

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th August, 1953.

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., C.M.G., Q.C., Mr. M. E. COX, Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Mr. R. G. MAPP, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. C. E. TALMA, and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. WILLIAMS entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which were held on the 14th and 21st July, 1953, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—On behalf of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, I beg to lay the following :—

Annual Report on the Local Forces for the year 1952—53.

Annual Report on the Barbados Fire Brigade for the year 1952 by the Fire Officer.

Annual Report on the organisation and administration of the Barbados Police Force for the year 1952.

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

Second annual report of the Natural Gas Corporation for period 1st April 1952 to 31st March, 1953.

Mr. ADAMS: I have the honour to present Message No. 22/1953 from His Excellency the Governor to the House of Assembly. The Message reads as follows:—

MESSAGE No. 22/1953

*His Excellency The Governor
To
The Honourable The House of Assembly*

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to Sir Alfred Savage's Message No. 29/1951 of the 11th September, 1951, and to inform the honourable the House of Assembly that the Queen's assent to the Bill intituled an Act to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities was declared by Order of Her Majesty in Council dated the 1st August, 1953. A copy of the Order in Council is attached.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.
18th August, 1953.
(M.P.—6860 Vol. II)

AT THE COURT OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The 1st day of August, 1953
Present,

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
IN COUNCIL

Whereas the Governor of the Colony of Barbados has reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon a certain Bill passed by the Legislative Council and the General Assembly of the said Colony entitled "An Act to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities."

And whereas the said Bill so reserved as aforesaid has been laid before Her Majesty in Council:

And whereas it is expedient that the said Bill should be assented to by Her Majesty:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, hereby declares Her assent to the said Bill.

PETITION

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. James praying the House to pass a Bill authorising them to raise a loan of \$4,800 in order to repair the roof of the Chan-

cel of the Parish Church. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to give notice of the following resolutions:

Resolution to place the sum of \$7,453 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953-54 No. 8 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve an amendment to the scheme made by the Housing Board under the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, On behalf of the honourable Junior Member for St. Thomas, I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Quarantine Act, 1947.

I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting in order to consider the money Resolution of which I have just given notice.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. HOLDER: I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the Vestry of St. James to raise a loan of \$4,800 in order to repair the roof of the Chancel of the Parish Church.

QUESTION

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

Is Government aware that, in Parris Village in the Parish of St. Joseph, there is a complete absence of a Government water supply and that there is no road leading into this village from any Highway?

(2) Is Government aware that inhabitants of this village are compelled to resort to a water-hole as their sole source of supply for water for drinking and other purposes?

(3) Will Government immediately consider either the very early introduction of an Aided Self-Help Housing scheme for the parish of St. Joseph, or the purchase of an area of land to which residences of this said Village may remove in the very near future?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Quarantine Act, 1947, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. HOLDER, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Bill intituled an Act to authorise the Vestry of St. James to raise a loan not exceeding \$4,800 in order to repair the roof of the Chancel of the Parish Church was read a first time.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the Government is not ready to proceed with any of the Orders of Public Business today and that being the case, I am prepared to make the rest of the day a field day for Private Members' Business.

ADDRESS RE BAD STATE OF DISREPAIR OF CHRIST CHURCH BOYS' FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to deal with Order No. 10 as the First Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The First Order of the Day therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church: To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the bad state of disrepair of the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, This Address deals with the bad state of disrepair of the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School. For the benefit of honourable members who may not have all of their documents, it may be appropriate at this time to read the copy of the Address before I make a few points whereby I hope to prove to them the dire necessity for having such an Address passed.

The Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully desires to draw to Your Excellency's attention the bad state of disrepair of The Christ Church Boys' Foundation School, which accommodates about 300 children at present, and which building is inadequate, unsuitable and inconvenient in every respect, lacking as it does, the ordinary amenities of light and ventilation.

2. The House therefore suggests that in any School building programme under the present Government Five Year Plan, priority should be accorded this school, and thereby remove one of the relics of slavery in this Island.

Sir, this question as to the rebuilding of the Boys' Foundation School has been a moot point for many a year. It has been a question of issue which has remained pending for the past ten or fifteen years and today happily for us in Christ Church, we have the assurance from the Government that this matter is to be dealt with under the Five Year Plan and as a result, we are hoping and praying that it will be dealt with immediately. But before I begin to press the needs of a new Boys' Foundation School, I will ask honourable members to bear with me while I give a short resumé of the history of the school and other matters connected therewith. The Boys' Foundation School was originally founded for poor white children, in the parish of Christ Church and to enable their upkeep there was attached to the school in the past a small plantation. I refer to the Parish Land which was attached in the first instance to provide forty scholarships for white children. As time went on and with the standard of educational progress taking place, not only did poor white children take advantage of the facilities offered at that School but other youths as well, with the result that it has grown from time to time and today, what was formerly school, masters' quarters and also quarters for lodgers,—in those days, those poor white children were not only given scholarships but also books and lodging—has all been utilised for school premises owing to the fact that the number of scholars has grown from forty to about three hundred—289 to be exact as to the last term. Of course, this number fluctuates. This short summary gives some brief background of the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School since its coming into being. I will not tire honourable members with any long speech because I think that all more or less are acquainted with this dilapidated building. Nor is it the history of the school with which I am particularly concerned; my main task is to bring to the notice of the Executive the dire need of constructing a new Boys'

Foundation School on a new site in the parish of Christ Church in the immediate future. I will go as far as to say that the present building is not only dilapidated but is unfit for human habitation and in so far as the school is concerned, it is well known that it has none of facilities or necessary amenities of a modern school. I refer to the natural lighting which is very poor and in the absence of electric current, the children cannot see or able to follow fully what is taught to them. Then there is also the question of ventilation which is also bad. It does not need to stress that proper ventilation is a means towards good health. Over and above these two questions of lighting and ventilation is the question of an adequate playing field for the school. With regard to the present playing field attached to the School, I am not suggesting that it is the worst, but owing to its being so closely connected to the Christ Church Cemetery from which source frequent annoying odours emanate, this playing field does not add to the good health of the children who gather there for recreation. That is the stigma to the present playing field and I know honourable members realise as well as I that we should not permit such a state of affairs to continue any longer. Let me stress that this playingfield is part and parcel of the Parish Church property; it is glebe lands and having such militant rectors of the parish as we have observed from recent happenings with the incumbent there, there is no knowing what will be permitted to be done with the very playing field. It is for this reason that anything which may be done under the scheme in the Five Year Plan to relieve the situation which now exists at that school and to provide more accommodation for the hundreds of young boys who are seeking admittance to secondary schools, should be done in such a way that this school will be properly constructed on its own land and not on Church property. Later, I will give my view as to where I consider would be a suitable site for this new school.

Sir, I feel very happy in doing today what I had the opportunity of doing in 1944. Nine years have passed since I actually had an Address passed in connection with the building of a new Foundation School. I am fully aware that my predecessors in office, among whom are the present Clerk of this Assembly, did everything to bring about the erection of a new Foundation School but all our efforts were thwarted owing to the bad policy of education which was set up by the former Director of Education, Mr. Hayden. I am firmly of the opinion that the delay for the construction of a new Foundation School can be thrown on him. Mr. Hayden in his back-to-the-land policy in so far as education is concerned for this island, attempted to bring co-education in Christ Church and in so doing, confused the whole issue in so far as secondary education for that part of the island—the southern district as suggested by the new Maude Bill. Through his policy, our secondary educational facilities for the southern district were disrupted and not only that, but the whole matter of education was left complicated and undone as a result. This Director of Education did many things which I consider to be wrong, but I will make no more reference to his policy than to say that if he had not crossed these shores, Christ Church would have had a new Foundation School already. As to his back-to-the-land policy and other wild goose schemes such as superannuation and age-grouping which are still being tried out by the present Director of Education my opinion is that it is time that we do away with them and concentrate on the construction of this new school building and others. Sir, co-education, so far as secondary education is concerned cannot work in this island; it probably

can work in the primary and juvenile stage, but for obvious reasons, it cannot work in the tropics. Any one who is familiar or has lived in the tropics will know that co-education cannot work in this island. I will say again that as a result of that wild goose scheme in suggesting co-education for Christ Church, the people of not only that parish but the entire southern district—probably the island wide—have suffered as a result. Happily, the Government in power is reviewing the entire scheme of education, and a decision which had been reached about four years ago by the Governing Bodies of the Boys' and Girls' Foundation Schools that the question of co-education should be brushed aside and separate schools should be built for the boys and the girls seems to have been adopted by this Government. As has been suggested, Government is planning to build a new Foundation School to accommodate about four hundred boys and if this is done, the whole question of lack of accommodation for secondary school children will be solved to a great extent. This question of providing more accommodation for secondary school children has been talked of over and over again and does not need stressing by me. Even honourable members on the other side of the Table have agreed to it.

In so far as the site of this new Foundation School is concerned, I would say that it should be sited in a central place in Christ Church and when I say so, what comes to my mind as a most central spot is a field opposite to the Girls' Foundation School which is situated at the top of Oistin Hill. I think this site will commend itself to any right thinking person or any person who is familiar with conditions in Christ Church. Sir, when we are thinking of a new Foundation School and necessary social amenities for it, we must take it as an opportune moment to do something comprehensive and conducive; we should not approach the problem with any cheeseparing policy. I am therefore suggesting to Government that whenever it sets about to acquire land for the purpose of erecting this school that it will acquire a sufficiently large area which would not only give suitable accommodation for the building and a proper playing field for the school, but will also be able to serve as a playing field for the entire parish. The area which I have suggested will be sufficient to provide for this purpose and it will be centrally situated, it being in close proximity to Oistin Town. I will go as far as to say that around this area Government should acquire land for an Aided Self-Help Housing Scheme for this parish. Sir, what is better than a proper housing scheme in the close proximity of elementary and secondary schools as well as a church and near to the little town where there is a Fish Market. I would not say near to the almshouse; I prefer to say near to the cottage hospital. I shall again say that in any scheme for the erection or construction of a new Foundation School, the boys should be separate and distinct from the girls. Government should erect this new Foundation School to accommodate at least 400 boys immediately; and if an additional wing is added to the Girls' Foundation School building, that would serve its purpose for the next ten or fifteen years. It can come under a future Five-Year Plan. I am suggesting that we should have a comprehensive scheme and instead of purchasing a ten or five-acre lot for the purpose of erecting the new school, we should acquire a forty-acre lot, so that we can get a proper playing field for the parish as well as some for an Aided Self-Help Housing Scheme.

Sir, we have acquired a playing field for the parish already but it is not centrally situated.

Nobody wants to go to a playing field which is in the back; as a matter of fact, nobody can see the Sergeants Village Playing Field owing to its being situated to the back. We want a playing field which is centrally situated like the King George V Memorial Park which is centrally situated in the parish of St. Philip. Let us in Christ Church also have a central playing field and let us name it Queen Elizabeth Playing Field in memory of Her Majesty's Coronation. When we do this, posterity will appreciate this Government for the vision which it has displayed.

Mr. Speaker, I can probably speak on this subject for quite a while but I hardly believe that it is necessary for me to do so any longer. I do not believe in wasting time or playing to the gallery. In conclusion, I will only say that the people of Christ Church have been waiting on the erection of this new Boys' Foundation School for the last fifteen years. Now that the money is allocated in the Five-Year Plan for the building of such a secondary school and we know that the need for these secondary schools is immense and urgent, I feel that this Labour Government cannot do otherwise than to implement this plan for the erection of this new Boys' Foundation School for Christ Church and the southern district before the year ends. I need not say that now is the time for Government to launch out in its building programme so as to relieve the thousands of unemployed who are suffering and who do not know where to go to get assistance. These unemployed are looking to us for assistance, therefore, let us do something concrete in this matter here immediately. Let us purchase as quickly as we can a suitable piece of land for the erection of this Boys' Foundation School and for a suitable playing field so that the Public Works Department can start rightaway with the construction and so ease the plight of the thousands who are looking to us for something to do. Let us hurry with this project. Time is passing quickly. In my opinion we have not yet carried out one-tenth of the promises we have made to the people who put us here.

I now formally move that this Address do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Sir, I am glad that my colleague has seen fit today to raise this question of the erection of a new Foundation School in Christ Church. My colleague has mentioned that the erection of this school is provided for in the Five-Year Plan but I will say that repeated requests from parents, guardians and representatives of Christ Church were made to Government long before this Five Year Plan was mentioned. I do not wish to go over the ground which my colleague has so well covered about the dilapidated condition of the present school, but in support I will state that the ceiling of the roof is not more than 7½ feet from the floor which is about two feet above the heads of the boys and I know this causes discomfort. Quite recently there was an athlete at that school and I am sure if he raised his hands above his head he would have touched the roof. On one of my visits to the school I was shown where the children had to shift positions owing to direct sunshine coming through the windows in the afternoon. Anyone who passes that building without going in can see that it is detrimental to the health of the children who are taught in it. I will go as far as to state that it is the worse secondary school in the island from the points of view of siting, construction and accommo-

dation. It is worse than a prison; it is dark and grimy.

