

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 30th July, 1953.

Pursuant to a summons issued by His Honour the Speaker, a special meeting of the House of Assembly was held at 1 p.m. to-day.

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., Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. M. E. COX, Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. T. O. BRYAN, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. C. E. TALMA and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

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

BILL TO ESTABLISH LOAN FUND FOR PURPOSE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform honourable members that this House has been specially summoned by me under Rule 292 to consider Item No. 1, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to establish a loan fund for the purpose of Higher Education, for the making of loans therefrom and for matters connected therewith.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I need hardly tell honourable members that this question, the provision of legislation to establish a loan fund for Higher Education, that this House has already agreed that there should be provision for such a sum. It has gone beyond the stage of general agreement and as honourable members will remember the principle of providing loans to students to attend approved institutions of higher education was generally agreed to by the Legislature in 1950, and an amount of \$55,000 was allocated in the Five Year Plan of Development and Taxation, of which a sum of \$22,000 was included in the Estimates for 1953—54 as an initial contribution to this fund. This Bill therefore seeks to provide the necessary statutory authority for establishing the fund and for making provision for its administration.

As honourable members will see provided by Clause 2, the fund is to be proposed of: (a) all

moneys which the Legislature has provided for establishing the Fund; (b) all moneys which the Legislature may provide for payment into the Fund; and (c) all moneys which represent the repayment of any loan, excluding any interest thereon, repaid by any person to whom a loan is made under the provisions of this Act. Under Clause 3, honourable members will see that a Committee should be established to administer it consisting of the Accountant-General, the Director of Education and not more than three other persons appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. It is obvious why these two officials should be on the Committee.

The Bill also provides that a Financial Statement should be prepared by the Committee and submitted to the Legislature in respect of every period ending 31st March in every year and that regulations should be made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and approved by both Houses of Parliament.

Sir, I do not see any particular question being raised on this Bill, but anticipating that a question might be raised on Clause 6 dealing with interest on loans to be paid into the general revenue, I will state that it is not likely that the Governor-in-Executive Committee will agree with the charging of a sum of interest lower than the ordinary rates of interest. It must be remembered that the Government will have to pay interest on this money because as has been set out in the Five-Year Plan this money will be obtained out of Loan Funds. I think the interest likely to be considered by the Executive Committee will be 4½ per cent. I do not think there is any thing more which I can add on introducing this Bill.

I may repeat that this question has been fully threshed out by this House when we were dealing with the Five-Year Plan and it is necessary legislation. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I certainly am very happy to see a Bill like this before this Chamber but the only point which is worrying me is whether or not under the terms of this Bill any person in the island, even of foreign descent, will be able to make loans to pursue further studies under Clause 4. I would like to know whether the Committee which will be set up to administer the fund will only consider applications for the granting of a loan to only a Barbadian, or whether it would be extended to persons of West Indian origin, or whether it would be sufficiently comprehensive to

include foreigners. I am also hoping that when we speak of higher education that it is not only merely confined to the arts and similar professions, but will also include such other agricultural, technical and scientific studies that one will get not only in colleges and universities in the West Indies, Canada and the United Kingdom, but like also the Tuskegee Institute, U.S.A. I would just like to be clear on these points which I think are very salient and which I think should be explained.

Mr. GODDARD: I was of the opinion that the Leader of this House who introduced this Bill would have dealt with it more fully. I suppose he is waiting for certain questions to be put to him and then he will reply to them. The only question which he has spoken on is that of interest on loans and he has told us that it is not likely that Government would consider any interest less than what it is now paying on loans. I think that is quite feasible because it is a facility which is being offered to persons to pay to send their children for higher education and many would like to take advantage of this facility at any reasonable rate of interest.

I would like to ask a few questions with regard to what applications will be considered by the Committee for the granting of these loans. Is this loan intended only for students who are already at college or university and taking post-graduate courses but find it difficult to carry on for one reason or the other or is it for students that have proved their worth and ability at colleges in Barbados and intend to go abroad to study a profession? I would also like to know if it would be possible for certain persons here either in the teaching profession or those who are interested in higher education for themselves to get a loan to take an extra-mural course but who by doing so might have to give up their vocation and pay for the many months in the year which they will be doing this intensive training. This is a question that has been put to me by some persons outside but to which I could not give an answer. I would therefore like the Leader of this House to answer it for me. Persons outside in commercial life are also asking whether any restrictions would be put on them to preclude them from borrowing from this fund. Owing to the broad terms of the Bill—I haven't seen any regulations to it yet—I am wondering whether it would preclude a person interested in furthering himself educationally in commerce from borrowing from this fund. That person may be unable to raise a loan outside. I also know many Civil Servants and parochial employees who are in the upper brackets and who have bright children at school but are at pains to know what they will have to do when the time comes for them to send their children abroad owing to their not having the necessary means to do so. They too would like to know whether they would be precluded or whether they would be able to borrow from this fund.

Sir, I do not wish to stray from the objects of this Bill, but I would like to state that I know of very many hard cases where people would like to borrow to send their children for higher education but are finding it difficult to do so. I feel that this loan fund, if properly administered, would be of great help to many people.

I would also like to ask the Government to pay some immediate attention to the extension of secondary education so that those children who are now knocking at the door of our colleges and other secondary schools but who are unable to get in through lack of accommodation will be able to do so. This question has been brought to my attention very forcibly by parents and guardians. These people are saying that they are contributing in a large way by the

paying of taxes to the upkeep of these secondary schools, yet they cannot get their children in at the various Government secondary schools for secondary education. Instead, they have to go outside and pay privately for such education of their children. They feel that they are contributing twice to this matter, in the first place by their taxation directly or indirectly to the colony and in the second place in their own private capacity by having to educate their children outside of these government-aided schools. It has been discussed outside that at the Lodge School which at present accommodates 350 pupils, that school should be developed to accommodate another stream of pupils. There are two streams at present there. With regard to Harrison College, they are aware that the accommodation there is at its limit, but with regard to the Boys' Foundation School they are saying that for years now, Government has agreed to rebuild and enlarge it, but although it is such a pressing need, Government has taken no action yet. They are saying that it is too pressing to neglect it any longer. I know that I will be told with regard to this matter that Government is well aware, but I do want to see some progress in the very near future in the extension of facilities in secondary education in this colony.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS: It seems to me that with our higher education policy there is partial agreement, but the question we should ask ourselves is whether the accent of this Bill should not be in providing loans to those who wish to go in for higher education of a scientific and technical nature. If it is a question of borrowing for higher education in the agricultural sciences, such as a Sugar Agronomist, or other positions in studies of a technical or scientific nature, one would perfectly agree with this. It is not because there is no need for those qualified in the arts field. Obviously, we must have in the generation of the future, in the West Indies, many who are qualified in the arts field so as to give us leaders like the honourable Leader of this House. The reason why I say this is because I am willing to wager a bet that in the next five or ten years we will see in the West Indies an overflow of arts graduates from the University College of the West Indies and this difficulty of graduates on contract will be more than met. Let me tell you that this overflow in the arts field has arisen in the United Kingdom. It was present some years ago though the position has changed somewhat today. I am not saying that we in the West Indies are in this fortunate position today. What I would like to ask Government is whether any form of control would be placed on the people who will be given the opportunity to borrow from the fund; and whether there would be any regulations made to regulate what type of courses the particular parties would be allowed to pursue in the United Kingdom, Canada, or for that matter, the University College of the West Indies, if they are to benefit from this loan fund.

Approaching this question of education realistically, I am wondering, too, whether with our pressing problems in secondary and elementary education, we are not putting too much at the top and not groping with the problems in the centre and at the bottom. However much may be this need for higher education and for which we must also make provision, we must realise that we must at least provide elementary education free and that every child should be able to take advantage of it. We must not forget that on this question of education generally, we are faced with this problem of

over population and to pay for the cost of it there either must be increased taxation or increased productivity which will enable us to increase our revenue. The honourable Junior Member for Christ Church has just made mention of the serious problem in accommodation at secondary schools. To enlarge on this point, I will tell honourable members that there were over four hundred entrance applications for forty places at the Alexandra School this term and double that amount for the same number of places at the St. Michael Girls' School. I understand that the same state of affairs prevailed at the Combermere School. Even assuming that this may be due to the question of the thinking of this age, when everybody wants their child to get secondary education, yet we are aware that something has got to be done in this respect. It is not good enough.

As I have said, I am in partial agreement with the Bill but I feel that the accent, so far as higher education is concerned should be on education of a scientific or technical nature. If I may go so far, I would say that even the techniques of carpentry on a national level could be included in this scheme, but stress should be given on such subjects which would give a knowledge of higher productivity. However much one may acknowledge that a good classical scholar can hold himself tops in any position which he may find himself yet the tendency in Great Britain and other countries is to swing away from arts. I am prepared to say that by the next five or ten years we would reach that stage where we can tell graduate officers on contract from abroad that they can go back home if they so desire.

