarks on this matter. The day that the Governor, or the Colonial Secretary or a judge questions this House, it will be time to get rid of them. But it is not within the function of this House to tell the Governor whom he should appoint to a post. I appeal to honourable members to see that that is no part of the function of a legislative chamber. The Administration, the Judiciary and the Legislature have three separate functions. The Governor or the Colonial Secretary has no right to tell us whether we were right to pass any legislation or not, and we are going out of our province when we tell the Administration to withdraw an advertisement and appoint one of our friends who has been around and asked us to do it. I do not think that they are going him a kindness. Senior Civil Servants should keep out of politics. In this same House not a fortnight ago we passed the Public Service Commission Bill, and everyone rejoiced to see that Civil Servants will not be subject to politicians whether they are friends or enemies. Suppose Mr. Harris was not pro-Labour, would it be within our province to jump up and say that he should not be given the job? It is particularly wrong to tell the Administration whom they must appoint. For the 17 years that I have been in this House I have never heard a more deplorable debate.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the honourable senior member for St. Philip to sit a minute. I take the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph as being a criticism of the way that I have conducted the debate. As far as I know, no honourable member has told the Administration to appoint someone from outside. They have been appealing to the Administration to appoint someone whom this House has been led to believe has over a period of years given good service for the money voted by the House. I would like to draw the attention of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to the fact that he himself has imported the name of a Civil Servant into the debate when he talked about Civil Servants going around and asking their friends to speak for them. So if other honourable members have fallen into error, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has done the same. I am prepared to allow a certain amount of latitude in debate because I believe that the remarks of honourable members so far have been merely a suggestion to the Administration to take certain facts into consideration. I myself am at a loss to understand the reason for the advertisement when there is a man acting in the job.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, you are the Chairman. You are not a member sitting around the table; and you are making a speech of that sort? I am appealing to you to preserve the dignity of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am defending myself against the attack by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph as regards the latitude that I have given honourable members during this debate.

Mr. GARNER: If I was not possessed of native commonsense the honourable senior member for St. Joseph would be able to cow me with what he has just said. Nobody has tried to interfere with the Administration, the Judiciary or anything else. We are here to represent each and every individual in this colony and we have to speak when we see that advantage is being taken of anyone. There is such a thing as a person being victimised because of his religious or political convictions. If we as members of the House who have to vote money for the Civil Service have no say in the matter, we may as well go back to the Feudal Ages. Do you mean to say that we the elected representatives of the people cannot say anything when we see such an injustice being meted out to a Civil Servant as is being meted out in this particular case? This officer was taken on because he was to be tried. After he has acted for four years without any complaint being made against him you are advertising for someone to fill the post. It means that you are going to get rid of that man. On what pretext? I do not agree with the honourable senior member for St. Joseph at all. He cannot convince me by any stretch of the imagination. He is totally wrong. I do not know if he is so obsessed with running the Government that he cannot see why from time to time the Government cannot be told what is going wrong. I am convinced that an injustice is being done. If after hearing what honourable members have said I did not agree with them in this matter I would be false to my trust. But I know better than that. I know my worth here in this Chamber, and I will go to the limit to defend anyone of whom an injustice is being taken.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman—I did not want to intervene in this heated debate. I merely want to try to help. In the first place, as far as the debate is concerned, I did not understand the honourable senior member for St. Joseph as in any way criticising your conduct of the debate. I know that we are allowed much latitude in discussing such resolutions. But we think that Your Honour realises that you cannot take part in a debate because that would destroy the impartiality for which you are well known. A chairman will agree with a lot of the remarks that have been made by speakers; but the conservation of the dignity of the House rests upon him to a certain extent. That is why as I have said before, I am bound to agree with some of what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said. As far as criticism is concerned, our privileges are wide. But all that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has done is to remind us that control of the Government must be kept free from politics. I have not taken any part in the debate about whether or not the advertisement should have been put in. I do not want to have anything to do with that part of it. I have only risen to support the honourable member for St. Joseph relative to his reminder that we have a duty, and that it is just as wrong for us to force some officer on the Administration as it is for the Administration to try to force something on us, or to usurp a privilege which belongs to us. The logical conclusion to the argument put up by some honourable members is that because we are running the Party Government system, the party in power in the House should use its power to force appointments on the Administration. Whereas it is our right if we see an injustice being done to air our views, it is easy for us to go a step beyond that and forget that we must not tell the Administration "you must do this or that." I am not blaming anyone. I am merely speaking as a senior parliamentarian such as the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, and reminding honourable members that we must not go too far, and that we must be aware of what we are