I know that there are plans for building this new school elsewhere. I feel Government could not do otherwise. I would therefore suggest that when Government is about to build this new school which I hope will be started in the very near future, probably this year, that they should acquire not less than ten acres of land so that they would have sufficient for expansion in the future and for a good playing field. The building which they plan to erect should be built to accommodate not less than five hundred pupils. Sir, it is a well-known fact that when it comes to secondary education it is very much easier to build around a main than to start a new school. Parents who have faith in the educational standard of a school will continue to send their children to that school no matter what might be the prevailing circumstances but to set up a new school which they will not know what are the standards, although they might be higher than other schools, parents will be afraid to risk sending their children to it. They rather like to send their children to a school which has a background—a tradition. The Boys' Foundation School in Christ Church has a tradition. Many scholars who have come out of it have added lustre to its name, so this school is worth building around. It is sited in a parish which is thickly populated and which lends itself to proper building. In this parish Government needs not to be afraid of any contraction in soil as what has happened at the new Combermere School. No matter where you place a building in Christ Church it will be on firm rock; there is not much sinking soil in that parish. When Combermere School was moved from the old site to the present one, it was done for expansion. The new Combermere was built to accommodate about two hundred more children than the old school and within the first year after the opening of the new school it was overcrowded. Therefore, when I say the new Boys' Foundation School should be built to accommodate five hundred pupils, I mean 500 as the minimum; not 499; because with education today, you only have to advertise that you are opening a secondary school in a private capacity and you will not only get it filled to capacity but will have a long waiting list. An organisation is about to establish a secondary school in St. Michael and with the number of people who have come and asked me for a recommendation and such sort of things, I am sure that in a short time, the organisation will have a waiting list. Sir, everybody wants secondary education for their children and for that reason I am glad that my colleague raised this question because, although it is in the Five Year Plan, as a result of the hammering home of its urgency, both by us, the present representatives of Christ Church and by what was done by the former representatives, our pleadings will keep Government awake to its urgency and let them know that we want the money to be spent on it this year.

I have great pleasure in seconding this Address.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker, no doubt, when questions such as this are raised by honourable members of this House in order to accelerate the operations of such schemes or plans, one has to appreciate the member who raises the question. On this occasion, on behalf of the Government, I would like to thank the honourable senior member for Christ Church for raising this question. I will however like to tell him that for a few weeks or even months the Government had this question under active consideration. Government realises the disadvantages to which the children in Christ Church and thereabouts are

undergoing through the inadequacy of accommodation and lack of amenities at this school and as a result, Government is more than willing at the earliest opportunity to have a new Foundation School erected.

The honourable senior member for Christ Church has more or less stated one or two very important points. Of course there was very much confusion and confused decisions in the bygone days in so far as to the building of this school. As the honourable member has stated, it was a question as to whether a school should be built for co-education — one where boys and girls are taught — or whether separate schools should be built for the boys and girls. However, I am not prepared to say much on this point because, as I have said before, the erection of a new Foundation School is under active consideration. I feel, as the honourable junior member for Christ Church has desired, that some start may be made before the year ends because Government appreciates the disadvantages encountered by the children in that district through the lack of a suitable building.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, May I add a few remarks to this debate. I think the honourable senior member for Christ Church is correct in his allegations of neglect in the past over this secondary school. The Boys' Foundation School can be regarded as a forgotten secondary school. In our time most of the other secondary schools — Combermere, Harrison College, Queen's College, Alexandra, the Coleridge and the Parry — have had structural attention paid to them and the Boys' Foundation School still remains the Cinderella of the island's secondary schools. I am of the opinion that the present building of the Boys' Foundation School was never erected for a school. It is very low and reminds me more of a cowshed on which a roof was placed than a building being erected for the education of children. Sir, this school certainly deserves immediate attention and that is why we welcome the decision of the Government at the time to place the construction of this new school in the proposed Five-Year Plan. I take it that the attitude of the honourable senior member for Christ Church is to ask the Executive to expedite, to decide on its construction and to get ahead with the building of that school since we have allocated the money for it. It is merely a matter of priority and I entirely endorse the suggestion that the work on it should be started immediately.

On this question of secondary schools, it is also necessary to remind the Government of the urgent need which exists for the erection of other secondary schools in other parishes of the island. The old education code envisaged a secondary school in every parish of the island and that code is nearly one hundred years old today. In recent times, although there has been a revolutionary trend in education, not a single secondary school has been built. We are still existing with the same number of secondary schools that we had thirty or forty years ago. With the improved financial position of the colony; with the appeals for higher education on the part of children and a number of people and with the heavy burden of taxation which they are called upon to bear, we are still existing on the few secondary schools that we have had many years ago. I repeat that there are immense difficulties with which people are faced in St. Philip and other points eastward, as well as those in St. Thomas and St. George in getting their children to and from secondary schools in St. Michael. After these children get home from school there is not much time left for them to learn

homework or for recreation. One of the most important problems which we owe to the community is to provide secondary education for the children of this island and no time should be lost in the attempt, belated as we are to implement the old education code, of erecting secondary schools, if not in every parish, in nearly all. It is not fair to the people of parishes like St. George, St. Philip, St. John, St. James and St. Joseph to cause them so much difficulty in the secondary education of their children. Nearly three quarters of the island is still without a secondary school. Recently, emphasis has been placed on higher education. Money has been earmarked for loans for this purpose but we are still lacking in facilities for providing primary and secondary education. In addition to this, secondary schools have already reached saturation point in so far as accommodation is concerned. At the St. Michael's Girls' School towards the end of the last term, there were 755 applicants for 50 odd places during the coming term. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. At a privately run secondary school in St. Michael, there were also over 1,100 children who sat an entrance examination for less than six dozen places. This community is one of the most heavily taxed in the area; we are taxed both direct and indirect, and the least we can do with the money is to provide reasonable satisfactory advantages of education for the children of the people who are paying these taxes. While we can say that we are giving immediate attention to the importance of building a new secondary school in Christ Church to improve the facilities that are offered at the Boys' Foundation School, at the same time, we must pay due attention to the urgent necessity for providing more secondary schools in every part of the island. The honourable junior member for St. Joseph who lives in the parish which he has the honour to represent has repeatedly told this House of the difficulties which children of his parish undergo in getting to and from secondary schools in Bridgetown. He has told us how on some days these children cannot get bus transportation and how on some days they get wet. It is not unknown in his parish and in the one which I have the honour to represent that children are not able to get home from school on some days. I have instances of parents who have to wait until ten o'clock at nights before they are certain that their children will not be coming home from schools in St. Michael. Parents should not undergo the necessity of having to allow their children to travel 36 miles on school days to and from schools. Considering that we squander money every now and then on absurd purposes, we can afford to provide a secondary school in almost every parish. We have increased higher education but the number which can benefit from higher education is for economic and other obvious reasons necessarily limited. We should begin at the beginning. We should first lay a foundation for providing secondary education for children who merit it. We should also provide technical training for some of those who are pursuing studies at secondary schools even if by doing these things first, we are unable to pay as much attention as we should to higher education. I am not decrying the necessity for providing higher education; I am merely saying how important it is to improve our position so far as secondary education is concerned.

Sir, most of these existing secondary schools, even the First Grade Schools like Harrison College originated from what is known as trust schools. The Foundation School in Christ Church, Combermere, and Harrison College in St. Michael and one or two others were originally started by bequests left by certain public benefactors and in the process of time

the original provisions of the trusts were altered by the Government, not in violation so to speak with the terms of the trusts, but to make them more in conformity with the changing times and to enable a larger number of children to enjoy the facilities which were offered by the trusts. Sir, there are still other trust funds left specifically for educational purposes which in my opinion without violating the terms of these trusts can be utilised to a greater advantage from the point of view of being made a nucleus for providing a foundation on which we can build or expand facilities for education in the parish in which these trusts operate. I refer to one or two trusts in St. James and at least one in St. Philip. This is about all I want to say in this matter; there is no point flogging a dead horse or criticising the present administration on this building of a new Foundation School. One sincerely hopes that the Government will give priority to this matter.

One final point to this question and it is this. It has been so often regarded our duty in this Chamber merely to criticise defects in the administration or otherwise that we sometimes fail to give praise where it is necessary. I think that both the honourable senior and junior members for Christ Church can bear me out when I say that the recent appointed headmaster at the Boys' Foundation School is doing a fine job of work in upholding the tradition of that school. It always had a good reputation but that reputation has been enhanced since the appointment of the last headmaster. It is no secret that children are leaving other secondary schools and trying to get in at that school because of the reputation which that school has now established under its present headmaster. I think he should be commended and we do hope that this reputation will continue to thrive.

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

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it cannot be denied that there is grave situation existing in this island today with regard to secondary education. I, therefore, heartily endorse the remarks of my colleague as well as those which were made by the two honourable members for Christ Church on this question of a new Foundation School for Christ Church. No one would say that the present building could be termed a proper and suitable school building even though it was fulfilling that purpose over such a long period. I feel that the present structure is a downright insult to the people of Christ Church and to those who attend that school and I am at a loss to determine how former masters of that school could have achieved the results they did in a building of that nature. Sir, I feel that it is time that this Government make some effort to live up to some of its obligations to the people. Let this Government make this word "progress" mean something more than merely a word to the people who went out of their way to send us to this Chamber.

I hope that these few timely remarks of honourable members on this subject will have some immediate effect on the Government in implementing and remedying this condition. I sometimes wonder if the Government fully understand some of the conditions affecting the people of this community. That question hurts me because I feel that if Government really and truly fully appreciated some of these conditions that it would bestir itself to greater effort on what should be done to alleviate some of these conditions. In all due respect, I greatly appreciate some of the things which this Government has achieved in the past and what it has in mind to do.

However, I feel that these few words would serve a useful purpose and will stimulate and put new energy in the Government so as to spur it on to quicker action.

Mr. ALLDER: Just one point, Mr. Speaker, before you put the question. I gather from the honourable senior member for St. Michael that the delay in the construction of a new Foundation School was partly due to an indecision as to whether there should be built a school for boys and one for girls or whether there should be built a school to accommodate a co-educational system. On that point, I would like to make a suggestion. I know that when these things are being dealt with, the Government always attempts to get various opinions from the people who have to send their children to these schools and sometimes Government meets with some difficulty in getting people to agree one way or the other as in this case whether there should be a co-educational system or whether they want the old-time system. I would like to say now that I feel that this new Foundation school should be built to serve the purpose of co-education. I think that is what the Government intends to do and what the honourable senior member for Christ Church is asking for in this Address.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the honourable member has read the Address. I would suggest to him to read it before he proceeds further.

Mr. ALLDER: In any case, when Government reconstruct or rebuild or set up this new school, I would suggest that it would be more economical and convenient if the Government would accept the principle of co-education because it would get away from two administrative heads, from two separate staffs and from two buildings.

I would like to stress another point. Now that we are demanding a new and improved Foundation School in Christ Church, on passing by the St. Matthias Girls' School I notice that the grounds of this school are in a deplorable condition.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. John does not need me to tell him that he is going right outside the territory of this Address when he raises that point.

Mr. ALLDER: I agree, Your Honour, but I thought I should take this opportunity to draw attention to the state of that school ground when a small amount of rain falls, far less the great amount that has fallen recently. I believe that if a higher social type of child was educated at that school, the grounds would not remain in the condition in which it is now.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, one of the few institutions of which I will always be proud is the school of which we are discussing today because, though it may only be for a short time, I was one who had been attached to the staff. That was sometime ago; I think as long as 14 years ago. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, the honourable senior member for Christ Church was a pupil of the same school. I remember very well that at that time the conditions prevailing at the Boys' Foundation School were nothing short of a scandal from the point of view of teaching facilities. The whole school building was condemned yet you were still allowed to carry on with the teaching in one or two class rooms with resulting inconvenience both to teacher and pupil. Any honourable member who went to an elementary school in the old days where in one corner of a room there were some children being taught while in another corner of the same room there were some others who were learning something else would envisage the conditions which prevailed at that school. Since that time there have been additions to the school in a sort of piecemeal fashion

and at some cost to this Government, but with all that, it is a matter of common knowledge that the same problems of overcrowding exists, mainly because of the unsuitability of the building and because the school population has increased considerably in recent years.

I would, however, like to mention that it is remarkable that the Boys' Foundation School has produced such excellent academic results, trained citizens and teachers of whom this island should be justly proud. Despite the fact that the playing field of that school only qualifies for this designation of being a playing field but could better be termed a piece of undulating rab land, the school has been able to produce wonderful results on the athletic field and I hope that in considering this matter, the Government will pay adequate attention to the laying out of a proper playing field. In the construction of a new school building Government should instruct its engineers and architects to design and build a school which would not only be able to cope with the present school population but would make some provision for future contingencies.