Mr. LEWIS: I am really not against the principle of the Bill, but I am wondering whether it is right that we should make loans in accordance with the terms of this Bill. It seems to me that this Committee which will be set up to administer the fund will only be acting as an enabling body to Government to approve of the student and to say whether or not his or her parents are in a position to find the liquid cash to do so. I say liquid cash because I take it that these loans will be made on the same security as a person who secures a loan from someone outside. We have increased the number of Barbados scholars within recent years and in spite of that, there seems to be others who are qualified enough and are willing to pursue higher education but who are unable to furnish the money. For this reason, this Loan Bill seems justifiable. As I see it, you will be able by the operation of this fund to have your own officer for pig breeding at the Mental Hospital Farm, and your technical and specialist officers for housing and other branches of the Civil Service. I do not know if there would be loans given for higher education in minor handicrafts, but broadly, this is more or less a Loan Bill by which people who reach a certain educational standard would be entitled for loans to go in for higher education. There is nothing against that principle.

Because of that, I will only concern myself with the method of making the loan, the persons to whom you will be making the loans, the method of repayment, and the way in which the loans are to be repaid. For instance, I would like to hear from the honourable introducer of this Bill why the interest on the loan should be paid into the Treasury, although I feel that this is being done because the interest will be derived from money which has been borrowed by Government and if they loan it out at interest less than what they borrowed it at, they will have to recoup the balance from the Treasury. I feel that this Fund should not be set up in this

manner. Why have you not made this a revolving fund with money obtained from the Treasury so that all the interest from the loans could go back into the revolving fund in the same manner as other revolving funds which have been created? I would like to know why there has been a departure from that principle.

I think too, Sir, as was mentioned by the honourable Junior Member for St. Lucy, that the Government should have taken the opportunity in introducing a Bill of this sort to make some official statement about the raising of fees of secondary schools. It is a question which the public is anxious to hear a pronouncement from Government because, undoubtedly, this is not mere idle rumour or where somebody is doing something to get at Government, —that is a mistake. This raising of fees comes from an official document issued from the Department of Education to the Governing Bodies of Secondary Schools and which has been printed in the newspapers. It is linked with the desire of the Government for reducing expenditure at these schools either by reducing the number of teachers or by the increasing of school fees. As I have already stated, the public is well aware of this document, therefore, it has reached a stage where it is incumbent on the Government not to regard this as idle rumour but if it is contrary to Government's policy, this is a glorious opportunity for the Leader of the House to make a pronouncement on it. I am sorry that it has not been made already.

The next point which I would raise is that as this is the taxpayers money — the fund being established by borrowed money—they would have to repay it and to pay the interest on it. Because of that, I feel that this branch of the Legislature should insist that some of its members are put on the Committee administering the Fund. It is incumbent that honourable members should be on this Board to lend a voice in how this money should be accounted for and administered even if it be only the busiest honourable member of this House, the officer entrusted with education. These honourable members should be there to see that all things are done properly and that the accounts are rendered to the Auditor General by the 31st March every year. I also think that some provision should be made whereby these accounts would come before the House at least by the end of May or June, following the auditing of the last accounts, so that this House will know what is taking place in this matter. I think it is well known that things like this can be easily forgotten and it is a fact that many of these accounts which this House should be apprised of after the statements having been made up by the 31st March, does not reach this House after they have been audited until September or October, or sometimes by the 31st March of the following year. I dislike such state of affairs and I think that the time has come when every honourable member of this House should be well aware of his rights and see that these matters are placed before them at the proper time or on the Table of this House so that you, Mr. Speaker, will have some guidance. I see no provision here for the laying of a statement of accounts before this House at any specified time in this matter and I visualize that there would be the usual problem of no time limit at all in putting this matter before the attention of this House of the Legislature, but I feel that we should urge for some prescribed time limit.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, this Bill gives effect to some proposals that have been accepted more or less by this House and as a matter of fact, part of this money—\$22,000—has been included in the Current Estimates, therefore, we should take it that this House is in agreement more or less with the uses

of it. I feel that one of the principal things in this measure is the composition of the Committee which is to be set up to administer this fund. It is true that this Committee must work within the framework of regulations to be framed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and submitted to this House but which have not yet been submitted. Nevertheless, the principal point is that this Committee will be responsible for the administering of the Fund or the managing of it. It says here that this fund will be managed by a Committee consisting of the Accountant-General, the Director of Education and not more than three other persons appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee—not more than three other persons. I am therefore throwing out the suggestion to the Government that one of these three persons nominated by the Governor-in-Executive Committee should be a member of this House. If provision can be made for two, so much the better, but there should be at least one member from this House preferably the Minister for Education. I do not know if it would be necessary to have this minister and the Director of Education, but I will add that if possible you should place another member of this House on the Committee. I think, Sir, in the House of Commons where there is ministerial system in operation for all these years that it still has various Committees watching over expenditure of monies, therefore, it is very important that we make some provision to watch over how this fund is managed. I do believe that the present Government is aware of all these things. I feel this Government will appoint one of its members to be a watchdog over this fund but I hope it will not wait until there be Ministerial Government and a Minister is so appointed. I hope that before Ministerial Government comes into operation the principle will be observed of having a member of Government to be a member of this Committee and, if possible, another member of this House to also watch over how this fund is administered. I say that because I think that education is too important an item to be discarded lightly and because I am aware that there are too many loopholes in our educational system. We have to be very vigilant in any matter which pertains to the educational system of the colony. If we are to set aside this sum so that it will be of benefit to those who wish to seek after higher education, we must see that it would be spent to the best advantage both to ourselves and to those who would be allowed to benefit from it. It is because of that that I issue this little warning to Government which I hope its members will think on when carrying out the further proposals.

Sir, I would also like to see that the regulations on higher education be made as elastic as possible. You can embrace a lot of mediums to the term 'higher education.' I think the honourable senior member for Christ Church made a very useful suggestion when he said that we should pay some attention to the technical and scientific side and should not confine the operation of this scheme to the academic side to the detriment of the practical side. If I may give an instance, we are developing the tourist industry and it is to our knowledge that most of the money derived from this industry is going into the hands of a few capitalists and hotel owners. We have right here in this colony material which can be put to good use to attract the eye of the tourist. If people can be taught to utilise it properly, the benefits of the tourist industry could be spread to more people in this colony. The skill in handicrafts has not progressed in this colony because there is no teacher sufficiently trained to teach people in the use of local materials. We must show some more vigilance

in this respect. I remember, that a former Governor, Sir William Savage, said in a speech that if we developed this side of our industrial resources, we could spread the benefits of tourism. Sir, we should make a start now by training people to do these things, but we cannot train them unless we have the teachers. I think we are wasting time sending out so many students to become lawyers only to find themselves back here in the law courts fighting to get a few people out of prison. I do not mean to say that most of them by their training do not turn out to be useful individualists, but few of them really take an active part in trying to lead this colony onward. They return as very good individualists but so far as the fundamental things of the colony are concerned they are not very much interested, therefore, I think it is a complete waste and is not good enough when we simply dish out or lend money only for this purpose. We must work within some scheme when we give consideration to the dishing out of these loans towards higher education. I feel most strongly about this and that is why I feel that two members of this House should be put on this Committee, if not necessary, at least one.

With regard to our educational policy, — you cannot call it a policy at all—we must have people there to guide it along lines which we want and it is no use setting up this loan fund for higher education unless you keep in mind the development of this colony and the fundamental needs of the people.

Let us concentrate on the practical side of our educational system; let us teach people handicrafts and other practical aids. I am not going to say anything more at this time because, doubtless, regulations will be coming before this House to carry out the terms of the Bill and when that takes place, we will have the opportunity of expressing ourselves further.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, the principle of this Bill sounds good and it might cause many to agree with it but I cannot see my way of supporting it. The reason is that I do not consider loans for higher education should be given priority over other things which are more needed in this community. I view this measure as a bit of legislation we are hastening to pass to provide for a couple of people, at a time, regardless of what rebuttals Government might make as regards the rumoured intention of increasing the fees at secondary schools. I am a member of one of those Boards which is giving consideration to this question of increasing fees and I can say that on one occasion we met specially to discuss a circular sent by the Director of Education dealing with this matter. I take it that what a Government department does is sanctioned by the Government.