doing. It does not pay me, politically, to defend the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. But we are old members of the same House and if we lose our dignity it makes people say that we have forgotten our duty. What would become of Party Government if this House could tell the Administration who should be appointed. The party in power would have the power to fill posts with whomsoever they wanted. They would be able to say that such and such a person should be given a job. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph reminded us that the one thing we must not do is to try to influence the Administration in the sense of saying who should be appointed.

Mr. ADAMS: I have to thank the honourable senior member for St. James for what he has said. I do not see how Your Honour could have said that I was blaming you. I was appealing to the judgment of honourable members to see that what they were doing should not be done for the reasons which I gave.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman—I seemed to have touched off the bomb. But I must confess that I cannot agree with the Leader of the House that this debate in any way degenerated. If some of us in the heat of the debate may have made reference to the names of individuals, I suppose it will be appreciated that all of us in this Chamber are not so legally trained as the Leader of the House, nor do all of us have his experience. I believe that when I made my opening remarks I made it clear that I was conscious that it was not our duty to tell the Head of the Administration who should be appointed. I listened to nearly every speaker and I believe that that was the gist of the debate. Surely I cannot agree with the Leader of the House that if we see an injustice being done, either in the Civil Service or anywhere else, we cannot raise the question here. What I said was that I was at a loss to understand if you have a man acting for four years how you can advertise for a man to overstep him. If you felt that he was incompetent it was your duty to get rid of him. I do not believe that the Administration should saddle the Service with incompetent men. But here is a man with qualifications who has given good service. That is the point that worries me. If a man is pro-Labour or anti-Labour, if you come to the conclusion that he is competent, it is your duty to express your view on the matter. We have not done anything that the Leader of the House has not done. I well remember the fight that he put up—though not exactly with the Administration—the fight that he put up and the brilliant speeches that he made when he was fighting injustice as regards Mr. Springer. The honourable member at that time fought the whole Department of Education. We are not doing anything that he did not do in those days. We are not prepared to tell the Administration—who should be appointed. But we should say that an injustice is being meted out. I do not see the idea of the honourable member bringing in the judiciary. No honourable member of this House has ever criticised the judiciary as far as I know. I do not think that any Speaker or Chairman would even allow you to start with such criticism. As long as I am here and I feel that something is wrong, Mr. Chairman, I do not care whom it will offend, I will say that something is wrong. I do not want to keep you back any longer, sir. But I cannot agree with the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. It is within our right to offer criticism, it is not within our right even to suggest who should be appointed. It is within our right to say that an injustice is being done. When the day comes that we cannot say that, we should not be elected. The people elected me because they knew that I would stand up for them. I raised this question because I felt that an injustice was being perpetrated. I do not care if the man is pro-Labour or anti-Labour. People respect you when you give a man what is his. If this man was not from the West Indies he would not be treated so. Do not let it be felt that we are acquiescing in injustice because we do not want to offend the Administration. I can recall the days when the honourable senior member for St. Joseph did nothing but offend the Administration.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member points to some alleged precedent of mine. I have never done what some honourable members have done to-day. It is true that I spoke of Mr. Springer; but Harrison College is not a Government Department. If there was any criticism it was merely a suggestion that Harrison College could not afford to lose the services of a first class master. That is not on all fours with the present case. Harrison College is not a Government Department. It is a privately run school subsidised by the Government.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The honourable member said then that they did not appoint Mr. Springer because he was a coloured man. He said so over and over again.

Mr. ADAMS: Did I say that I did not say so? I said I was speaking of a private school and not of a Government Department.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Is the honourable member saying that Harrison College is a private school when we pass such a large sum for that school under the Education vote in the Annual Estimates?