I think it is rather to be regretted that the honourable senior member for St. John should have brought into this debate the bugbear of co-education.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the honourable senior member for St. George was in his place at the commencement of this debate. The honourable senior member for Christ Church who moved the passing of this Address spoke of co-education as well as the honourable senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. BARROW: At any rate, Sir, I do not think it should be introduced. I remember well that in my day this idea of co-education was a big bugbear. I would not like to term it as an excuse for the long delay in the construction of a better building for that school; I prefer to say rationality for postponing the decision. This bugbear of co-education has influenced and has taken up considerable time of the Government and authorities interested in this School and has prevented them from coming to a conclusion.

I hope Sir, that since the most important problem with respect to this school is the problem of accommodation that the Government will go ahead and erect a suitable building and with regard to the question as to who would be put inside the building, whether girls alone or boys alone, or both, can always be decided at some other time. I hope the *pros* and *cons* of co-education will at present consider that the most important point is that the building should be erected with as little delay as possible. I say that because I happen to know that the work which the masters at that school is trying to do now must necessarily suffer owing to the lack of facilities in the carrying out of their teaching.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—With your permission, I am asking leave to withdraw the motion for the passing of this Address in view of the assurance given by the honourable senior member for St. Michael that the matter is under active consideration and that this Address would hardly serve any useful purpose. In view of this assurance, I now ask leave to withdraw the motion for the passing of this Address.

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

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of a resolution which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph should have given earlier but which through some slight mistake, he failed to give.

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

Mr. COX: On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I beg to give notice of the following resolution:—

Resolution that the House of Assembly approve further amendment to the Scheme made by the Housing Board under Section 11 of the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936 (1936—8), and finally approved by the Legislature on the 11th day of April, 1939.

BILL TO INCREASE SALARY OF INSPECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, ST. PETER

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to proceed with Order No. 17, under Private Members' Business, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for the City. It is to move the second reading of a Bill to authorise the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Peter to increase the salary of the Inspector of Highways of the said parish and to increase the amount payable to the said Inspector in respect of travelling.

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

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS No. 3 LAID

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—Before the honourable member proceeds with this matter, I am asking permission to lay replies to Question No. 3 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for the City.

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

Mr. COX: I beg to lay replies to Question No. 3 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for the City.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for Christ Church may now proceed with Item 17, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for the City.

Mr. TALMA: This Bill is to authorise the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Peter to increase the salary of the Inspector of Highways of the said parish and to increase the amount payable to him in respect of travelling required for the due performance of his duties. Now this matter has been pending for some time and one can well envisage the undue amount of hardship and difficulty which this officer is entailing in the carrying out of his duties as a result of his inadequacy in salary and the insufficiency of the amount granted him for travelling.

Sir, this Bill deals with an individual, an employee of the parish of St. Peter, and the policy of this Government is to represent and to give assistance to employees; so the question of whether that individual is employed under the would-be employers under the Maude Bill or the present Vestries does not arise. The whole question is that the policy of this Government is to represent the downtrodden, therefore, no excuse can be made that because a new system of local government would soon be coming into existence that this increase should not be granted. This is a question that owing to the high cost of living this employee needs a little increase as anyone else. I shall not and I hope no honourable member will be a party to withholding any slight increase in salary to this deserving officer. We must not apply ourselves to the matter of whether this employee is employed by a Vestry or by a capitalist. With these few words, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. HOLDER: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I agree Sir, that this Inspector should be assisted and protected, so to speak, by the present Government but a principle is still a principle and I still hold the view of the coming change in local government that all of these new innovations which are now being introduced by these old Vestries should and could be left over until the change comes into effect.

What I would have wanted to hear, Sir, is to be acquainted with the present salary and travelling allowance of this officer and to what this present Bill proposes to increase these amounts. I notice that the honourable senior member for Christ Church was quite short in his introduction of the matter.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to inform the honourable senior member for St. John that if he had read the petition accompanying this Bill, he would have seen the information which he now seeks to secure. It seems as if the honourable member is not studying his work nowadays seriously enough.

Mr. ALLDER: I excuse the honourable member for not supplying this House with all of the details in connection with this matter. This Bill was not brought in by the honourable member and therefore he may not have had the necessary information which was probably given to the honourable junior member for the City under whose name the Bill stands.

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

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

Mr. HOLDER seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas be Chairman of Committees for the balance of this afternoon's session.

Mr. HOLDER: I beg to second that.

The question that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas be Chairman of Committees for the balance of the afternoon's session was resolved in the negative on the declaration of Mr. Speaker: "I think the Noes have it."

Mr. SMITH entered the House and took his seat.

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

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed.

The three Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

The Preamble was called and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. HOLDER, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ADDRESS RE INSTALLATION OF A SLOT TELEPHONE SERVICE IN RURAL VILLAGES

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. George:—To move the passing of an Address relating to slot machine telephones in villages.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,—This is a rather simple Address; it is by no means controversial and I have no doubt that the entire House will give it its support. This is a question of providing a slot telephone service in the rural districts; it comes under the heading of social amenities. There is no question that the people in the country areas suffer untold miseries owing to the absence of a slot telephone service and these people would willingly support this Address. In the rural districts you will find that telephones are installed in the plantation houses, and it is not reasonable to expect individuals who want the service of a telephone to go into the yards of those mansions and be met by the dogs and the watchmen. I do not think that this slot telephone service would entail any special cost to the Government if you think in terms of the Treasury, because this service would probably pay for itself in view of the many people who would use it. There is quite a lot I could say in connection with this Address, but I will listen to the remarks of honourable members and if it is necessary for me to make any reply I will do so. This Address reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly is aware of the untold miseries of the people in country villages in cases of emergencies, by the absence of a slot telephone service in these districts.

2. The House is of the opinion that the Government should introduce legislation to relieve the sufferings of country folk, by having such telephone services installed in the villages where the need is felt.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that. I commend the honourable junior member for St. George for bringing forward this Address; there is no gain-saying the fact that in the country districts a public telephone service would serve a very useful purpose. Whatever system is used the fact remains that telephone facilities are needed for the poor classes in the country areas; very often it is a question of getting medical attention or there might be an outbreak of fire and people have no access to a telephone. I think it would be a very good and proper gesture on the part of this Labour Government to see that public telephones are installed at various points of vantage in each village island wide. A telephone service should not be regarded as a luxury for the rich; it should be regarded as an ordinary public utility for all classes. I think that the installation of public telephones at various centres island wide is one of the easiest things for the Government to undertake. I certainly commend the honourable junior member for St. George for having brought this question to the attention of the Government, and I feel that it will receive the attention which it so richly deserves.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: I, too, have to endorse the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. George; a telephone service represents progress. We pride ourselves of living in a civilized and progressive area and the suggestion

of installing telephone booths in the country districts is first-rate thinking on the part of the honourable junior member for St. George. In America there is a telephone at every corner; in the country districts in this island robbery is on the increase and the installation of this public telephone service is absolutely necessary. I think that this Government would do well to put the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. George into immediate operation. Only last week I felt the need of a telephone to call up the Police with regard to a violation of the rights of the citizen of a district that violation went by the board because I was unable to get the use of a telephone. If a telephone had been nearby another upstart would have been put in his place. Lawlessness is on the increase particularly in the country districts of this island to-day and a public telephone service is absolutely necessary for these districts. I fully endorse the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. George.

Mr. SMITH: A telephone service of the sort suggested in this Address is very essential. I do not know if the honourable junior member for St. George was a member of this House at the time, but some time ago I introduced an Address asking that a similar telephone service be installed in the Bathsheba area and at various vantage points in that vicinity. I was assured by the then Governor that he would do all in his power to see that a telephone service of this sort is installed; but that Governor has gone and I expect that that Address has also gone, because up to now we have not heard anything as far as this telephone service is concerned. When it comes to Bathsheba and the surrounding districts, it is more trouble for the poor people to get to a doctor than to get to town in many cases, and I feel that a telephone service should be installed in the country districts.

It seems as if the Telephone Company is not prepared to be considerate as far as the cost of this telephone service is concerned: if you want a telephone service installed in St. Joseph, say in the Sagar Hill district, the cost is \$615 and the subscription is \$15 a month. You can therefore see that it is only a few houses in St. Joseph that you will find a telephone service installed. I feel that the time has come when, regardless of the cost, the Government should see that a telephone service is installed in the country areas for the purpose of helping the poor classes especially if it is raining and during late hours. The people in the country districts are very much afraid to walk about: they do not know who is who, and you have to be very careful in opening or closing your windows because gunmen are very prevalent especially in St. Joseph. If this telephone service were available there would be a possibility of holding up people who are going around and doing such barbarous things to people even in their homes. I maintain that this telephone service should be installed. I do not know if the honourable junior member for St. George will be more lucky than I have been: I was trying to get this telephone service installed in these various districts and I was also trying to get water installed at the Police Station, but I have been very unsuccessful in these two matters. I feel that the time has come when we should take a very broad view of these matters and spend some money in these directions.

Mr. BARROW: Considering the number of years that the Barbados Telephone Company has been in operation and considering the size of this Island, every village should have a telephone installed in it: the island should be literally washed away by telephones.

When you consider the amount of money which the Telephone Company, which has never been run at a loss, has earned out of the citizens of Barbados, it is not any great contribution which the public would be asking the Company to make in the matter of installing telephones, for which it would be remunerated, in every village in which there are more than, say, 10 or 15 souls. We have telephone lines running through every parish and if you are a resident of a country district and you want a telephone service installed, you have to pay for erecting the poles and running the wires from the nearest point of contact to your residence. I think what my colleague is asking today is that the Government make some provision for the erection of the necessary poles, but when it comes to the question of installing the telephones themselves, unless the Government is getting a drawback from the Telephone Company, the Company should be made to erect suitable telephone booths and keep the telephones in repair. In the United Kingdom the telephone service is run by the Postmaster General; the service is a Government concern and we have a sharp contrast between private enterprise and public enterprise as to what they can do. It is virtually impossible to go into a village in the United Kingdom without seeing a telephone box very attractive and kept in a very clean condition installed at some convenient point on the highway or next to somebody's shop. I can see by the expression on the face on the member of the Government now present in the House that I am really preaching to the converted as far as this matter is concerned. Every member of the House is persuaded that in this year of grace it is nothing short of a scandal that an estate worker should have to walk for three miles so as to ask the mistress of some private home to allow him to make a telephone call to the Parochial Medical Officer informing him that his child has taken ill. Think of people in a district having to go to a hotel so as to get a telephone message to a doctor asking for his assistance and that hotel is going to be closed: If these telephones are installed from the point of view of public convenience, you can contact the various departments concerned telling them that a bridge has been washed away or that the Police are needed in a particular district. The cost of installing about 200 telephones in the several districts should not be prohibitive and I sincerely hope that the Government will pay some heed to this Address the passing of which has been moved by my colleague and which I altogether endorse.

Mrs. BOURNE: I did not hear all the speeches in connection with this Address, but I certainly agree with the remarks of the last speaker. I am sure that the installation of these telephones would be of great assistance to the residents in many districts. Let us take the parish of St. Andrew for instance; the number of private telephones there could be counted on one's fingers. People cannot afford to install their own telephones because the charges for installing them are very high. If the residents in the Boscobelle area are suffering from any disaster, how are they going to get a telephone message to anywhere? They will have to go down to the Police Station and they are not even allowed to send out any message from there; they would have to go to the Almshouse and they may find that the telephone is not in order. Reference was made to people who have to go to the plantation houses to request the use of telephones, but in St. Andrew there are only about two or three plantation houses which have telephones installed in them. We are not speaking about electricity now, but that is another public utility and

with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should just like to make a slight reference to it. There is no reason why electricity should not be extended in St. Andrew and I contemplate tabling a question in this House on that matter. Poles have been dropped but they have been taken up again. However, I am hoping that telephones will be installed in the various districts and that electricity will be brought along with the telephones so that the darkness in the parish will be lightened. We want to show people that we are brighter in St. Andrew than they think.

Mr. COX: I should like to assure the honourable junior member for St. George that the Government will consider the matter of this Address most sympathetically. I realise that a very strong point was made by the honourable junior member for St. Philip: it is regrettable that committing crime is on the increase in this island. I think that this telephonic communication would be very appropriate now that we have what is known as the 999 system. The question of communication comes within my portfolio and I should like to promise the honourable introducer that when this Address reaches the Government I will do everything that lies in my power to get some sort of system working whereby people will have ready access to telephones. I should like to say in addition that it is a pity that some suggestion along this line was not made by the various Vestries in respect of the rural districts; they had a golden opportunity to make a recommendation along this line. However, with the passing of the Public Utilities Bill—honourable members have been informed that Her Majesty the Queen has given her assent to that Bill—we should be able to get closer co-operation with these various public companies. With those few remarks I want to assure honourable members that everything possible will be done to expedite this matter.

Mr. MAPP: There is really not much to be added to what has already been said in connection with this matter. This is a matter of vital importance; it concerns a long-felt need in this island, and it is very heartening to hear that the Government will give the matter sympathetic consideration. However, I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Michael is not waiting on the Vestries to make any recommendations in this respect. I take it that when it comes to a question of providing social amenities it is a matter of courtesy that you should ask the Vestries to make recommendations, but this Government should be the last Government in the world to wait for the Vestries, especially the conservative bodies, to make recommendations in this respect before it moves forward. The Government should know what is needed and what should be given priority in the Five Year Plan.