Now Sir, you cannot threaten to increase school fees or the alternative of reducing your specialist teachers at these schools owing to limited funds and then set about to make loans to provide for a couple of individuals. What I feel is that not only is an extension necessary in the education field but it is also necessary in the housing as well as the health department fields. I feel that if you have money to spend, you should pay attention to those departments which give services to the community. You should assist such departments first. Having in view that we are not suffering from any shortage of classical students in or outside of the colony, I see no urgent necessity for this Bill. In recent years many of our children have been successful at the local colleges winning honours in classics and other subjects. Besides that, many of those individuals are still furthering their studies and some have left school and cannot get any employment. I would agree with

a Bill of this sort coming at this time if there were a shortage of talented youngsters in our community. This is one thing in which this House makes mistakes. When something is submitted to this Chamber by Government asking this House to agree to a principle, this House without any hesitation agrees to it because it may appear good, but this House does not take into consideration what position the Government should put such things on their list of legislation to be sent back to this Chamber after this agreement in principle. If I may give an illustration, we may agree to spend so much on health, so much on education, so much on social services, etc., but we never worry ourselves to say that while we agree in principle with X things, we do not mean to say that it should be brought down before A. B. and C. things. This loan fund for higher education might be a good gesture on the part of the Government, but I do not feel that it is expedient at this time to spend money in that direction because we would be leaving out expenditure on other matters which are more necessary at the moment.

Let us take the community as a whole. We are aiming at industrialisation not only in the sugar industry but in all industries the emphasis is on mechanisation. Because of this emphasis, you need trained persons who would be able to fit into this new development of these industries, yet you have not set about to make it possible for any scheme to be set up for the training of those individuals who might be employed in these mechanised industries. This shows that we are giving priority to something which is not as needful as other things to which we have already agreed to in principle. For some time, there have been demands for technical education and not a move has been made in that direction, but just recently, this House agreed in principle to making these loans for higher education to a couple of individuals and here today we are presented with a Bill to that effect. While this is so, nothing has been said and apparently has been done towards the setting up of some scheme to disseminate technical education. There is a crying need for technical education. There are very few efficient tradesmen in the colony. As a matter of fact, there is not enough for the needs of the community. In certain branches of technical work in this island, you cannot find two or three capable technicians. What is more, as the honourable junior member for Christ Church has said, many taxpayers are experiencing great difficulty in getting their children into secondary schools because of the limited accommodation. I feel that any increase expenditure on education should be directed towards this end. I think that it is a disgrace on our part that at Government secondary schools, we can only accommodate 38 youngsters out of 700 or 800 applicants. This shows a woeful lack of appreciation for the granting of increased facilities at these schools.

Another point, Sir. I have not seen in this Bill the means which will be adopted to give security to Government on such loans. I do not know what are the intentions in this respect of the Government or of the Committee which is to be set up, but it is well known that the Government embarking on things like this can find itself in a very difficult position because unlike a private individual, the Government has to think twice before it takes steps to recover any money loaned out regardless of what purpose for which it was loaned. Because it may not be possible in every instance for Government to get a guarantee for repayment, Government might find itself losing money in this respect. Another thing is this. I do not like the Government entering the money market

making loans and competing against private individuals who have been trained for that purpose because in every respect, you are going to get people demanding for every purpose a loan from Government. At present, Government loans money for housing, for health matters, that is to persons going overseas in the interest of their health; now you are getting loans for education. For all these things Government is loaning out money and many of the individuals who get such loans are not so hard-pressed that they cannot get it privately. The people are saying: "Government has a lot of money and knows not what to do with it; of course, I can pull a couple of strings and get priority over some of it. I know that any failure on my part to refund it, Government has to think many times before they sue me for it." I also think that Government is practising discrimination in legislation because in this Bill you are going to get only a very selected few who will meet the eye and approval of this Committee for a loan. The other people who form the bulk of the population of this island and who contribute to taxation either directly or indirectly will not be able to approach this Committee. I can imagine too that one's social background will be taken into consideration for acquiring this loan; the standing of your great aunt or uncle, your grandfather or cousin and such relations playing an important part. On the other hand, you might have a genius who probably might be deserving of this assistance, but on account of his background will have to remain in the gutter because of his being unable to acquire this assistance.

I hope, Sir, that in the regulations which Government proposes to make for regulating this loan fund, that there will be something laid down for repayment of these loans. I must support the honourable junior member for the City in his suggestion that the interest on these loans should have been dealt with other than to be paid into the Treasury but that this fund should be revolving with the interest paid into it. As I understand it, if this is to be a revolving fund, a certain amount of money will have to be allocated to the Committee and whatever interest that would be derived from the loaning of it would have to be added to it. I also understand that it can be considered a revolving fund though the interest is paid into the Treasury and not to the fund.

Another thing that I dislike about this matter is that in embarking on our Five Year Plan, to run the show we have to seek loans from here there and everywhere. This means that on your right hand, you are borrowing money at a particular rate of interest and on your left, you are lending out that same money which you borrowed at a particular rate of interest. I consider this bad business. You should only be willing to lend money under these circumstances if the cases were necessitous ones; on the other hand, you can only lend money if your coffers are filled and in doing so, it will not hurt you. I feel that you should not be making loans for this purpose because by your doing so, you are making it more difficult to carry out those parts of the Five-Year Plan which are more needful. I refer to your social services, etc. I cannot see how this fund to make loans for higher education should take precedent to the extension of the General Hospital, or the extension of loans for the purpose of housing, or repairs to more tenantry roads, or the extension of your water services.

Again, I have not seen in this Bill any stipulations as regards to the principal subjects which students will be called on to pursue if they are to get a loan. Having in view the shortage of specialist

personnel in certain Government Departments, a stipulation should have been made to show what subjects one would have to pursue if he wants to get the benefit of such a loan. It should be stated that the student would have to pursue studies in science, engineering or such other studies which would help in this new scheme of industrialisation that is taking place in this community. If that were so, I feel this Bill will be acceptable. As a matter of fact, I cannot refrain from criticising the large amount of money which we have to give annually to the upkeep of the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica as well as the rising increase in allowances to those students who have become Barbados Scholars. Not only have we increased the number of Barbados Scholarships from one to five annually, but we have recently increased the allowances which these scholars must get. As a matter of fact, there is an increase every year in every scheme to which this Government contributes. With regard to education, the amount we spend annually on it increases yearly, and on the back of that, there are harsh criticisms against our elementary educational system and in some respects to our secondary educational system. We have to be very careful in the spending of money on education. Not only is there criticism against the lack of accommodation at our elementary schools but this lack of accommodation is also becoming worse at our Second Grade and First Grade Schools. I feel Sir that charity begins at home and we should attempt to raise the standard of education in our schools before we set about to spend this \$55,000 over a five-year period making loans towards higher education. At the present, you are threatening certain secondary schools by your expressed desire of reducing some of their technical staff without any regard to the lowering of the educational standard. You are also planning to increase the fees of scholars at all secondary schools within a short period of time and on top of that, you are planning a further increase in fees over that which you have proposed if this proposed increase does not level up things. With all these happenings, must we still be confronted today with a Bill of this sort? Of course, I know that members of the Government will say that this is not true, but I hardly think, as a member of one of the Governing Bodies of these schools, that I would have been summoned to a meeting to discuss the increases in school fees and the decrease in members of the staff without the members of Government knowing something about it. The circular which I still have in my possession was sent out from the Department of Education and it contained what were the proposed increases in fees and even the amount which was expected to receive from such increases. The circular further suggested that the Department might find it possible if things were not levelled up, or words to that effect, to ask for another increase. With regard to the reduction in graduate masters, it suggested to the Governing Bodies to suggest the various qualifications of masters which would be best suited to be kept on the staff and what could be released. No honourable member of the Government can tell me that a Department of Government which takes its policy from the Governor-in-Executive Committee can undertake to circularise officially members of Governing Bodies of these Second and First Grade Schools without their knowledge. If it is true that the Governor-in-Executive Committee is not aware of these new innovations, well then, somebody has usurped greater authority than he has. It would be an extremely bad state of affairs if a department like the Education Department is left alone to decide what policy it should adopt and to come to the public through the Governing Bodies of

these schools with a policy which has never been seen or heard of by members of the Governor-in-Executive Committee. Of course, honourable members of the Government would like us to believe this.

However, Mr. Speaker, I cannot promise to support this Bill, coming as it does at this time and before other things which I feel are more needful. I feel that it would be a breach of my duties if I did not register my disapproval of it, not that I do not believe that the principle of the Bill is a good one, but because I feel that according to the present circumstances it should not be sent down before other needful things which would benefit a greater majority of the population generally.