Motion that Head XXXIII stand part was put and carried *nem. con.*

HEAD XXXIII—AIRPORT

Mr. ADAMS moved, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head XXXIII—Airport—stand part and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

HEAD XL—WATERWORKS

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head XL—Waterworks—stand part.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,— I am speaking on Item 32 — Delivery of water by lorry. I think it is my duty to point out that this is not done as expeditiously as it should be. Sometimes after the standpipes in the hilly portions of Boscobel have ceased to supply water, it takes the Department two or three days to get into action as far as delivery of water by lorry is concerned. It is alright for the officials of the Waterworks Department. I am sure that they always get water in their homes. They cannot understand or appreciate how the people suffer. Under this Item I commend to the attention of the honourable member who is Minister for Water — although he does not appear to me to be listening now — the creation of some system whereby the Waterworks representative in the parish, as soon as a particular standpipe ceases to give water, can communicate with the head office so that a water lorry can be on the spot within at least two hours. How can you do anything without water? I do not know what is the method employed or whether they do not have enough lorries in the department, but I repeat that these delivery lorries should get to a district within at least two hours after a standpipe has ceased to flow.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,— Now that electrical equipment has been put down at the pumping stations I think it would be a good idea for Govern-

ment to make it possible for the engineers employed there to be given a course in Electricity. Some of them have expressed a desire to attend such classes, but they do not have the means of doing so. Inasmuch as the Government has seen fit to send personnel of other departments for courses, I think it would be good to let these engineers be allowed to take this course, or some of them will have to be laid off.

Mr. REECE: Mr. Chairman,— I really think that at this time the Government should tell us what is happening at the Waterworks Department. A certain amount of large pipe was received for carrying out expansion work, proposals for which came before us sometime ago. But it has not been carried out. These proposals included expansion of wells; but I have not yet heard that any water is coming from these wells. Many years ago the Legislature passed money for the building of a reservoir at Castle Grant. Now, sir, if that reservoir had been built, all the higher level land in the Boscobel area would get a good supply of water. We hear that the water is underneath; that we have a natural reservoir, and there is no need to build one. All that we have to do is pump the water out. But why don't they pump it out? Nothing is done, and the position remains exactly as it was. Although we have voted considerable sums of money from time to time, the people of this country are still suffering from the lack of water in their homes. In the parish which I have the honour to represent this session, and which I hope to have the honour to represent next session there are certain districts which suffered from lack of water for many a long year. Only within recent times have they got some of the standpipes needed. But they have only got a few. There are many stretches of road along which it is impossible to get a drop of water. I hope that now that this matter is before the committee the honourable member who is in charge of Water Supply will take the opportunity to tell us something about this wonderful scheme and these pumps of which we heard so much sometime ago.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman,— I do not think that there is any more need to fight over this question. I think it is fortunate for the Government that they have such a good engineer as their present Head of the Waterworks Department. I am speaking with authority, and I am certain that as time goes on the Government will be pleased that they have such a good man, and the island will benefit from the schemes which he has to improve the water supply of the island.

Motion that the Head stand part was put and carried *nem. con.*

HEAD I — POST OFFICE

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head I — Post Office — stand part, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

HEAD III — DODDS PLANTATION

Mr. ADAMS moved, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Head III — Dodds Plantation — stand apart.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,— I do not want to be long, but I would like to ask a question or two. Sometime ago the Government decided to build a house for the manager at Dodds so that he could carry out his duties more efficiently. I think that it is time the Government declared its policy: whether or not it is going to build this home for the manager, so that he can do his work more efficiently. How can a man run a plantation efficiently when he can only come to it for one or two hours a day? At crop time I have seen him have to skip out to Dodds and then journey to Seawell. If the Government is going to let out the land at Seawell I think the home should be built at Dodds. I do not know if the Government cannot borrow the money if there is none in the Treasury. The manager should be on the spot to see that the work of the plantation is being carried out. What is the Government's policy? Are they going to build the home, or will they continue to pay this officer's travelling allowance to and from Seawell? It does seem to me to be penny wise and pound foolish to continue doing that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman—I do not know the answer to the honourable member's question today. Government did arrive at a decision to build this house, but what strictly is the position, and why construction has not started yet I cannot say off hand.

Motion that the Head stand part was put and carried *nem. con.*

Question that the Resolution do now pass was put and carried *nem. con.*

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Resolution in Committee of Supply and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that the House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour. The motion being put and carried *nem con.* Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

NO QUORUM—THE ADJOURNMENT

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: It being past the hour to which this House was adjourned and there not being a quorum present, this House now stands adjourned until this day week at 3 o'clock p.m.