I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Michael was only making off-hand remarks in this connection; I only hope that he does not view the matter of this Address from the point of view of preventing crime, because he might start from St. Joseph in installing these telephones. The prevention of crime should be the last consideration in this vital matter; we have had crimes taking place long ago and we cannot view this matter from the point of view of the prevention of crime. I can assure the honourable senior member for St. Michael that we do not want these telephones for the purpose of calling up the 999 system; we want these telephones for the purpose of calling up doctors and for cases of emergency. I hope that this Address will be viewed from the point of view of providing social amenities which should have been provided long ago. You cannot depend upon the Vestries to recommend anything at all; they are farcical; they

do not keep in touch with the needs of the people. For instance: in the matter of the provision of playing fields the Vestry of St. John recommended a portion of land which would require a bulldozer to get it in order. The outside world has by-passed us by centuries.

The Telephone Company can put by half a million dollars in one year to its reserves and we are still in the backwash of things; it is time that we make people realise that they are heading towards Communism. To-day you read in the *Advocate* a protest against the matter of income tax.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is now very far outside the terms of this Address.

Mr. MAPP: To provide these amenities may mean increased taxation and I say that if we have to increase taxation, let us do it. I repeat that it is too backward for us to say that we are waiting on the Vestries to make recommendations of this sort. We should have these telephones long ago: they are of vital importance to any community.

Mr. MILLER: By way of winding up the debate on this Address I should like to say that my reason for bringing forward the Address was not that I felt the Vestries should be expected to plan social services of this type; as a matter of fact, if you go back through the ages it is not reasonable to conceive that the Vestries would be concerned about the social aspect of things. What has urged me to bring forward this Address is the need of those people who are really suffering from a lack of these amenities. I am simply asking the Government to introduce the necessary legislation to provide these telephone booths for the people who really need them. Children as well as parents die very often from the lack of something as simple as a tablet; very often the telephone is the only answer and people are denied this service when the Government can really afford it. There is the case of a man who suffered from a broken leg and could not get assistance by means of a telephone; there is also the case of a man who requested of a lady the use of her telephone to call a doctor to his wife who was dying and he was asked to wash his feet before he could enter the house and use the telephone. This man's wife is dying and he has this experience! I am not sure as to what happened to his wife. I think of Ellerton and other villages where people have to wait all night before they can get a telephone message to a doctor. I think that a telephone service in the country districts is something which we can afford. I am very thankful for the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Michael and I hope that the Government will take immediate steps to implement this Address.

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

Mr. MILLER: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COX: At this stage, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week, the 25th day of August, 1953, at 3 p.m.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until this day week, the 25th day of August, 1953, at 3 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 25th August, 1953.

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., C.M.G., Q.C., Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs. M. E. COX, L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), E. K. WALCOTT, Q.C., F. C. GODDARD, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., C. E. TALMA, Mrs. E. E. BOURNE and Mr. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc.

MINUTES

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

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month of July this year.

PAPERS LAID

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,— I am commanded to lay on the Table of the House the following Papers:

Statement of the sums of money paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police during the Quarter ended 31st March, 1953.

Post Offices advances for payment of Money Orders to 31st May, 1953.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. COX: Resolution to approve the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of the Waterworks at Beckles Road in the parish of St. Michael.

Mr. COX: Resolution to approve the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of the

Waterworks at Culloden Road in the parish of St. Michael.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land containing by admeasurement five acres, two roods, and eight perches, situate at Collymore Rock in the parish of St. Michael.

Dr. CUMMINS: Bill intituled an Act to amend the Old Age Pension Act, 1937.

Dr. CUMMINS (for Mr. F. L. WALCOTT): Bill intituled an Act to amend the West Indian Sea Island Cotton (Exemption from Duty) Act, 1952.

Mr. WILLIAMS entered the House and took his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:—

Bill intituled an Act to amend the Old Age Pension Act, 1937.

Bill intituled an Act to amend the West Indian Sea Island Cotton (Exemption from Duty) Act, 1952.

STATEMENT LAID

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—Before the business of the House is begun, there is a Statement which I should like to lay on the Table of the House. When the discussion took place in connection with aeronautical telecommunications some time ago, I promised hon. members, more particularly the hon. senior member for St. George, that I would present them with a statement as to the position. The Statement is now ready and I beg to lay it.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas:—Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to consolidate and amend the Acts of this Island relating to Public Health.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave to postpone the consideration of Orders Nos. 1 and 2, the second Order being the Public Assistance Bill. These Orders are more or less bound up

with the Local Government Bill which is now before the Other Place and we cannot very well go on with them until that Bill has been dealt with in the Other Place. I am hoping that the Bill will not be too long deferred, but that is the position.

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon. member to postpone the consideration of the Orders.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. 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 Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—This is a Resolution to place the sum of \$7,453 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953-54 No. 8 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

These are the usual supplementary estimates which come before the House from time to time. I think the notes to the various items are sufficiently explanatory, but if honourable members want any further information I shall be pleased to give it to them. I do not think that anything can be asked affecting these items and the answer is not ready. As is customary, we are dealing with these Heads separately.

Head VI—Customs

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

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to know if the Loan Fund which we agreed to in respect of Higher Education some time ago was not to cover cases like this one—cases where people wanted to further their education and they could apply for a loan. I thought that the Loan Fund was created to cover cases of this sort.

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

Mr. ADAMS: This Scholarship is not complete, according to the Regulations governing the award of Scholarships, a person may have as long as six years. You take your B.A. degree, you want to take a post-graduate course and you can get your Scholarship extended for another year. In this case, this lady is getting this Diploma in Education as a Scholarship grant. The Principal of the University College speaks highly of this lady and he says that this course will cost \$1,200. What the Government has decided to do is in the Regulations, that is, to give this lady the extra year to which she is entitled. You cannot read one subject and then de-

cide on another one and ask for an extension, because that would be another course of study. If after getting your degree you want a Diploma in Education and you apply for an extension of the Scholarship you will get it for another year. Here in this case it will cost \$1,200 to spend another year at the University and therefore the Government has extended the Scholarship for a year and this lady can apply to the Loan Fund for what is needed to make up the \$1,200.

There is another scholar of whom the University speaks very highly, and she can also apply for a loan. She can apply to the Committee who is seeing after the Loan Fund, and her claims will be taken into consideration. The Principal of the University College has written to us and he mentions the names of certain candidates who would be in need of assistance, but we have only got first-hand knowledge of these two candidates. This lady, Miss Hope, qualifies like any other scholarship winner who is taking a post-graduate course; any Barbados Scholarship winner taking a post-graduate course can ask for an extension of his three years or four years for another year, and the same thing applies to a scholarship at the University College of the West Indies. This lady can apply for a loan and she is entitled as of right to be considered like any other scholar for an additional year because she is taking a post-graduate course.

Mr. LEWIS: I see that this Exhibition was given by the Barbados Government in September, 1950 for a period of three years, but why was it limited to three years? (Mr. ADAMS: That was the normal course for getting a degree). Is it that this lady has not succeeded in the three years and another year is necessary? The Principal of the University College says that the cost of the extension will be \$1,200 and this lady is either entitled to the year and the amount of money or she is not. While I appreciate the assistance which is being given to this lady I think it is entirely wrong, if you can justify a case, to say that you will give this \$1,080 and she can borrow the rest. If her application is turned down what will happen? I think if you approve of this lady getting something more, you should approve of the cost of her getting it. If she does not get the loan, the \$1,080 may not be worth her anything.

Mr. ADAMS: I thought I had made the position as clear as daylight. This lady has taken a degree in Arts. It is notorious, or it ought to be, that people who intend to teach go on to take an additional course in education as to how to teach, therefore they go on to something fresh — a Diploma in Education. The Regulations provide that any scholarship winner can say: "I want to teach; I want a Diploma in Education." We have made provision in the Regulations to cover cases of this sort; that is all this lady is availing herself of. Her course is for three years and she got a Scholarship for three years. I do not like to refer to myself, but in my days you had to take honours and my course was four years; if you went to Oxford or Cambridge it was automatically a period of four years. This lady is taking a Diploma in Education and therefore it will take her an extra year. An extra \$120 will be required and this lady can apply for a loan just like anybody else and she will be considered. She has not been promised that she will get it because there may be other people making applications, but she has been told that she can apply for the loan just like anybody else.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not understand the position; if the course will take \$1,200, the cost of it is \$1,200. This will not be the first time that you award a

Scholarships for one amount and then you had to extend it.

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

Head XXVIII—Subsidies And Grants

Head XXVIII—Subsidies and Grants—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: In moving that this Head stand part of the Schedule, I will say this; I do not believe that anybody knowing who runs the Children's Goodwill League will say anything about this item. It is only fair to say, as some honourable members will remember, that three years ago I asked for \$500 to be given to the League for repairing this building which they are using. This building was the workshop of the old railway and it was rented to the League at a penny a month and they were told that the Government was not responsible for repairs. Entertainments used to be carried on at the building but they were stopped because they used to disturb the residents in the district. The members of the League were then unable to raise money by dances and so on, they asked us to help them with money for repairing the building and we voted \$500. I am sure that at this stage honourable members will agree with me in saying that we deplore the loss to the colony of a Civil Servant in the person of Mr. Went who has done so much for this island. We were told that the patching of this building would last for three years, and that has turned out to be so. The Staff has to be removed from place to place so as to get away from the rain and the Government is helping the League with second-hand material. The Public Works Department computes that \$120 will be enough to carry out the necessary repairs; it is the sort of thing which you can only patch from time to time, but the building really needs a new roof. I hope that businessmen will help subscribe to the erection of a new roof; I hope that those who have second-hand galvanize sheets and asbestos will give them to Mr. Beckles. I now beg to move that Head XXVIII stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not think that this is a matter to be taken so lightly; if the Government value their property and they feel it would be of any use to put it in a proper state of repair, I think they should repair it. To spend \$500 at one time and now \$120 knowing that the amount is inadequate is really a waste of money. I think that some decision should be made in the matter and it should not be a question of begging for subscriptions for the purpose of repairing this building. You either feel that the building is worth something and it would be a good idea to keep it in a proper state of repair or not. I feel that the Government should repair this building to their own credit having regard to the work which is being done there and the regard for public property.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I should like to say that the Children's Goodwill League is really doing work which the Government should be doing, particularly the person in charge. As far as this item is concerned, far from quarrelling about this amount of \$120, I do not think there is anybody who would not be willing to support a Resolution for a greater amount, if it were necessary. The work which is being done by the League is good work; I think the real reason why the Government has not spent any more money on this building is that they have no use for it as it is at present. In 1939, so as to

help this fine effort by Mr. John Beckles and his co-workers, the Government handed over this old building to them at a small rent; but if tomorrow morning Mr. Beckles could get a better building, the Government would pull down that old building. I believe that Mr. Beckles still carries on these dances occasionally; he used to carry them on rather late and the residents in Constitution Road and River Road complained about that. Those people would be the old and sleepy, not the young and amorous. However, Mr. Beckles could not get as many people together as to promote these dances until 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning; the Government had to take into account the rights of the people in the vicinity.

Mr. LEWIS: It is ordinarily regarded that the Labour Welfare Fund is for the benefit of workers on the plantations, but it must be remembered that a contribution is made by the people who buy and consume sugar in this colony. If the Government is not desirous of spending money out of the Treasury, this is really repairing something for the benefit of the workers' children who are cared for during the day, and some money from the Fund could justifiably be spent on the repairs of that building.

Mr. ALLDER: I did not intend to say anything on this matter: I was merely approving of the spending of this money, but on hearing the honourable junior member for the City make reference to the Labour Welfare Fund, I must warn this Committee early. It seems that since this Fund has been built up, every possible social improvement which was formerly financed out of Government funds, is now to be financed out of the Labour Welfare Fund. That is totally wrong and I hope that the Government does not fall a prey to the utterances of the various sections who feel that the Labour Welfare Fund must be used other than for the assistance of labourers in owning their homes. I notice that the Vestries have been suggesting ways and means of spending this money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us keep away from the Labour Welfare Fund. I have given sufficient latitude about that already.

Mr. ALLDER: However, I feel that this building should be kept in repair and I agree that much good work is being done there. I must say that from the size of the building and the appearance of the roof, it is surprising to hear that this \$120 could repair it. This amount appears to be very small and I am wondering if there is merely going to be a temporary stoppage of some of the holes in the roof of the building with the intention of the Government to come back next month and the following month for more money. This \$120 can scarcely repair the roof of a kitchen. I know that when you are in that building and the rains come, you have to move from place to place. I hope that this building will be repaired sufficiently well as to make the children happier than they have been in the past.

Mr. LEWIS: It is quite obvious that the honourable member either does not know or he has not paid sufficient attention as to the manner in which the Labour Welfare Fund is dealt with in Barbados and outside.

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

Head XXXIV—Electrical Inspector.