Mr. ADAMS: I think it is only fair that I should reply to some of the more important points raised, though this Government realise that some honourable members think that they are just autonomic; they must express their point of view; but they must give credit if they can see the major points that the Government itself can see the same points. I would like to deal first with the last honourable member who spoke. Mind you, he says "when the time comes; the time has not come for the bringing in of this Bill, therefore he would not support it now. When will that time come? It is three years and a week—on the 18th July, 1950—since we came down with a special case to this House to ask for a loan for one of our university students who was recommended for a loan and the honourable member actually went so far as to say—after talking about needy cases—to say this. To give you a clearer picture, the then junior member for Christ Church, Mr. Reece, in his speech was pointing out that the Government was going to lend money to these students in order to enable them to become specialists and at a point of order, the honourable senior member for St. John said: "I want the honourable member to understand that I am in sympathy with these students and I am supporting this resolution . . . I appreciate the Government's attitude towards them." Today he is saying that we are filled up with specialists. On the 18th July, 1950, when this House also drafted regulations to govern the loan, the honourable member also called on the Government to help the needy cases first and said that he was going to support it. That was three years ago. Some honourable members at that time also said that we should also take into consideration when we set up this loan fund for education to help poor people to send their children to Combermere and Harrison College out of that fund. We of the Executive at that time pointed out that we would have regulations drafted but that we would have to wait until we considered the Five-Year Plan to see how much money we could allocate towards this fund. That was since 1950; the honourable senior member for St. John is today saying that this has come too soon. During this interval, we have got a Training Fund for Civil Servants.

I want to say at this stage that nothing has been suggested here this afternoon that has not been suggested to us previously. We have even thought out what should be put in the regulations. The honourable Senior Member for Christ Church has asked whether people in commerce would be able to benefit from this fund. In reply I would say that we are not interested in anybody unless they be intelligent Barbadians and if we need them, it would be necessary for us to train them. I would also say that nobody will be refused consideration so long as it is pointed out that he is worth the higher education, but that owing to circumstances his parents cannot afford it. When we look around today, we see people of my age, who if the four or five Barbados

scholarships had been in existence when they were at school and this facility, they would have been shining ornaments in the community life of this colony, but because of the then prevailing circumstances they had to shift to an obscure post in the Civil Service or commercial employment. It is for this reason that one sees the need of schemes of this sort. Certainly, you must grant that the Committee to be appointed will have a sense of responsibility so as to foresee that if a particular scholar want to go and study law, that lawyers are three for a penny in Lucas Street—that there are too many lawyers already; or if you want to go and study to be a super carpenter that that profession would not be any good to Barbados, therefore the Committee will say to you: "Sorry, we can't help you." On the other hand, if this Government finds it difficult, let us say, to find a responsible engineer of waterworks, and you would go and study to become an efficient engineer that the Committee will say: "Certainly, we will let you have a loan to study for that." Let me inform honourable members that this loan for higher education will not be tied down to a study of the arts or sciences. One sure tie there would be. We cannot promise to help Mr. H. O. Emtage or Mr. well-to-do Auctioneer or people of that standing knocking about town who can afford to send their children to any university. What the Committee will do is to take into consideration the needs of Barbados as far as it can foresee. We hope too that by the time a student has graduated that we would have a good job ready for him.

I may say that since 1950 and 1951 we began to draw up regulations to govern this loan fund and we are making them more up-to-date now, so that when we come to the House with them, you can be assured that three years of thought on the original regulations would be given you. I have already drawn the attention of the House to this point, and if possible you should enforce it, that is, you should attach a condition to the granting of these loans in that if you are a member of the Civil Service you should come back in the Government for a limited time, say for three or five years, or if you are not in the Service you should come back to the island and give of your service for a limited time. Of course, you cannot always press that you are lending money on this or that account except you are lending to a very limited few. There is a difference between a grant and a loan but with our limited fund, when we have to choose between two people, one of which is a genius and by his great ability may find himself in the Indian Civil Service and another who may become a good mechanic to come back to the island, the Committee is sure to lend the man who will be coming back to Barbados. Again, I would say that you cannot stop a woman from getting married. If she is on training as a nurse and is working with doctors and patients, she might get married before completing her training. But this does not mean that it is not better to have the regulation. As a matter of fact, some people have been known to pay back the money even though they may not have completed the training or for some other cause did not return. I know of a specific case in which a nurse on training got married and her husband thought it was his loyal duty to his wife by her giving up her job with Government to become his wife, to pay back the money that the Government had spent on her training as a nurse.

Mr. Speaker,—I wish to assure honourable members and especially the honourable junior member for Christ Church who raised the point, that people at Colleges and universities will be left school and just failed to win an Island Scholar-

ship or a scholarship at the University College of the West Indies. As all honourable members will appreciate, Regulations are coming to the House, and whatever views are expressed today will again be brought to the notice of the Executive.

As regards the point about being able to study in the U.S.A. there will be no prohibition as to where you can study, but with our limited supply of dollars the chances of people wishing to study in the U.S.A., or Canada will not be as rosy as the chances of those wishing to study in the sterling area. I am not saying that the man wishing to study in the dollar area will never get the money to do so. There may be some people who can get better qualifications in the U.S.A. or Canada; but do not blame the committee if they say they are helping someone in the sterling area first because of limited dollars. I take it that the dollar question will be the only thing operating in the minds of the committee if they give a chance to a person wishing to study in the sterling area rather than to one wishing to study in the U.S.A., or Canada.

We also have to remember that the committee may use the argument of the honourable senior member for St. John: You are spending a lot of money on the University College in Jamaica; that University has the facilities for training people; therefore you should help build up that college as much as possible. So if you have to make a choice between someone wishing to go to the University College and someone wishing to go elsewhere, give the former first chance. As honourable members know, West Indian students at McGill University at the time when the pound was devalued sent a petition to the West Indian Governments asking them to lend them money because of the diminished value of the pound. Some West Indian Governments were unsympathetic and the others—the majority—were sympathetic. Had we made up our mind as regards the sum to be allocated for a loan we would probably have come down to the House and asked for money to lend our students at McGill who were suffering because of devaluation. We are not discriminating against those who want to go outside the sterling area, but we must bear in mind our financial position. It is only \$55,000 and therefore you have to be careful to say to whom you are going to lend money.

I must thank honourable members for expressing their points of view because it will help the Government considerably with the framing of the Regulations. The views of honourable members will be considered before the Regulation are printed and brought down.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I will deal with a point which has not been dealt with by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph—the point raised by the honourable senior member for St. John in connection with increased fees at secondary schools. We know that that is a vexed question, and that the Government is being blamed by rumour and in the newspapers for raising fees at secondary schools. The honourable senior member for St. John has said that the Board was carrying out the instructions of the Government. There is no truth in that.

We have an officer, sir, called the Financial Secretary, whose duty it is to look after the finances of the colony; and that officer has noticed that the expenditure on secondary schools is increasing. The increase for this financial year over last year is \$130,000. It is the duty of the Financial Officer to call this increase to the attention of the Government and to suggest ways and means of reducing it. He brought the matter to the attention of the Educa-

tion Department and that department in turn made certain suggestions to the various Governing Bodies of Secondary Schools. Those suggestions then have to come before the Executive for confirmation or otherwise. Up to now the Government has had no say in it. I just want to mention that to spike the rumour that something official has come from the Executive confirming any decision to increase fees at secondary schools.

I will add, Sir, that this present Government will take a lot of persuading to make them increase secondary school fees. To show that the policy of the Government is still secondary school education as cheaply as possible I will mention that just last year when the Parry School was opened there was a difference in fees between the two schools before they were amalgamated. I think the Coleridge School was ten dollars a term and the Parry School was eight. When the schools were combined they came to the Executive for a ruling and the Executive Committee's decision was on the side of eight dollars a term. I just want to allay the fears of all and sundry as far as Government increasing the fees of secondary schools is concerned.

Question that the Bill be now read a second time was put and agreed to without division.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2 was called.

2. There shall be established a Higher Education Loan Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") into which shall be paid—

- (a) all moneys which the Legislature has provided for establishing the Fund;
- (b) all moneys which the Legislature may provide for payment into the Fund;
- (c) all moneys which represent the repayment of any loan, excluding any interest thereon, repaid by any person to whom a loan is made under the provisions of this Act.

Mr. ADAMS moved seconded by Dr. CUMMINS that Clause 2 stand part.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, — I cannot remember what was done in the case of the Training Scheme Fund, but I would just like to ask the honourable member in charge of the Bill why the interest on this fund, which I regard as a revolving fund, should be paid into the Treasury. Is it being done like that because the money that is being loaned is borrowed by the Government and the interest that Government is paying is higher, and therefore the Government is trying to get back at least a part of the interest? The fund has a maximum of \$55,000. If you allocate \$22,000, when that is gone I presume that you will allocate some more. Why not let the interest stay and form part of the fund? You should allow people to make their own arrangements. Some may be able to get the money outside without paying any interest. Why insist that the interest should be paid into the Treasury and that the principal amount be left in the hands of the Committee. I am not saying that anything is wrong with it. I just want to know the reason for it. (A MEMBER: It came out of general revenue and you are putting it back into general revenue). What I am hearing is no answer. The interest does not come out of general revenue. Let them get up and say so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: To whom is the honourable member looking for an answer?

Mr. LEWIS: I am expecting that someone will answer for the Government. I am not accepting the answer about anything coming out of the Treasury. What is coming out of the Treasury is being put

back. I do not know if you have any special reason for doing it this way, and that is why I am asking.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, — I gave the honourable member the explanation. When this matter was being discussed it was thought that it might not be fair to ask for any of the capital back until the man got through and got a job, while the interest on the loan could be paid by the person's father or guarantor during the period of study. At one time it was suggested that the principal sum could be paid back in monthly instalments. That would necessitate working out interest on decreasing amount of principal; therefore keep the capital payment for settlement at the end of the study period and pay the interest in the interval. It is purely a matter of convenience.

Mr. LEWIS: It is not a matter of convenience. The honourable member talked about the principal being paid back to the Treasury or the Committee according to the Regulations. I do not see how I can agree with that statement after reading paragraph (c) of this clause. It is quite obvious that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph does not know the reason for the proposed policy.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member is accusing me of saying an untruth. As far as I know the only accurate answer is the one which I gave. The matter is one of convenience. It might be more convenient to accept the payment of interest all the time and give the person a chance until he gets through to pay back the principal. The matter was discussed and it was thought that that was the most convenient policy to adopt. The honourable member has a bad habit of thinking that people get here and wilfully tell lies. I do not know why I took the trouble of replying to him at all. He tells me that I do not have the answer. That could only mean that I am lying.

Mr. LEWIS: I said that obviously the honourable member does not know the answer. He does not know it, and he has said the first thing that came into his head. But that is not the answer. I heard the honourable senior member for St. Peter in an aside say that in the case of the Fishing Boat Loan Fund loans are paid into the revolving fund and the interest is paid into the Treasury. Therefore there is a precedent for this and that is why they are doing it this way. But it looks stupid to me. The calculating of the interest has to go on no matter to whom you pay it.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—There have been occasions in the past where when you set up a Loan Fund and you allowed the administering body to keep the interest paid on loans. But in the present case the interest goes into the Treasury in the same way as the interest on the Fishing Boat Loans. Interest on Labour Welfare Loans goes into the Treasury. It does not go back into the Fund. I think that where the present case is concerned it is a policy adopted by the Government in the past that where you set up a committee rather than a Board like the Natural Gas Board which is an independent board, you allow the interest to go into the Treasury.

Mr. LEWIS: It is obvious that when the Treasury as happens in some cases pays for the administering of a fund like the Labour Welfare Fund you allow the interest on loans to go back to the Treasury so as to repay the Treasury for the services of the Civil Servant or whoever it is administers the Fund. I see that point; but in this case I do not see that you are paying anyone to administer this fund. This is not a case where you have to pay members of a Board 10/- for each meeting they

attend or anything like that, and therefore you say you must get back something to recoup the Treasury.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—There is something that I want to get clear. Reading paragraph (c) it appears on the face of it that it will be possible to repay these loans by way of instalments. Each instalment that you pay you reduce the interest. My point is that if a man borrows £500 and he can repay £200 by way of instalments it is better to allow him to do so than to make him continue paying a higher rate of interest than would accrue if he deposited the amount in one of the banks of the island.

Question that Clause 2 stand part was put and agreed to without division.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and agreed to.

Clause 5 was called.

5. An account of the financial transactions of the Fund shall be prepared by the Committee in respect of the period ending the thirty-first day of March in every year and transmitted to the Auditor General for his certification and report. Every such account after certification and report shall be submitted to both Houses of the Legislature.

Mr. LEWIS: This clause provides that the accounts after certification and report shall be submitted to both Houses of the Legislature. I would like a time limit put in so that they will hurry up and get the accounts certified and submitted. On the last occasion that we had a similar provision something in that respect was put in. There should be a provision that the accounts should be submitted to the Legislature by a certain time. I do not see why the Legislature should be of such little account that these things can be sent to them at any time. At least you could put in "as soon as possible after" although I understand that legally that means nothing. Still it might speed up the sending in of the accounts. I would like to make a motion that we insert the words "as soon as possible after"—(A MEMBER: That is implied). I agree that the words mean nothing. But this Clause does not even say as soon as possible. If the honourable member will not accept my motion it is alright. The Houses of the Legislature do not seem to mean much nowadays anyhow.

Question that Clause 5 stand part was put and agreed to without division.

Clauses 6 and 7 were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the

Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case the Bill was read a third time and passed; and the title was called and agreed to.

MESSAGE LAID

Mr. ADAMS asked for and was granted leave to lay the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

MESSAGE No. 20/1953

His Excellency the Governor

To

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to present to the Honourable the House of Assembly a copy of the Report of the Cost of Living Index Committee 1953 and to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government.

2. Instructions have therefore been issued to the Labour Commissioner to prepare each month commencing with the month of June 1953 an "Index of Retail Prices" in accordance with Appendix II of the Report instead of the existing "Cost of Living Index."

3. The Index of Retail Prices for June 1953 is of course 100.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.

28th July, 1953.

(M.P. — 2160 Vol. II)

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT asked for and was granted leave to lay Regulations in connection with the Fishing Boat Loan Amendment Regulations, 1953.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 4, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th 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., Mr. M. E. Cox, Mr.
L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), Mr. F.
C. GODDARD, Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. J. A. HAYNES
B.A., Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Mr. C. E. TALMA, Mr.
L. A. WILLIAMS, LL.B.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the 30th June, 1953, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. MAPP and Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took their seats.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report and Accounts of the Barbados Sugar Industry and Agricultural Bank, ended 30th June, 1952.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: I am commanded to lay the following Message No. 21/1953 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly.

The Message reads as follows:—

His Excellency the Governor
To

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to invite the views of the Honourable the House of Assembly on The Plan for a British Caribbean Federation (Cmd. 8895) which was agreed by the Conference on West Indian Federation held in London

in April, 1953, (vide the Report of the Conference in Cmd. 8837).

2. Copies of both these Command Papers have been laid on the Table of the Honourable House.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
4th August, 1953.

(M.P. 4327/S.5).

Mr. ADAMS: I am also commanded to lay the Plan for a British Caribbean Federation.

Mr. ADAMS: On behalf of the honourable junior member for St. Peter, I beg to lay the Quarterly Returns of transactions in Rum to 30th June, 1952; and

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for one month ended 30th April, 1953.

QUESTIONS

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

1. Is Government aware that there are employees of certain wholesale provision shops, notably motor lorry drivers and hands, who it is alleged, are forced to work for exceptionally long hours, without payment for overtime, in spite of the provisions of the Shops Act?

2. Is it a fact that complaints about this have been made to the Labour Department but nothing has been done to alleviate the plight of these workers?

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

1. Is Government aware that the Druggist Act with reference to the necessity of a registered Druggist being on the premises of a pharmacy and present on such occasions as such pharmacy is open to public patronage is being violated to the easily possible detriment of those persons who patronize such a pharmacy?

2. Is Government aware that this dangerous practice is particularly indulged in by business interest recently established in the Island?

3. Will Government cause an investigation into this practice, especially within the vicinity of the Hastings area?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED MR. BRYAN

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, Before you begin on the Orders of the Day, I am asking that leave of absence of three months as from today be granted to the honourable junior member for St. Michael.

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

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The First 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 consolidate and amend the Acts of this Island relating to Public Health.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave that this Order be postponed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The second 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 make provision for the relief of the poor in this Island.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am also asking leave that that Order be postponed.

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

BILL TO AMEND THE NATURALIZATION ACT, 1915

Mr. SPEAKER: The third Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Naturalization Act, 1915.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— As honourable members will see, this is a simple matter. It has as its object the bringing of the fees payable in Barbados in connection with the registration of citizenship in line with those charged in the United Kingdom. As can be seen, it merely provides a new set of fees. It is a very simple matter and the Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill make it abundantly clear. I therefore beg to move that it be read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by 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 were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 4 ORDER, 1953

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: To move the passing of the following Resolution:— Resolution to approve the

Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 4 Order, 1953.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Again Sir, this is a matter which needs no debate. This Resolution is to give effect to the Order which seeks to create the post of Youth Employment Officer in the Labour Commissioner's Department. As honourable members will remember, this has already been assented to in the Five Year Plan. This Youth Employment Service will be attached to the Labour Commissioner's Department and the object of this Resolution and the Order which has been made is to provide for that Youth Employment Officer at the salary set out here in the Schedule.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Sir, I remember quite well that this matter was discussed when this House was dealing with the Five Year Plan. It was mentioned that we must have this Youth Employment Officer and that this post would be created and set up under the Ministry of Labour but the position is not as easy as it appears to be or what the honourable introducer of the resolution is trying to make of it. At this stage, I do not want to criticise harshly the Government as regards the situation because I—and I believe all hon. members of this House—fully appreciate what is the position of employment in Barbados, but I must ask within what framework has the Government envisaged appointing this officer? We are told, as well as we do know, that this Youth Employment Officer will be part of the set up of the Ministry of Labour where you deal with all classes of workers and dealing with them you must think of apprentices and the various channels of employment in which you want them to go. Last night, I was discussing this question with someone and as far as I can see, the youth whom you will be thinking of will not be those pupils who reach a certain stand at secondary schools because the bulk of these pupils will fit themselves in some form of employment. I presume that John Thomas will find himself in the Civil Service, John Brown will enter the teaching service and their more well-to-do contemporary will find himself in one of the Banks. The bulk of the youth which will engage the attention of this officer will be drawn from the elementary schools all over the island. These are the youth whom this scheme would affect.