Head XXXIV—Electrical Inspector—was called.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—I have visited the office of the Electrical Inspector on several occasions when the last holder of the post was there, and I have never seen a more lavishly furnished office than that. There were a lot of elaborate and expensive desks, chairs and filing cabinets, and honourable members will remember the numerous resolutions which were brought here for money to be spent during the past four or five years on equipment for this office which, at that time, was considered not to be doing sufficient work for the money it was costing the taxpayers. Now today we are asked to vote \$230 more to be spent in providing a desk and a chair. It is bad to encourage officers of the Government to have such luxurious office equipment. No desk and chair for this office should cost \$230: a good strong pine desk and a moderately-priced chair would be sufficient. The Government should set an example in these matters. I believe that modesty in things of this sort would create a greater measure of efficiency in the people who have to work in these offices. This is certainly an expenditure which, in my humble opinion is unnecessary, and the Executive Committee members of this House should have been able to say that in these days of high costs, they are not encouraging the Head of a Department to use a desk and a chair costing \$230. You could get those two items for one-half this amount. When you put this desk and chair in this office and the other Heads of Departments see the lavish provision which has been made, they too will feel that nice pine desks well made and highly polished are not good enough for them, and they must have mahogany desks costing all this money. You can get a reasonably good chair for \$40 or \$50 and are we going to allow a desk for this office to cost \$180 or \$190? I hardly think that the President of the Bank of England would use a desk costing this money. The amount is certainly too much and what is more is that we have developed the tendency to patronise overseas manufacturers of these items while we have a lot of local workmen many of whom are unemployed, and it would be a good gesture on the part of the Government if they would make it possible for the supply of equipment for the various offices to be made locally, thus affording employment to local artisans.

I think that much of this work could be done at some of our Institutions; the people there could use their talent in helping to reduce the cost of these items to the taxpayers. I am told that the new officer is expected to arrive shortly to take up his post, but that does not mean that when one holder of an office goes out of office you must supply the new officer with new furniture, unless you have permitted the officer who has gone out to remove the equipment which was there.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member, but if he is in doubt let him ask a question. This is not a question of one officer going out and another coming in; this is a new office.

Mr. ALLDER: I am still arguing about the cost of these two items. If another office has been created I accept that, but I still say that these items cost too much; in this day of hardship and high taxation you should not encourage this lavishness which has been going on for some time. I formally beg to move that this item "Furniture" be reduced by \$100: I am sure that that will not prevent either the Department or the Government from going on with what this officer is supposed to do, and it will set

a good example of economising wherever there is the opportunity of doing so.

Mr. ADAMS: Just as I have saved the honourable member from prolonging his speech by pointing out the facts, I would like to say this: I am not taking up the honourable member on the contradictions he has made, but how often have we not heard in this place that as soon as you get prisoners to make furniture you deprive people of the opportunity of making furniture? I will say that a lot of furniture at Richmond was made by prisoners. The honourable senior member for St. John knows the value of furniture; he said that a good chair would cost about \$40 or \$50 and that is exactly the estimate which we have been given. I do not say that we must not economise; this Government has perpetual headaches as to where to find the money with which to do the things it is going. If we can raise additional taxation we will have to do it. Does the honourable member not prefer sitting behind these mahogany tables we now have here than sitting behind pine desks which have been abolished? Is it not the best economy to get solid mahogany furniture which our great grandchildren will use? We have been told exactly what the honourable member has said and that a desk will cost \$180.

Mr. ALLDER: I made the point about the chair costing \$40 or \$50 and I envisaged one of the most expensive chairs which might be imported; but I am sure that you can get a proper, locally made chair for less money if you want it for less. The honourable member talks about economy; I do not know how a Government could prosper in a day like this when it supplies these lavish looking things for people at the expense of starving human beings. If the honourable member were fitting up any office for himself I am sure that these items would not cost him all this money. I am wondering what kind of advisers the Government has; they are people who are interested in high profits, but one should use his own commonsense. You do not want any adviser to tell you the cost of a desk and a chair; I take it that everyone who is connected with the Government is a businessman. What kind of advisers are you calling upon to tell you what a chair and a desk will cost? You can get half a dozen desks for \$230, and the honourable member knows that but if he prefers to accept all kinds of nonsensical recommendations from so-called advisers, nobody can prevent him from accepting them. If you are going to administer anything you should try to administer it in truth and in fact. If a chair will cost \$50, do you not think that \$180 would be too much to spend on a desk? When you encourage an officer to use a desk costing \$180, do you know what you are doing with the economy of the colony? Don't you think you have gone far enough towards chaos already to be a little more careful now even in small matters like these? It is all right for honourable members to sit here and agree to these things; probably the officers look at them as idiots. I think the honourable senior member for St. Joseph should agree to a reduction of this amount because it is definitely too much; if we can get a saving let us get that saving. We should get away from having this expensive furnishing in Government Departments because we have to look for too many of these things every now and then. People like to sit in golden chairs, but when you are catering to so many officers you cannot have the same taste as you would have in your private office or in your home. I hope that honourable members will see the wisdom of my argument and support the motion for the reduction of this amount.

Mr. WILLIAMS: In dealing with a matter of this kind, I think the Government should watch the unemployment situation. I agree that wherever possible we should save. I think we must encourage any Government to buy local material wherever it can be obtained because that adds to your economy. But what strikes me is that in Trinidad supplies for Government Departments are dealt with by tender, and apparently in Barbados one gentleman gets the contract where the supply of furniture for the Government is concerned. If I had some place to supply with furniture I would write to the people who are dealing in this furniture and ask for an estimate; but I am reliably informed that one gentleman alone is always advising the Government as to the price of these things. I agree with the honourable senior member for St. John when he says that to have this gentleman coming along and the Government taking his advice without anybody else being consulted, is not the correct thing to do. I am saying that if my information is correct that one gentleman is allowed to get the contract on all occasions, the Government will never get any true indication of what other people are able to supply this furniture for. I do not think the Government should be foolhardy; they should at least find out what the man next door can supply this furniture for.

Mr. ADAMS: I thank the honourable member for what he has said; if that is the way in which things are done, it will be stopped. I remember being told when certain furniture was to be obtained that a certain store was asked to provide it and I understood that that stores' profits would be too high. It comes as a surprise to me to hear that there is one man who feels that he will always get the Government contract. Now that the honourable member has had that information he can rest assured that I will ask immediately whether that is the practice or not and if it is so I will see that it is stopped. Unless the Public Works Department can give the assurance that half a dozen people have been consulted and that this man's work is just as good or better than the others, it is wrong for this man to be given the idea that the Government's work is coming to him. If "A", "B", "C" and "D" produce good work, the work should be shared around, I assure the honourable member that if what he has said has happened in the past it will not happen again.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What I am amazed about is the complete bewilderment of the last speaker on such an elementary thing like this: I am surprised to hear him talk about an adviser telling the Government the cost of a desk.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I never used the word "adviser"; the Public Works Department tells us when we want furniture that the cost is so much and so much. The honourable senior member for St. John spoke about calling upon advisers, but we do not call upon any advisers; the Public Works Department is asked to make an estimate. Similarly, the Department is asked to give an estimate for repairing such and such a thing. What is the honourable member talking about our getting advisers? Everything comes from the Public Works Department.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I can appreciate the honourable member wanting advice on repairs at the Belle Pumping Station or some place like that, but you do not want anybody to tell you what the cost of building a desk for this office would be. I am asking the members of the Government to come down from Mars and walk down Broad Street and see things for themselves. Everybody must have some know-

ledge as to what it would cost to build an ordinary chair; the honourable senior member for St. Joseph must have gone to a sale at some time or the other. I am asking him to come down from Mars or from whatever planet he is living, to Barbados and see what these things cost. I really regret that the hon. member and his colleagues are living in such a rarified atmosphere and are so out of touch with common things that they have no knowledge of what it costs to buy ordinary furniture like this and they have to be satisfied with the suggestions and advice of the Public Works Department. The honourable member should be in a position to say whether recommendations from any Department are too high or too low, but certainly ignorance on a matter like this is entirely inexcusable. I do not know what the cost of a mahogany desk is in Bridgetown today, but I do know that a few years ago you could get a good mahogany desk for \$35. If you make an allowance for the increase in price, if you treble the price, it would come to \$105, whereas this amount is for \$180. In an elementary matter like providing a desk and a chair the members of the Government are saying that they are guided by the Public Works Department! Couldn't they use their own commonsense in the matter? I really feel that it is high time for the honourable member and his colleagues to come down from whatever planet they are living and get more in touch with what is going on on the earth. I beg to second the motion for the reduction of this amount.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not know whether this debate has served any useful purpose when it comes to the question of voting. I take it that every desk or chair would not cost the same thing. There is a standard of furniture in this office already and you cannot have a standard of furniture for the Head who is coming in now, below that which is there already. Honourable members have said that this amount is too much but none of them is in a position to say what a desk would cost; you hear an honourable member criticize this amount and before he sits down he himself admits that he does not know what a desk would cost. I therefore am unable to vote for the reduction of this vote. If an honourable member criticise this vote he should be able to say that you can get a desk made locally or imported for so much, and I am one of those who believe that you can get articles made locally for less than if you import them. We have had a big debate as to criticising the cost of these items, but it seems to me that it has ended up in saying that what the Government has sent down is sufficient. This is a new office being created and it seems to me that we should have been more critical of creating the office than this amount for the furniture because I do not think that this officer is necessary. We now have an Electrical Inspector and an Electrical Engineer. If you have a standard of furniture in the office already, how can you take a desk from somebody and give him a pine desk? I must appeal to honourable members that I am quite willing to support a reduction of a vote of this sort because people will be out to fleece the Government, but I must have more information on which to go. Not a single member who has criticised this vote has put himself on record as being in support of the criticism; a negative sort of criticism cannot help anybody. I have no substantial evidence on which to go and I therefore cannot support the reduction of this vote.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I really do not understand if the honourable member who has just sat down is still a member of this House; he also had the responsibility of enquiring what a desk would cost. From what the honourable member has said one

would think that he was not a member of this House; if he is still a member of the House, he had this Resolution before him and he could have found out what a desk would cost and come and enlighten all of us about it. But the honourable member with a far-sighted attitude is saying what honourable members should have done! It was just as much his duty as that of anybody else to get the information and pass it on to the House. If the honourable member sees the furniture in his home he must have some idea of what furniture of this sort would cost. You go down Broad Street and the price tags on furniture stare you in the face.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member is saying that he is not a member of the House. According to the standard he has asked me to set and the standard of furniture approved by him, I feel that this is the usual amount which is voted for this purpose. The honourable member is not ready and willing to be honest enough to say what a desk would cost; that is the position in which he is. This amount is in relation to what we have paid for furniture already and the honourable member himself has said that a chair would cost about \$50.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. LEWIS: One honourable member said what a chair would cost and the honourable senior member for St. John mentioned it. I should like to say that when an honourable member is criticising a vote he should criticise it on ground whereby he can get the support of honourable members; he should not waste time with the criticism that an item is not worth this or that. I do not like the negative method of saying that an item is not worth so much and still you cannot say what it is worth. You cannot say that a desk is worth so much because there are desks and desks; a desk with three drawers must cost more than one with only one drawer or one without any drawers at all.

Mr. CRAWFORD: A desk for the Government Electrical Engineer should not cost \$180. It is not within my recollection that in the immediate past we have voted for any Resolution which sets out as clearly and in detail as this Resolution does, the proposed cost of furniture. I am not saying that we have not done it, but it is not within my recollection.

Mr. TALMA: I did not care to join in this debate because I regard it as much ado over very little. I am as thoroughly aware as honourable members are, that the Government has to be as keen and as vigilant as ever where the expenditure of its funds is concerned; but a debate centering on the purchase of a desk and a chair and lasting for two or three hours when we have so many other important matters to deal with, does not speak very well for the Chamber. In my view, the value of a chair and a desk depends upon the type of articles you want; if it is an ordinary pine desk or chair—an ordinary small pine desk cost me \$45. In this case if what is to be purchased is a mahogany desk, that would cost in the vicinity of \$180. This is merely a question of a long debate over the cost of these two items when there are many other things to be done, and the time of the House is being wasted.

Mr. ALLDER: One is not surprised at the utterances of the honourable senior member for Christ Church because he has broken principles—

Mr. TALMA: On a point of order, I would like the honourable member to try and understand what the word "principles" means.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I hope the honourable member understands what I am implying. Wherever it is possible, we are asking the Govern-

ment to adopt the principle of economy. Whether it be to save a cent, a penny, a shilling, a dollar or five million dollars, we are asking Government to adopt this principle at all times. I am surprised at the expressions which have just been made by the honourable junior member for the City. Sometimes he sits here and expresses sound judgment, but sometimes, as on this occasion, his expressions are definitely on the wrong side. I am not saying that you cannot pay \$230 for a chair and a desk so long as you want luxurious furniture, but if you want furniture of this quality, it should be for your private home. I am saying that equipment of this quality should not be provided out of Government funds. When you are equipping departments of Government, you should use the most economical equipment that is available. This is my argument. Government should have some of its employees capable of finding and buying furniture at nominal prices and giving the exact cost to Government before it comes down here with the resolution for the money. The honourable member opened his remarks by agreeing that there are varying prices pertaining to things of the same nature and then ends up by saying that no person who have spoken against the amount allocated for these two bits of equipment has stated what the desk or the chair could be bought for. I am going to tell him that a desk can be bought for five dollars or for varying amounts up to a million dollars or more. In short, you can pay a fabulous price for anything which can be bought at a reasonable price. It just depends on the delicate taste of the individual and his means. The honourable junior member for the City knows this; he claims to have much business brains, yet the honourable member finds himself wrong on this occasion.