Sir, I feel that you must have something as your employment policy in which you can work on before you can create this office. Just as when you were in a similar position when dealing with the Fancy Molasses question, the honourable introducer of that Bill could state the policy as regards to displacement of workers, so too should the honourable introducer of this resolution be able to state, though he may not be able to come to a definite conclusion, what scheme the Government envisages as regards this youth employment policy. The honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph should at least try to give us some idea of what this officer is going to do; what plans have they in mind with regard to these youths. As I have said, I know that this is not any easy matter. Quite a number of these youths go into agricultural work, some become apprentices to wheelwrights, ship carpenters, artisans, etc. I do agree that a measure of this kind depends largely on the employing of this island and we must bear in mind that a small business-man runs his business from the point of view of profit or some benefit to himself and not from the point of view of what benefit his business will be to the island generally.

I will repeat that I do not want to criticise this Government too harshly as regards this Youth Employment Service, but I would like to know within what framework has Government envisaged creating this post. I am very worried about it. Will the honourable introducer of this resolution give us some idea of the policy of Government in regards to employment generally? I would like to know something.

Mr. GODDARD: Like the last speaker, I am not aware of youths being employed in large numbers. I wonder if I could be so informed by the Leader of the House, he being a great Trade Unionist; but certainly I do not know of such being the case anywhere in Bridgetown. I have just asked my colleague on my right about it and he has told me also that he is not aware of this large-scale employment of youths. If this be the case, I must ask: Are we appointing this officer to fulfil certain pledges of the Trade Union Movement as a whole? I am quite prepared to pass legislation that would protect youths from being exploited but when it comes to employing a youth officer, his duties should be defined. Will he be going into search of these youths? Are these youths employed in sufficient numbers to warrant the employment of this officer? I would very much like to know the answers to these questions.

It is well known that the last Commissioner of Police took a very active part in doing something for the youth of Barbados, both boys and girls, and I do know that these youth movements or clubs are very admirable indeed. With regard to the Boys' and Girls' Clubs which were formed by the Commissioner of Police, I think it is rather unfortunate that they could not be attached to the Social Welfare Department.

Sir, I think this resolution needs a little more clarification as to what would be the duties of the Youth Employment Officer or whether his appointment presumably will be just to protect these youths. If this officer will be employed mainly to protect youths in employment, up to what age will it be put to protect them from exploitation by employers. I am ignorant of the whole matter and some light should be shed not only for myself but for the public generally.

Mr. MAPP: As far as I can remember, when the employment of this youth officer was discussed during consideration of the Five Year Plan, we were not told that the object of providing this officer was to protect youths from exploitation. I do not know if I have misheard the honourable junior member for Christ Church, but it appears to me as if he was urging that we should add this to the duties of that officer, but I do not believe he would say that because he, at least, would not like it to go abroad that in this enlightened age, employers in Barbados are exploiting youths. As far as I can remember, Sir, the object of this Youth Employment Service was to find employment for the unemployed youths in this island. However, what I am thinking of is that by our creation of this service for youths at this time, this officer will have nothing to do for a very long time. The reason why I say so is because I am wondering where the jobs for these youths are to come from. I do feel that in creating an office like this, you have to be very careful and must pay attention to seeing that by your doing so, you are not opening avenues for exploiting youths. I have had complaints already about certain proprietors of business places having laid off men and taken on youths in their places because they could pay these youths less so you have to be

very careful that that does not happen when you create this office. This Officer may want to prove that his job is going well and in his trying his best and succeeding in getting some of these youths employed he may lose sight of the fact that his actions were to the detriment of a man being employed. Perhaps, prior to that a man was employed to do the task. I only throw that out because I have no doubt that the Government will see to it that an intelligent man is appointed to this office. This question is bound up with the employment situation as a whole. We in this colony have to find jobs for a growing number of youths and adults. This is our chief problem and I do not think, Sir, that we can exactly divide this problem and say that by our doing so, we are going to solve that pertaining to youths in this way. We must remember that we have a big unemployment market and very few jobs to share out to the unemployed. We therefore have to go about this question in a very far wider and positive manner than we are doing at present. We must also bear in mind that the prospects of emigration are very poor this year and may be worse next year. Along with this, more of our sugar factories are closing down and the position is daily becoming more acute.

I am not opposing it because I understand that this officer is valuable in other parts of the world for protecting youths and for directing them to jobs where their particular abilities may be more useful. I only want to say that Government must so plan that this officer will have something to do from the time he takes up his appointment if the office is to be of any value in the near future. If there is no plan by Government in this question, this officer will have nothing to do other than helping a few youths here and there and you will find that the greater part of the year, he will just only be sitting down looking at the four walls of his office or trying to find something to do.

Again, I am going to throw out the warning that we should not seek to gain employment for youths to the disadvantage of adults. We might find that in our efforts to gain employment for these youths that we might only be helping an employer to keep down his expense budget. I think this is part of the general problem; this is not a feature by itself. There are very few avenues for gaining employment for people on the whole and unless we can find more avenues, we might find that instead of solving our unemployment problem, we might only be making things worse. We have some employers in our midst who are only too willing to employ youths to the disadvantage of men. If this officer to be appointed is keen on his work, you may find that employers will be very willing to use him for their purpose. If I may be allowed, I will give you an instance from the Boys' Scouts recent Bob-A-Job Week campaign. It was stressed that a shilling was to be given for the task done and a Swan Street proprietor called a scout to clean two show cases which he would reasonably pay a dollar for cleaning, but which because it was a Bob-A-Job, he gave the scout a shilling. This shows what an unscrupulous employer would do.

Sir, we are faced with population increase daily and I am wondering what is being done by the Joint Committee of members of this House and members of the Other Place to examine the question and to make recommendations for dealing with this problem. I have not heard any report from that Committee and it seems to me that either we are not aware that there is the problem of over population or that we are very dilatory over our attempts to solve it. All the time this problem is increasing. It means that there

are more mouths to feed, more idle youths and more unemployment in general. I hope that this Committee will get together and see if they can cure it on the source. The population question must be solved. This is only tampering with it. To tackle this youth employment problem properly, we have to look at it in the big way; no piecemeal efforts can cure it. I therefore feel that this Joint Committee to examine the over population problem should let us know what they are doing about it. I do not believe that birth control is the answer to the problem. If this Committee is not sitting on the problem, let us discharge its members from this House.

In conclusion, I will again say that I am not opposing this resolution because I believe that in finding suitable avenues for youths this officer might be useful, but I am warning the minister in embryo for labour to watch very carefully for those unscrupulous employers who would employ youths in positions which they should employ big people. If not, this scheme would be hurting the very cause that you are trying to fight against. This is the danger I foresee and because of this, I throw out this warning to Government.

Mr. MILLER: When I read the Addendum accompanying this resolution, it is rather specific. It says that the establishment of a Youth Employment Service has been agreed upon in principle in the Five Year Plan. I therefore take it that there was some discussion on this question when this House considered the Five Year Plan or more or less on the employment issue in general. However, even if that discussion were restricted to this question, I am hoping that the Leader of the House would shed more light on it. I would like to know if we have the individual suitable for this post with the specialised training which I think is necessary. If we have not that individual, I think the person selected should be given specialised training before taking up the appointment. We must bear in mind that this post is one which the officer in charge will have to know the characteristics of boys and girls coming out of school and by their particular aptitude, he will have to allocate to them jobs either of a technical nature in workshops or in factories or other work in businesses and things of this type. The honourable Senior Member for St. Thomas raised a very important point with regard to gaining employment for these youths to the disadvantage of adults and I think it would be the duty of this officer to see about that and to see that no employer would be free to employ a child.

However, this is a happy moment to reflect on the changes that have taken place in the employment of youths I cannot help remembering the days of Robert Owen who advertising for persons to work in his workshop wrote up a notice that even two-year-olds may apply. I am satisfied that would not now apply, at any rate, not in this country. I am also thinking of the days when youths were kept on the job for twelve hours daily and I am also thinking of the general line up with regard to unemployment in the island as a whole.