What Government should do in transactions of this sort is not to call in somebody and ask what this desk and chair should cost but Government should be so businesslike as to say that if this desk and chair is needed for that office that it is allocating £20 or \$50 for the purpose and I am sure that if such a thing is done, these bits of equipment would be obtained within the amount that is allocated. If members of the Government are administrators, they should not only carry the name, they should be administrators in every sense of the word and they should act in that manner. Sir, when you are carrying out business in this unbusinesslike manner, you are asking somebody to exploit you. I, myself, would take advantage of you also. You should be so businesslike as to know that \$230 is too much to pay for a desk and chair for a Government department. If the officer for whom you are purchasing these pieces of expensive equipment happens to be careless, in a couple of months they will be worthless. You would probably find out that it would have been more economical if you had bought a desk made of pine. Sir, do you think a Labour Government such as this should encourage its employers to use more luxurious furniture and things of this nature in their offices than what they use in their homes?

(A VOICE): It is a question of durability.

Mr. ALLDER: The question of durability does not arise because you can buy something which is durable at a cheaper price than a similar article which you can get at a dearer price and the honourable member knows that. Sir, you certainly can get a desk of the best mahogany and workmanship to suit this office at a price less than the amount contained in this resolution. I see in some of the biggest offices in Bridgetown, some of which are making huge profits every year, desks made of plywood. I am saying that this amount for a desk and

chair is too much and I am going to support the amendment for a reduction of the amount by \$100. In a case like this, if I were a Head of a Government Department or a schoolmaster and wanted new fixtures for my office or school, I would ask for the best and I feel sure I would succeed in my wishes with this administration. When my brother Head of Department or schoolmaster comes where I am and sees what I have been given, he would also put in his claim and the robin would go around. Government would have to give them in the same measure. I am appealing to honourable members to see the logic of my argument. Those honourable members who feel that Government should not place itself in a position where it can continue to be exploited as it has been in the past should see that this reduction in the amount for this chair and desk is necessary and vote for the amendment. These bits of equipment are not wanted for the operating theatre at the General Hospital; they are not going to be used in one of the kitchens which supply hot water for the sick and infirm; they are not wanted for matters of such great importance that we cannot all support the amendment for the reduction of the amount by \$100.

I am going to make another point. I do not know whether I would succeed in getting the necessary information but I would like to know from the honourable introducer of this resolution from which firm this chair and desk are going to be bought or who supply Government with estimates for things of this sort. With regard to the price of \$50 for the chair, I am of the opinion that that suggestion was slightly exaggerated because the cost of an office chair with swivel seat is between \$25 and \$30.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, I would just like to make a short contribution to this debate. From the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. John who has just sat down, I understand that the last Government Electrical Engineer was adequately provided with furniture. I think this is an untenable position and that makes me differ from the remarks of the honourable member because the interesting fact about it is that this Government has never had an Electrical Engineer prior to the introduction of Mr. Johnson, the present holder of the office. Therefore, that stricture which he is making against the Government for coming to the House with this resolution to purchase equipment which has already been provided having fallen to the ground, it can now be taken that the sum of \$230 which is going to be expended for the purchase of this chair and desk for the Government Electrical Engineer will be expended on the purchase of new equipment and not second hand pieces; much to the disappointment of the honourable member. If my idea is correct, then this amount of \$230 in my opinion is not an exorbitant sum.

In view of the vast experience of the honourable senior member for St. John in the furniture business, I think the honourable member is in an excellent position to tell this Government exactly how much a new desk and chair should cost the Government, he being aware of the proportions of this desk. Instead of supplying this information, the honourable member, as a matter of reproach to the administration is asking to reduce the vote by a sum of \$100. I can only take the expressions of which the honourable member gave utterance to mean that he does not wish the Government Electrical Engineer to be provided with this equipment. Furthermore, the honourable member said that the Government should go to the respective vendor of these articles and say: "We have so much money;

you must give us a desk for so much and a chair for so much." I do not wish to be personal, but on an occasion previously, I saw a second hand lawn mower outside the honourable member's business premises for sale and wanting one and going to him and offering him a price for it after he had given me the option of doing so, he told me: "Man you are making sport." I hope he does not want the Government to transact business in that way.

Sir, I would be the first person to support the motion moved by the honourable senior member for St. John if I were persuaded of the sincerity and authenticity of his remarks and suggestions but owing to the fact that the honourable member has given us no idea of what is the cost of these articles, I think it would be most stupid and undignified for us to impeach the ability of the officer of the Public Works Department who is concerned with the purchasing of Government furniture by our reducing of this vote.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable senior member for St. John, like all honourable members both on this and that side of the Chamber knows pretty well that when we created this post of Government Electrical Engineer, it was distinct from that of Government Electrical Inspector, therefore, we must only take it that now that we have created the post that the Treasury would be called on to pay certain expenditure and such capital sum that it would take to establish the office in a manner fitting for a Government Department. I do not think that without any enlightened information from the honourable senior member, for St. John that we in all due consciousness can say that the vote must arbitrarily be reduced by \$100.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I passed by the business premises of the honourable senior member for St. John and saw a lawn mower which would suit me admirably and I made up my mind to offer \$5 for it but owing to what the honourable senior member for St. George has said, I will refrain from making any offer for the article.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph is trying to remove the seriousness from this issue with which we are dealing. I certainly refrain at times from being as personal as the honourable senior member for St. George attempted to be in this debate. One thing I would hint to the honourable member and that is that if any of my friends from St. John would like to buy that lawn mower, I will charge them according to their means. That is by the way, Mr. Chairman. I am serious about this vote and as far as it appears to me, the honourable junior member for the City and other honourable members seem as if they feel that the attempt to have this motion for the reduction carried through is wrong. However, even if my attempt to have this amount reduced fails, I will still be a happy man to know that I have succeeded in one thing and that is to drive back to the fold of Government those honourable members who intended to run away.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, allow me to tell the honourable senior member for St. John that he will always find me on the side of intelligence and integrity. I hope I shall never be found lacking in those qualities. I will tell the honourable member that there is a man that lives in the parish of St. John that has created this standard for suitable equipment and furniture in the office of Government.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to defend myself against the honourable junior member for

the City who has cast aspersions against my morals, integrity and things of that sort. At times the devil uses the most Christ-like things in order to pursue his end but that does not mean that the devil ceases to possess those rotten instincts to which he is subjected. I do not see the necessity for the honourable junior member for the City to refer to my morals and integrity. I am sure that the honourable member will agree with me when I say that in politics I always say what I mean. I do not know if the honourable member, by what he has just said, expects me to have some obligations to the past holder of the office with which we are dealing. Even although this officer may be living in St. John . . .

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, what has that got to do with the debate?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the honourable senior member for St. John. Will you please keep to what is contained under the head in the resolution?

Mr. ALLDER: I am trying to do that, Mr. Chairman, but I was also trying to find out what the honourable junior member for the City meant by referring to my morality—its absence or its presence. I will again say that if the honourable member has obligations to the past holder of the office of Government Electrical Inspector, I have not any.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the honourable senior member for St. John to deal with what is contained under the head in the resolution. Do keep to that point. We are dealing with office furniture.

Mr. ALLDER: Sir, even although the past holder of the office of Government Electrical Inspector might have had vast equipment installed at that department, it does not necessarily mean that we should allow the same extravagance to be carried out there.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I would like to say that during my short absence I had been busy making enquiries to find out for myself what a desk of the proportions that would be suitable for such an officer would cost and I have been supplied with some prices. I have been informed that a desk, 6ft. by 4ft. with six drawers, two slide leaves and the usual other pieces at the top would cost about \$180. This information was supplied to me by Mr. W. A. Griffith. I also have been informed by the Secretary-Librarian of this House that the desk which he works at was bought for \$78 and that the Clerk's desk costs some price in the vicinity of \$200. It therefore seems that the present-day price for a mahogany desk of the proportion suitable for this officer with which we are dealing would probably cost \$180. It, however, does seem as if we have been taken for a ride with respect to the cost of the chair, but I do not think we should split any more hairs over it. It does seem as if one group of people always get the opportunity of submitting prices to the Government for articles of this nature and I would suggest that Government in future get these articles by asking various people to submit tenders for supplying same.

The question that the amount of \$230 be reduced by \$100 was put and resolved in the negative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. VAUGHAN, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. E. K. WALCOTT and Mr. GODDARD.—6.

Noes: Mr. SPEAKER, Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. MAPP, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. TALMA, Mr. ADAMS, Dr.

CUMMINS, Mr. COX, Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. BRANCKER.—11.

The question that Head XXXIV—Electrical Inspector, stand part of the Schedule was then put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Annexed Estimates—I, Post Office.

Annexed Estimates, I, Post Office was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make an observation on this vote. Since the Current Estimates were prepared, it seems as if the cost of printing stamps has gone up by 20 percent for some denominations and as much as 75 percent for some other denominations. Sir, these percentages seem to me to be quite a large increase. It seems to me as if somebody has increased the charges of the Post Office to quite an appreciable sum. I know that the quality of the paper on which stamps have been printed before has been criticised but I do not know if the improvement in the quality of the paper has caused this increase. Certainly these increases in the cost of stamps ranging from 20% to 75% in the various denominations seem to me as if somebody was waiting until the time when you put up the postal rates to put up these rates for printing. I would therefore like to know if this is a normal increase or if it is because of the request for a better quality of paper on which to print these stamps, or if these stamps are being printed somewhere else. It seems to me rather unfair and unjust at this time now that the postal rates have been increased that somebody should wait until this time and say that since you can pay more for postage, let us get something out of it. This does need some explanation beyond the mere statement supplied in the notes.

I am glad to see the explanation that it will be necessary to order a special supply of new stamps consequent upon a decision to vary the colours of certain denominations. We are told that through philatelists a large amount of revenue accrues to the Post Office. I am therefore glad to see that the Postmaster-General has this sense of working out a change in the colour of the regular stamps without waiting for a new issue to mark some occasion. It would cause these collectors of stamps to acquire a new set.

Mr. ADAMS: In reply, all I can say is that the same authorities who have been supplying our stamps are continuing to do so. After the Estimates were prepared we received a price list showing a considerable rise in the cost of printing these stamps — an increase ranging from 20% to 75% in the various denominations. I am not quite sure but I think it is Messrs Waterlow & Sons, Limited the firm that prints bank notes that also prints our stamps. I therefore can assure the honourable junior member for the City that it would not be anybody standing by to make a profit out of our stamps. It is one of these things that happen nowadays. We were told after the Estimates were printed that the printing of the stamps would cost more. It has been observed from the invoices received afterwards that the cost of producing these stamps had risen considerably and by the percentages as have been set out in the notes. Because of that it would involve a considerable increase to replenish stocks, to provide sales, etc. I will not say that the quality of paper on which our stamps are printed is as good as it should be but I have been in touch with

a comparative number of stamp collectors and I have not the slightest complaints about our issue not being to a standard in this respect. I do assure the honourable member that nobody is standing by and profiteering at the expense of the Barbados Government.

Mr. LEWIS: I am glad to note that the honourable member seems to be also surprised that the cost of printing these stamps has risen to 20% and as much as 75% in some of the denominations. I would further say that to increase the cost to as much as 75% in some of the various denominations without informing the person who has placed the order seems to me to be bad business or that it was done because the person knows that the person who wants the articles supplied would have to come to them for the supply.

The question that the Head, Annexed Estimates, 1, Post Office, stand part of the Schedule was then put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Resolution for \$7,453 do now pass.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Chairman reported the passing of a resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported likewise.

On separate motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the resolution was read a first and second time and then agreed to.

ADDRESS *RE* PROVIDING COST OF VISIT OF DELEGATES TO JAMAICA.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, —Before I make a motion, I am asking leave to move the passing of an Address in connection with providing for the invitation of the Jamaica Legislature to the Barbados Legislature.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—This Address which I am asking this House to pass is to ask Government to send down the necessary resolution to provide the necessary funds for sending the representatives of this Legislature to Jamaica in November inasmuch as the Joint Meeting of the Barbados Legislature has accepted the invitation of the Legislature of Jamaica to send two delegates there on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

“The House of Assembly have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Legislature having received an invitation from the Legislature of Jamaica to send two delegates to represent Barbados on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Jamaica in November next, has selected Hon. H. A. Cuke, M.L.C., and Dr. H. G. Cummins, Junior Member for St. Thomas in the General Assembly as such delegates and request Your Excellency to send down the necessary resolution to provide the cost incidental to the visit of the delegates to Jamaica.”