What I think this House should be more concerned about in this resolution is if we cannot get the individual to suit the post with that specialised training; we should make it possible for him to have this specialized training before taking up his appointment. I would therefore like more details from the Leader of the House as regards the type of officer Government is hoping to get to fill the post; whether this service will be run as a distinct department in the Labour Commissioner's office; whether it would carry full statistics of youths from all over the

island on leaving school; and whether these youths will be forced or sent in employment which would suit them best. If this is the case, I would be very happy.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am very much pleased to see an order such as this before this Chamber. I regard it as an innovation which is long overdue and which when implemented would serve a very useful purpose. I therefore think that on this occasion the Government should be commended. When you think of the thousands of youths leaving our schools annually, especially those that come from secondary schools, only just to swell the ranks of the unemployed, it is well to see that this Government is taking this step to cope with part of its unemployment question, I regard this as a move towards trying to alleviate the unemployment question and I believe it is a step in the right direction. This youth employment Officer if he does his work efficiently, will be able to advise and assist in securing avenues of employment for youths of this island. The establishment of this Youth Employment Service may be a means whereby assistance might be given to some youth at the right time and what might otherwise be a criminal life for that youth might well be avoided by this timely step taken by the Government.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker, I cannot hand out much sympathy to Government on this occasion because again Government is taking a feather to remove a leaden weight. The vital question is that before you have this Youth Employment Officer, you should have some possibility of employment. It seems to me that Government is thinking more of a Youth Entertainment Officer. This appointment would be more rational because since there is at present a great number of these youths idle and there is not the slightest vision of a possibility of having these youths employed within a reasonable time, then the alternative is to see that these youths are well entertained. This Youth Entertainment Officer could be attached to the Y.M.C.A. or better still, he could be put in charge of some place of entertainment like that where he could organise certain games for them. Government is looking into the future for the crisis of unemployment in Barbados; Government fails to realise that it is facing the crisis now. What is Government doing about this youth unemployment crisis that is now facing us? As all of us can see, there is no effort — and this is no exaggeration — being made by the administration to absorb youth in any employment. I would not say for half a moment that efforts cannot be made and that they are beyond the administration. If the administration intended to employ youth to permanent jobs, it would have brought down a scheme to teach these youths how to work in different branches of employment; even if it could not employ many at a time, they should have had a scheme where period after period, it could take in a section of these youths and train them. Government should have had something established like a furniture making factory. It could get suitable material from British Guiana at reasonable prices. As I mentioned previously, the question of a Government Printery should have been established long ago and there should be such other schemes where the youth can learn something profitable, even if the time limit was only for a few months because every youth would feel that his turn would come. To talk about providing for the establishment of a Youth Employment Service in this colony only means adding one Civil Servant to the establishment

and these additions to the Service only add to the burden of an already over loaded taxpayer. I cannot offer any support or sympathy to Government because it always begins at the wrong end.

May I ask what would be the functions of this Youth Employment Officer? Would he be there to run about stores or telephone a couple of businessmen telling them if they have a job to send and tell him? Instead of that, there should be some institutions where you could be sure that you could absorb some part of these youths on leaving school. You should have Government-owned land in every parish where you could teach some of these youths on leaving school the elementary principles of modern agriculture. This Government has no conception of modern agriculture. What a trained agriculturist can get an acre of land to yield, the people who call themselves agricultural labourers here would not even dream that it is possible. Let this Government bring in an irrigation scheme and teach these youths the elementary principles of modern agriculture. All these schemes I have mentioned should be implemented before you talk of employing a Youth Employment Officer. I can mention several more schemes which are not beyond the capacity of this Government to undertake. If you cannot so employ these youths—and I know you can—then build two or three more halls like the Y.M.C.A. and get a Youth Entertainment Officer so that the idleness of these youths would be turned into healthy play. His services would be more beneficial. As it is, this Youth Employment Officer would be drawing a salary for doing nothing because Government cannot show you his functions: it cannot get one more youth taken from the list of the unemployed by the employment of this officer. I have no sympathy with Government in this matter. I have read reports by competent experts about the development of areas like this and one and all, they rate out the many avenues in which employment can be established in this country. They have stated that tiles and bricks can be produced in this country among other things, but so far as this country is concerned there is just talk and no attempt to implement any scheme recommended. This Government seems completely incompetent of doing anything worthwhile. Again, I would ask, what would you employ a Youth Officer to do?

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems as if other honourable members are desirous of contributing to this debate. They should do so now, before the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph replies. It is ordinary parliamentary etiquette.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The position Sir, is although I know that it is a generally accepted principle that you should not speak after the introducer of a resolution, a bill, or anything of this sort, has replied, yet in this instance, the entire information which we have is so vague that one really looks forward to hearing something frankly from the honourable introducer before the question is put. We have heard nothing yet from the honourable introducer of this resolution and we are all more or less deeply concerned over the question what will this officer have to do? What will he do? It seems to me as if the Government is resorting to the traditional habit of passing the buck.

Government has no employment policy of its own for these youths. It proceeds to employ a Youth Employment Officer merely to save face and merely to say that Barbados has a Youth Employment Officer. This is one of the accepted principles of governments. I will only say to the Government that if it has no youth employment policy to appoint a Committee to go into the question

and report; and then you may or may not do what the Committee tells you to do. You are appointing a Youth Employment Officer with an office at the Labour Department but what have you for him to do? Nothing. As a matter of fact, I feel that with the present staff of the Labour Department, the duties of this officer can be added to that Department without employing additional staff. At the present, you have no large scale emigration schemes going on. Your labour inspectors can hardly be fully occupied all the time. As regards to your Factory Inspector, what has he got to do in this country after he has made preliminary inspections, save for a few surprise inspections. The duties of a Youth Employment Officer can be imposed on the present staff of the Labour Department without in any way placing an additional burden on any of the officers there. It will not be beyond their capacity to bear.

I do not think any honourable member would object to the principle of providing a Youth Employment Officer, but after all, according to what has been told this House, this resolution is merely for the purpose of employing another Civil Servant. It is merely for the purpose of carrying out the policy of Government in so far as young people are concerned but there is nothing concrete for that officer to do, so the legislation depends on merely what the Government has in mind to do. It is not enough to say that reference has been made in the Five Year Plan to this question. Now you are coming down with this resolution to give us some idea of what the Government has in mind to do in this connection. In the absence of some satisfactory explanation, even those of us who are deeply concerned with the question of providing employment for youths—and adults for that matter—must view this resolution as unsatisfactory. All this resolution seeks to do is to add another officer to the Civil List and in my opinion, it may not have an advantageous effect on the community.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Senior member for St. John was not in his place when I told honourable members that if they were desirous of contributing to this debate, they should do so before the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph replies, if that honourable member is desirous of so doing. Is the honourable Senior Member for St. John wishful of contributing to this debate?

Mr. ALLDER: It is rather distressing and difficult Your Honour, for honourable members to be asked to speak on this resolution. I do not know, it might be strategy when the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph introduced the resolution as he did.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Senior Member for St. John has made some reference to strategy. Let me inform the honourable member that it is ordinary parliamentary practice not to have the right to reply, but if honourable members are desirous of speaking, they should speak before the reply is given. It is ordinary parliamentary etiquette. As I understand it, there is no strategy about it.

Mr. ALLDER: Yes Sir, I always try to obey the ruling of the Chair. I will however say that it is very difficult for a member to speak if he had not heard sufficiently on a bill, or a resolution, or any order which may be presented by the Government and the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph has told us nothing in his presentation of this Order which is before us. I would have preferred to hear his reply because it might have prevented me from having to say anything, he probably being able to satisfy me on the issue. Sir, this whole

question is confusing, not only does this order appear confusing but the Government also seems to be confused in presenting it. I do not know if this is just mere formality but when one looks round, he cannot see the necessity for the creation of this post. It is definitely not a necessity to have this officer for the employment of youths. I have always said that Government appears to have no kind of business sense, much less consideration for the hard-burdened taxpayers and the bringing down of this resolution has more than justified my contention. In recent months we have passed certain Acts in this place which we felt in some respects were unnecessary for the set up of Barbados but it appears that these Acts are in existence in England and elsewhere and therefore government feels that they must be duplicated in Barbados whether or not it is necessary to have them. This is another piece of such legislation that has been brought before us. The honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph is so associated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions that every possible thing the honourable member hears discussed there, he wants to introduce here whether or not it suits Barbados unless he is checked by those of us who have to give sanction to these things.