Sir, this Address is not as full as it may be though I feel sure it will serve the necessary purpose. As honourable members are aware, the Jamaica Legislature has intimated that this invitation is extend-

ed to include the wives of any persons who may be selected. I may here say that certain people who belong to the Council of the University College of the West Indies have also been invited to come to Jamaica at the same time as guests of the official functions there and the same terms apply in regard to the extension of the invitation to include their wives. The Government of Jamaica will be looking upon the island's representatives and the Council of the U.C.W.I., as their guests, though to a less extent the Council of the U.C.W.I., as the University will be paying hotel expenses for members of its Council while they are there. I say that though it is awkward for me naturally to speak on it because I know that the representatives of the Jamaica Government has made the point that members of the Council of the University College of the West Indies and their wives would be looked upon as guests of the Government of Jamaica at the same time. I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. Speaker, allow me just to add that the resolution to provide the necessary funds for the Barbados representatives will not be for the payment of hotel or transport expenses while in Jamaica, but will be for the cost of air or sea passages, whichever it may be, to and from Jamaica.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I think I am free if I express my disapproval of this Address inasmuch as I did not attend the Joint Meeting when the delegates were selected. Honourable members will remember that I did not remain to cast my vote one way or the other at the meeting. I not only withdrew from the meeting but also influenced my colleague to do so. I hope that would be taken as a measure of my disapproval of the whole matter.

The reason why I am not going to speak extensively on it is because of what has happened in another sister colony, I do not want anybody to feel that I am mimicking that colony. Honourable members will very well remember that I withdrew from the Joint Meeting on this question and I did so as a measure of my disapproval on the whole issue. That disapproval remains to this next stage of passing this Address to send down a resolution to provide funds for the sending of the delegates to represent this Legislature. Of course, the honourable mover of the Address has not mentioned what that amount will be. I feel that inasmuch as \$75,000 was spent on the Coronation that we should not vote any money for this purpose.

(A VOICE:) If that is not mimicking what was said in the sister colony, I do not know what it is.

Mr. ALLDER: I share the views of one who has impressed thousands that his activities are in the interest of the underprivileged who cannot afford such expenditures for which they will have to pay. I shall say again that I will not speak extensively on this question owing to the fact that expressions which I would have made have been uttered in the other colony and I do not want it to be said that what I would say has been said by somebody else before.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said needs a little expansion. Am I to understand from the remarks of the honourable member that the resolution to come down to provide the necessary funds will be for the representatives and their wives?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that is so from the text of the Address.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for St. Joseph did say something with regard to wives of the delegates. I would like to know

what we are committing ourselves to before passing the Address.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, allow me to say that from the remarks of the honourable Mover of this Address, that is so. I personally, am in favour of it as well as my colleagues. Nor should we sting ourselves in the matter. If we have decided to send the representatives, we should not sit here and say that the representatives chosen should go alone. I do not think we should say so. If you are going to federate the more you bring people from various parts of the West Indies together, the more when one gives an invitation and the other accepts, the more one would begin to feel that one is not being separated from the other and probably even though the waters divide us, for geographical and other reasons, each should be able to share not only in the other's point of view but in his festivities.

The only thing I am sorry about in this matter is in the choice of the representative from the Other Place, because by his continued selection, it would appear as if there are only three people that can represent Barbados, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, the honourable member from the Other Place and now the honourable junior member for St. Thomas. I am sorry that on this occasion some other honourable member from the Other Place was not selected as has been done from this Chamber. Certainly, this honourable member from the Other Place seems to represent Barbados at every turn.

Sir, I am going to vote for this Address and I am prepared to also vote for any reasonable amount that may be involved for taking the wives of the representatives chosen. This is an occasion in which you would expect that a man should not travel alone.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, on an occasion of this sort, it is expected that this Legislature would accept the invitation. I am not saying that any honourable member should not be courageous to say what he means, if really and truly he says what lies in his heart, but he should not say what he heard come from out of the mouth of a member of the British Guiana Government. I am quite sure that if the honourable senior member for St. John did not have the example of the actions of the members of the British Guiana Government, he would not have opened his mouth. He waits until the Leader of the British Guiana House of Assembly says something to repeat it.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of explanation. At the Joint Meeting of both branches of the Legislature to decide on the invitation, I walked out. I want to emphasise that point for the benefit of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. I also suggested to my colleague to come out and both of us left together. I did so because I disapproved of what was carried on at the meeting.

Mr. ADAMS: This is the first time that I know the honourable member disapproved of the whole thing. I heard that the honourable member disapproved of some other thing. I understood that his walking out from the meeting was because he did not approve of any of the candidates that were put up; in fact, because some one which the honourable member came in to vote for was not put up. Sir if he were courageous as he wants us to believe, he would have voiced his disapproval at that Joint Meeting. He is now copying remarks from the honourable gentleman who is leader of the British Guiana Government. I say this and I do not care who attacks my views. India is a republic. Nehru who

is Chief Minister of State for India at the invitation of the British Government attended the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. He went despite the millions of starving people in India. I do not care if the Leader of the British Guiana Government is a communist or not. It is purely a matter of finding an excuse, which can get you nowhere, to say that you are not sending somebody to meet Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to Jamaica because you have hungry people. It is silly to say so. Of course, you get malnutrition not only here, but in other parts of the British Empire, but how is that a reason, whether you intend not to be offensive, to say that you cannot send anybody. I think it is my duty as Leader of this House to say that. I say again that because somebody in another part of the British Commonwealth uses that as an argument, it does not make it logical; it is silly to say so. Malan of South Africa, Nehru of India, whatever they might feel of Royalty were present at the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. Now that Her Majesty the Queen is about to visit Jamaica, for somebody in the British West Indies to say that he disagrees to sending representatives to Jamaica on the occasion for the reasons given: "Look how much money you have spent on the Coronation." "We have too many hungry people to afford to spend money in that way," is pure nonsense. The honourable senior member for St. John was against the spending on the Coronation. I met people from all about who sang praises to Barbados for the show it put on during the Coronation. They said what a wonderful show it was and how the people enjoyed themselves and how it seemed to them as if the people temporarily forgot their hunger during the festivities. Sir, let us deplore the belief that because poverty exists in our midst, we should not face realities. Let us do our best to put an end to that. Do not let us make the mistake of mixing up values and refusing to face realities. While we can do our best to alleviate the condition of the masses of the colony, let us do that, but there is no earthly reason why we should refuse to live up to ordinary civilised standards due to the ordinary conventions of the society in which we have to live. I want to make it clear that the invitation from the Legislature of Jamaica to the Barbados Legislature was also extended to the wives of the persons chosen. Though the actual wording of this Address does not include wives, it does not mean to say that when the resolution is sent down for the necessary funds it will not take into account the funds necessary for defraying the cost of wives of the representatives. We do know that in the case of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, this will not be necessary as there is no wife.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not regard this as a matter in which the opportunity should not be afforded to honourable members to express their opinions, nor do I think the occasion should be taken to condemn independent members of this House for any view contrary to what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph expressed. This is not an occasion for showing our own loyalty by condemning contrary views that may be expressed by other honourable members. The very fact that we are passing this Address means that the invitation did not come from the Barbados Government. The fact that we are passing the Address means that the Government may have the right to refuse the money. The Government of no West Indian colony is in a position to say not to send representatives but it is in a position to say that it is not spending any money for this purpose; therefore, it means that if any Government

refuses to vote the money, if persons are chosen they would have to pay their own way.

Sir, I do not think that we should concern ourselves with the divergent views of various other Governments because this Government is a little more accustomed to parliamentary procedure and is one of the oldest representative governments in these parts. This Government can appreciate the fine points of which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph made reference, but I do not think this is the occasion where we should run down somebody for any contrary view. I have not heard that any of these Governments is not sending delegates on the occasion of the visit of her Majesty the Queen to Jamaica in November but I have heard a Government has stated that it does not intend to spend any money on the occasion.

I am suggesting to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that he amend the Address. Instead of wording it "to provide the cost of the visit of the delegates to Jamaica," that he amend it to read "to provide the cost incidental to the expedience of the invitation." When you word it in that manner, you will be asking to provide the cost of sending the delegates and their wives. I think it would also be a good thing if you attach a copy of the invitation. That will enable the Government to see what will be the cost incidental to the expedience of the invitation. Government will be able to see that the spouses of the representatives are invited as well and would presume that you have accepted the invitation in full. I am saying that if you do not attach a copy of the invitation, Government would not be able to tell that you are invited. I do not think that the Governor of the colony should be reading in the newspapers that you have received this invitation when he, himself, has not received an official copy of the invitation. Let us send His Excellency a copy of the invitation. He would see from it that the invitation has been extended to the wives of the delegates. Looking at this Address closely, I am wondering whether it is necessary.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will now ask the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to present the Address.

Mr. ADAMS: As Your Honour pleases.

HALF-HOUR ADJOURNMENT

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

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

On re-assembling.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—I am craving your indulgence to give notice of questions at this stage. I am therefore asking leave to do so. There being no objection, leave was granted the honourable member.

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

A. Whether an advertisement appearing early this year in the Local press inviting applications for a vacant magistracy in this Island was authorized by Government?

2. If the reply to above question is "yes," How many—if any—applications have been received

for this post which comply with the terms of said advertisement?

3. In the event of any application having been received from a qualified candidate, what reason exists for the delay in announcing an appointment?

B. Will the Government advertise widely, in the Press of the British Caribbean, for applications for the whole-time post of Solicitor General of this colony?

2. In view of the creation of the abovementioned whole-time post, will Government initiate the necessary legislation to make the Office of Queen's Solicitor in this Island also a wholetime post?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, I too am asking leave to give notice of questions.

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

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

Is Government aware of the plight of over 1,000 unemployed seamen in the island who are faced with no prospect of obtaining employment at their calling in the near future?

2. Is the Government aware of the excellent war service of large numbers of these men in assisting in keeping open the shipping lanes of the world and in the vital oil industry of Aruba and Curacao?

3. Will the Government make prompt representations to the representatives of the Harrison Line, the Dutch lines, the Saguenay Terminals line, the Alcoa line and other steamship lines calling at this port, to provide an additional number of berths for Barbadian seamen, in an effort to relieve their present situation?

To enquire of the appropriate member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House:—

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the dissatisfaction on the part of new industrial concerns and prospective investors with regards to the taxation provisions of the Aid to Industries Bill, 1951.

2. Is the government aware of the necessity for extending all possible incentives to the establishment of additional commercial enterprises in the island?

3. Will the Government at the earliest possible date amend the clauses of the above-mentioned Act with a view to bringing it more in line with the position obtaining in Jamaica and Trinidad?

BILL TO AMEND QUARANTINE ACT, 1947

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Quarantine Act, 1947.

Dr. CUMMINS: Sir, This is an amendment to the Quarantine Act of 1947. In that Act certain specified diseases are mentioned as infectious diseases and in recent years we have had outbreaks of relapsing diseases in other parts of the world. As a result, the World Health Organisation has agreed that this relapsing fever should also be included in the expression "specified infectious disease" consequently, the Government has come to this House seeking an amendment to the Quarantine Act, 1947, in order that this relapsing fever should also be included under the Act.

I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTIONS TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSING BOARD SCHEME

On the next Order of the Day being called for Mr. ADAMS to move the passing of the following Resolution.

Resolved that the House of Assembly approve the following further amendment to the Scheme made by the Housing Board under section 11 of the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936 (1936-8), and finally approved by the Legislature on the 25th day of February, 1941, and that the Legislative Council be invited to concur herein and, if concurred in,

Resolved that His Excellency the Governor be asked to assent and take the necessary steps to give effect thereto:—

THE BRIDGETOWN HOUSING ACT, 1936

Further amendment to the Scheme made by the Housing Board under section 11 of the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936, for the laying out of 5 acres, 16 perches of land at Belfield, Black Rock, St. Michael, and finally approved by the Legislature on the 25th of February, 1941. (Resolution No. 18/1941).

The abovementioned Scheme is hereby amended by deleting paragraph C and substituting the following paragraph:—

“C. The rent of each lot will be \$3.00 per quarter.”

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Although this resolution stands in my name and although I normally am Chairman of the Housing Board, the honourable senior member for St. Michael really knows more of this resolution than I do. Inasmuch as that is the case, I will just draw honourable members to the wording of it. We thought it advisable to bring the rentals of Government Housing Schemes—Belfield, Deacons Road and the Bay Estate—more in line with each other and this amendment seeks to do this.

It is easy to say that we should try and keep down the cost of living. We all agree with that, therefore, you are well aware that this Government is trying its utmost to keep the cost of living down. When the Government bought the Bay Estate, it discovered fantastic anomalies in charges for rent of spots. Some people with more than a spot of land were paying less than some who had less than a house spot; some with the same amount of land as their neighbours were paying more than their neighbours; therefore, after giving this matter much thought and attention, sending it to a sub-committee of the Housing Board, and having the advice of the honourable senior member for the City, who is almost as great an expert as the honourable senior member for St. John on such matters, the Housing Board came to the unanimous conclusion that it would recommend to the Government a change in

the rental rates of houses and house spots at Government Housing Estates and as has been set out here for Belfield.

As honourable members know, apart from the Bay Estate for which the Housing Board is merely the agents of the Government, all schemes which are done under the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936, have to come before this Assembly in their entirety for ratification. We have to meet and say how much land and how many house spots are being divided, how many houses are going to be put there; therefore any change in a scheme means coming back to the Legislature. Because of that, it is necessary to come with this resolution so that this House will agree with the amendments. As I have said, the honourable senior member for St. Michael was on the Select Committee which went into this matter and if any further information is wanted, he is in a better position to answer than I.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Sir, I would like to know if the tenants on these house spots have to pay their own water rates.

Mr. MAPP: Am I to understand, Mr. Speaker, that more or less, this new fixed price for rents at Belfield has been adjusted to what is charged at the Bay Estate? Is this the amount that tenants at the Bay Estate is paying for that amount of land?

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker, it varies slightly in respect of rates per quarter. At the Bay Estate, the tenants on the smallest spots of land pay \$2.50 per quarter, but at Belfield with which we are dealing, the rate is \$3.00 per quarter where all the lots are of the minimum size of 2,400 square feet. There are some spots which are of the same size at the Bay Estate for which some of the people there pay \$3.00, some \$3.50 and some as high as \$4.50 per quarter. This depends on the location. As you are aware, all the houses at Belfield have water taps and water toilets installed and it is true that the occupants pay the water rates.

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

On the next Order of the Day being called for Mr. ADAMS to move the passing of the following Resolution:

Resolved that the House of Assembly approve the following further amendment to the Scheme made by the Housing Board under section 11 of the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936 (1936-8), and finally approved by the Legislature on the 11th day of April, 1939, and that the Legislative Council be invited to concur herein and, if concurred in,

Resolved that His Excellency the Governor be asked to assent and take the necessary steps to give effect thereto:—

THE BRIDGETOWN HOUSING ACT, 1936

Further amendment to the Scheme made by the Housing Board under section 11 of the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936, for the laying out of 5 acres, 1 rood, 24 perches of land in Deacons Road in the parish of St. Michael and finally approved by the Legislature on the 11th day of April, 1939 (Resolution No. 36/1939), as amended in accordance with Resolutions of the Legislature passed on the 26th day of June, 1940, (Resolution No. 56/1940) and the 8th day of April, 1941 (Resolution No. 29/1941).

The abovementioned Scheme is hereby amended by deleting sub-paragraphs (4) and (5) of paragraph 5 and substituting therefor the following sub-paragraphs:—

"(4) Payment of rent of houses and land will be weekly and quarterly respectively, and the price at which the tenant will have the option of purchasing the house, latrine and kitchen, will be the sum represented by the weekly rent of the same multiplied by the number of weeks in twenty years

(5) Weekly rent of houses to be —

Three roomed house (with latrine and kitchen) 72 cents.

Two roomed house (with latrine and kitchen) 48 cents.

to which will be added in each case a quarterly land rent of \$3.00."

Mr. ADAMS: This resolution is similar to the last but deals with the land rents at Deacons Road. It is agreed that a rate of \$3.00 per quarter should be charged for land rents where the lots are all of the minimum size of 2,400 square feet. These rents were 12 cents per week.

As honourable members would see in the Addendum, the original rate of 12 cents per week was fixed in 1940. I do not think that it is unreasonable to increase this rent to \$3.00 per quarter. I may say this that nobody wants to crucify the tenants of that area. Those people find themselves in the position of having a house sold to them for what it cost originally, roughly \$600 and it is well known that you cannot buy one like any of them today for less than \$1,800 or \$2,000; therefore if we ask them to pay a little more for land rent, that is not unreasonable taking into account the way in which things have gone up. I may say this, that naturally as time goes on, unless the people there spend some money on painting these houses, they will not be of much value. I do not want to put anything on record but I will say that the Housing Board has been able to stretch the plan in housing through the contingency vote and in so doing, the Board has been able to help a person here and there, where it was felt possible. In one or two instances where the houses were originally built of softish lumber or where the boards warped, instead of making the tenant keep his house in order, Government came to the rescue and helped him with it. Strictly by law, the Government was not obliged to do so because under the terms of the hire-purchase, the tenant had to keep it in order. This aid by Government was done purely for the benefit of the people; purely because Government wanted the people in the Deacons Road area to benefit from this Scheme and because Government wanted to set an example by showing that it was willing to be generous to its tenants. Therefore if anyone says that you are raising the rents of these people, that person must also say, certainly, as far as the people in the Deacons Road area are concerned, they have had advantages. I say that, not because I am conscious that Government has done wrong in raising these rents but because with that they have had better advantages as tenants of the Government than I think they would have had from any other landlord in the island. I do not think any landlord in the island would treat his tenants better than the Housing Board.

Sir, the honourable junior member for St. James, often has said that the Housing Board should not allow its tenants' arrears for land rent to run up, yet I can say that some arrears have run up to as long as forty weeks; therefore, it cannot be said that the Government is a harsh landlord and I think it can be said that the people in the Deacons Road area are the favoured few.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker,—This is one occasion which I cannot very much censure Government for this raise in rents. I however want to say that it must still be remembered that the cost of living for these tenants has gone up in another respect. I make reference to the new water rates specifically. I think the rise in water rates is something like 50%. This being so, then this difference in land rents may in some instances come as a great hardship on some of the families in this housing area. I will go as far as to say it will come as a hardship to all of the families living there. I therefore would like Government to take into account this rise in water rates and to see whether it can still allow certain of the tenants to continue on the old rental value.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—The honourable introducer of this resolution said that the cost of houses in the Deacons Road area was something in the vicinity of \$600 when they were erected and it is very likely that they would cost \$1,800 or \$2,000 today. Sir, this comparison in figures serves to show the enormous difficulties under which people who want houses nowadays labour and also emphasises the necessity for endeavouring to erect as cheaply as we can any new houses under similar housing schemes. I say that with special reference to the fact that there is an attempt at reducing cost of houses under these schemes at the moment by using concrete blocks and what not, but even though this is so, the cost of newly erected houses is still moderately high, due to the fact, of course, that we have to pay fairly high prices for imported cement. I therefore would like Government to devote some time and attention to the possibility of manufacturing cement locally because a bag of cement which gives an average of twenty concrete blocks costs around \$2.58, which means that a single cement block costs a little over 12 cents. With regard to manufacturing cement locally an expert made a survey of our limestone and certain rocks and recommended that we could manufacture locally a certain type of cement. Since this gentleman made his recommendations, the Government of British Guiana has seen the possibility of importing limestone from Barbados for the purpose of manufacturing its own cement. If British Guiana can manufacture cement from our limestone to cost cheaper than imported cement, how much more economic would it be for us to manufacture cement locally from our own limestone. If we are concerned with the cost nowadays of erecting houses which is something like five times as much as it were around ten years ago, we should investigate every single item which is used in the erection of houses to see whether we can produce local materials for so doing at less cost.

One further point, Mr. Speaker. In the case of Government Housing Schemes which it should further in all the rural parishes while it is looking around to acquire land for such purpose, I would like to point out that there are certain lands which Government owns at present that can be used for this purpose, therefore there can be no justification for failure to utilise them in this manner. I refer to the parish of St. Philip in which the Government owns the plantations of Dodds and Summervale where the lands border the main highways with water and other public amenities running along them. These lands can be utilised in part for housing schemes similar to those which we are considering today. I am saying that some of these lands should be made available to the people who want spots where they can get the facilities of water and other amenities for their houses. These people in the rural areas should

be given the same opportunity of housing schemes as have been given to the people in St. Michael.

While on this question of housing I will make this final point. Most of our housing today is being financed from the Labour Welfare Fund. It is true that the Deacons Road, the Belfield, the Pine and the Bay Estate Housing Schemes came into being before the operation of the Labour Welfare Fund, but I would say that now that we have been fortunate enough as to get money from this fund to assist in improving the question of housing, I feel that we should take some money from this fund to erect a few cottages or even small hotels at resort centres such as Silver Sands, Bathsheba and Belle-plaine where the low income groups of the working class will be able to go when they get their annual two weeks holiday. I am suggesting an enterprise which is self-supporting but to be run at the most moderate rates possible so that when the average working class man gets his annual holiday, he will be able to take his family for a rest period.

It is a fact that hotel facilities are beyond the reach of the lower income groups; you could not envisage the possibility of a worker going to stay at the Crane or any of the guest houses at Silver Sands or at St. James, nor are there any small cottages available to workers for the purpose. I think we should consider expending a small portion of the Labour Welfare Fund for the purpose of providing for these people facilities to which they are entitled. I am suggesting that we start on two or three sites with a few houses with reasonably cheap facilities and thus provide opportunities for these people to relax in surroundings which those with better incomes regard as a necessity for the maintenance of good health and strength throughout the time they have to work. The idea might seem to be far-fetched, but I feel that the money spent in that direction would be money well spent. I hope that something along this line will be adopted in the nearest possible future.

Mr. SMITH: This question of housing is a very big one. This afternoon we have the opportunity of amending the Housing Scheme for helping the people of St. Michael and it is a very deserving cause; however I would like to draw to the attention of the Housing Authorities that it is high time that they look into the country. I must draw to the attention of the Housing Authorities that they are some isolated places in the country, that the labourers in those areas are being helped by the Labour Welfare Fund, but after the labourers pay very high freight rates so as to get lumber near their homes, they then have to employ people to head that lumber to their homes owing to the lack of roads. The Housing Authorities may not know the conditions existing in the rural areas, but it is high time that they pay attention to these areas. People live in such areas that it is very nearly impossible for a doctor to get to them; after he has driven up to about half mile of a house he has to walk along a mere track. It is a wonder that the doctor goes to these people at all. I would not say anything about a particular doctor in respect of one of these areas. These Housing Authorities or Committees should hurry as fast as they possibly can to get the people out of such places; the people are taking water from the same hole from which the animals drink and with a Government such as we have it is high time to see that they do not treat people in the same manner in which animals are treated. I hear an honourable member say something about the Vestry, but the Vestry is hopeless because we have no funds.

In Parris Village the people are very badly in need of some housing assistance, and it is desir-

able to bring them from that area and put them where human beings should be put to live — not where animals are living now. There is a portion of land belonging to Joes River Estate, on which people could be placed; as soon as the East Coast Road is erected people will buy the land up there and there will be no where for the people to live. The question of housing is a very important one and there are only certain people working in the sugar industry who are getting help; there is another class of people who cannot get any help from this Fund and their houses are falling down. These people are not in a position to repair their houses, one of the worse things you can experience is to be sleeping in your home with the water dropping all over the place. You have to be constantly looking to see whence the water is dropping. I repeat that the authorities should try to remedy the existing state of affairs as soon as possible; it is of no use collecting money and waiting for a particular time in which to spend it. There are people who cannot get any assistance from the Labour Welfare Fund; they are poor and are only dependent upon what the Poor Relief Committee gives them. I am appealing to the Housing Authorities to make a survey in the country areas and see the houses which are in greatest need of repair and give them priority.

Mr. WILLIAMS: There are just one or two things I would like to say in connection with this Resolution. I do not think anyone can say that these increases are not justifiable; I have worked out the figures for myself and I find that the average weekly rent of these houses is 4/7. I think that they are extremely good value. I would like to draw to the attention of the Government — I know that they are pressed with many problems — that it was a pity they did not have more of a long-term capital investment on these houses. When I look at these houses I wonder if the Government will have as good an investment as in connection with other schemes. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has raised the point that if it is paying British Guiana to import our stone to make cement, it would profit us to erect a cement factory; well I hope the new Lancaster venture might be able to produce blocks somewhat below the figure of a concrete block.

Another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government is this; when they are choosing the sites for other prospective housing schemes, they should bear in mind that wherever possible they should make use of the existing services. They might choose sites where, by the time they have built roads and so on, they might run into good costs, and that is why I would recommend to the Government that they should be very careful in choosing sites. If we choose sites which are inaccessible we might find ourselves paying quite a lot of money for erecting housing schemes in other parishes.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: In moving the adjournment of the House I will say that I am sorry to ask honourable members to come back here next Tuesday; but as I have hinted to honourable members the matter of Ministerial Status is almost upon us and I am hoping that the House will remain in session from Tuesday to Tuesday in order that any Message which might be sent down by the Governor can be laid. I will promise honourable members

that if we do come back next Tuesday it would not be for any lengthy session; of course we can adjourn for two or three weeks and Your Honour can summon a special meeting if the necessity for doing that arose. I should like to point out that we would do nothing of any serious nature without letting honourable members know beforehand that we intend to deal with that serious matter. As far as I know it is likely that a Message dealing with

Ministerial Status will be sent down to the Legislature soon, and for that reason I am asking honourable members to agree to come back here next Tuesday. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week at 3 o'clock p.m.

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