These are not the days of Shelley or Robert Owen when industrial exploitation of youths was practised. What we want to see is more employment, not only for youths but even for the aged, because we know that if such employment is to be found, the wealth of the community will be swollen as a result. I would support Government when it brings in legislation which is necessary but it definitely hurts me when I see legislation which means nothing at all as regards to the well being of the community. This bit of legislation certainly is not worthwhile. The honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph might pride himself on this resolution by saying that it is something for labour and this Youth Employment Officer would add his strength to those protecting labour, but as I know it, sometimes a dose of castor oil is not desired, yet it is best. You will find everybody taking a better tasting laxative but it would not be as beneficial to your circulatory system as this dose of castor oil. I do not think the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph should burden this colony with all these unnecessary posts which can only be considered as sinecures. Resolutions like this are also a question of creating jobs for some at the expense of many. I can only say that the only good an order like this can do is to give somebody a job but as regards to what this person will have to do, there will be no return from it at the present because there is no large organised groups of youth in this colony. I wish it were so. Wherever you go, Sir, you will see that the fortunate youths that are employed are the sons and daughters of the wealthy class. As soon as these youths pass through the college door, they are channelled directly into offices and given a good position and salary; therefore they do not need any inspector to direct them. The youths that need protection are unemployed and this makes the appointment of this officer more unnecessary. What the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph should have done was to find ways and means of gathering some revenue to form some branch of employment to which many of these unfortunate youngsters could go directly on leaving school to find something to do. But nothing of this sort is done.

I am afraid that after this office is created that all you will know of it is what you will see in the Annual Estimates set down for the salary of the office. You are also sure to see an allowance for travelling and you may be lucky enough to see this Youth

Officer driving up and down the island but you will not be able to see him at his office because there will be no necessity for him to go there. Sir, this resolution is just like employing a blacksmith to shoe horses which you have not bought yet and which you have not yet the money to buy. I would agree to such an office if the colony were industrialised because a large number of our youths would be employed within whatever factories there may be. I am tempted to say that the Government must have decided to employ this officer to organise the youth of this colony against themselves because this is the only thing I see that could be done. Sir, you have not made it possible for the youth in the colony to get employment; you have not made it possible for their parents to be gainfully employed; therefore, I cannot see why you should employ an officer to regulate and direct the employment of youth when you know that there is no employment in the island for them. After you have seen this resolution, it can come as no surprise that this Government is accused throughout the length and breadth of the colony of not having any foresight and lacking in administrative ability. Most men can be politicians in the common term but it takes a lot of commonsense to be an administrator. This is not manifest in the personnel of the existing Government. If administrative ability were evident in this Government, you would not have a decision to create this post at present in this colony which is struggling under an economic yoke. We have just had a factory inspector appointing him at a good salary along with travelling allowance. I think this officer will also benefit under the Leave Passage Order. I have not heard a word of how this officer is performing his duties. As a matter of fact, I did not see the necessity for creating this post, but it sounded nice to have a factory inspector, it having something to do with the protection of labour and since we are for the most part labour minded, we agreed with it. On top of that heavy staff at the Labour Department, we now seek to add another officer whose duties it will be to direct and supervise the employment of youth but which you have no means or have not even shown any means of providing any employment for them. If we had factories where these youngsters would be employed, probably, you could say that this officer would have to go into those places and see whether the conditions of labour are good for these youngsters, but you have nothing of the sort in the island. I do not know if the duties of this officer are expected to be something different. Some honourable member did say that this officer might be able to go into stores where there are cash boys and other youngsters employed, but I do not see the necessity of his having to do so when we have a Minimum Wage Agreement for shop assistants.

Sir, this order is not sufficiently explanatory by itself nor did the honourable member who introduced it tell us anything much on it. We are left ignorant as regards its purpose, yet we are expected to give our blessing to its passing this place. Whether it has something to do with labour or not, it is unnecessary in my humble opinion because I do not see that at the present stage the Labour Department is so poorly staffed that it cannot adequately look into the employment of whatever youths that might be employed in the island without additional personnel. As I have said, I do not see the necessity for this and it hurts me to see that we are committing taxpayers to this additional burden. What also hurts me is to see that there are honourable members in this place who will support things which they know in their secret hearts would not do the colony much good.

I notice Sir, that this Youth Employment Officer will be drawing a salary which starts at \$1,296 annually and going up to \$2,280. Of course, this does not include travelling allowance. Speaking in terms of our expenditure, this can be considered as a mere bagatelle, yet a saving of this expenditure over a period of years would help us to accumulate sufficient money which we could allot to providing employment for the very youths of this colony. It might even be as much as to help those parents who are unemployed. I do not know if this is the best approach to solving of the unemployment problem of this colony by disregarding the necessity of finding employment for the able-bodied men and women in preference to the setting up of this office, the holder of which will have something to do with the employment of youths. As I see it, you are making it impossible for a father to be employed by this set up for the employment of his son who might be below age. I think it would be much better to find ways and means for employment of the grown-ups of the colony. Today, we find that people are entering the homes of others and holding them up for cash. We say that it is because of the low standard of morals, but it is not always that. There is the common statement that a hungry man is a dangerous man and that can apply to some of these wrong doings. In some cases, when the mind over body is not strong enough, and unemployment stares that person in the face with his seeing no possible avenue of escape from it, you will get persons resorting to ill means which are uppermost in their minds so as to relieve the pressure which they consider has fallen heavily on them. Before you accuse the individual or groups of individuals of falling away from proper moral standards, you have to reflect on what might be another cause and very often the cause is such that you must blame whatever Government is in power for not doing something to remove such ills as this Chicago holdup with which we are now faced in this colony. We are prone to look at things and happenings only from the surface; we do not go deep enough; we do not dig to the roots to find the causes of these things.

I believe when the honourable introducer of this resolution gets up again to make his reply, he may try to bamboozle this Chamber and may use a bludgeon when he may have used a powder puff. What I do mean is that he should get up and do what he has not done just now, that is to explain more fully this resolution. However much the honourable member may try to do so, he cannot remove the fault from Government that it is not doing things in the right order. Whatever he says, he cannot argue with any justification for the appointment of this officer. Sir, you cannot go anywhere in this island and see fifty or sixty youngsters working together in any particular job. You might, here and there, find one or two employed as gardeners, or messengers or things of that sort, but these hither and thither employment of youths do not need the employment of a youth officer. As I have said, I can only come to the conclusion that this is the outcome of either patronage showing its face too much in Government policy or that this is just the creation of another post for some favoured individual, or that the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph has associated himself so much with the international figures attached to labour organisations that whatever he hears discussed, although many of these discussions might only be applicable to highly industrialised countries, the honourable member would still come to this House with a bill or resolution drawn up for that purpose, according to the discussion he heard, and having on that side of the Table

honourable members who are always willing to approve of whatever he may bring down, he does not matter how the members of the Opposition might view it, he knows that it will be passed. Whenever a coward sees his error, he tries to save his hide. This resolution is taken from legislation which is unnecessary and which is not suitable.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must warn the honourable member that he is straying very far away from the points in this resolution and along with that, he is making reflections on honourable members. I am going to ask the honourable member to walk warily.

Mr. ALLDER: What I meant to say Sir, is that if honourable members are doubtful of anything which the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph may bring down to this House, they should ask for more information. I take it that the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph is acquainted with our ignorance on some of these questions, we, on this side of the Table having no means of becoming aware of the intentions of the Government on such matters as regards its policy unless it is put to us by a member of Government. I even find that on many occasions members of the Government Bench are not armed with the necessary information on certain matters and it is not uncommon to see during debates, members of the Government hurriedly sending messages to the Secretariat to get information on the same thing which they introduced. It appears to me as if we are just saying "Aye" to things which we know nothing about and which we do not have any time to study.

Sir, I feel strongly on this matter and I can only register my disapproval by voting against it. I know that my voting against it, would not prevent it from passing. Might will be the result of this resolution passing this Chamber, but if its passing might be a show of might, it does not necessarily mean that it is right. I feel that this resolution while it seems to be nice and appears to the thoughtless as something in the interest of labour, it is definitely not so. What I mean is that this Youth Employment Officer will only be another officer added to the existing number of officers on the Labour Department; but that the post is unnecessary. The officer must be paid so long as he is employed. If he is qualified for Leave Passage, he should also be given it. If he should receive Travelling Allowance, he should also get it. The evil comes in when you realise that the post is unnecessary and you yet create it. This money which is to be paid to this officer will be taken from the taxpayers and even from those who are unemployed, so by doing, it will only make worse the positions of these unfortunate people. It does not seem to me as if I would succeed in getting a postponement of this resolution for six months if not, I would move such an amendment. I can only register my disapproval over its passing by not voting for it.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Your Honour has already drawn to the notice of this Honourable House what you earnestly hope will come to an end and that is the display of lack of parliamentary etiquette by some honourable members of wanting to speak or speaking after a reply. I too hope that this House will always seek to our preserving the ordinary decency of parliamentary etiquette and that no honourable member would attempt to stray from what Your Honour intimated just now. I will only say that if any honourable member makes it impossible for the Government to reply to a point made by his speak-

ing after a reply has been given, I will never reply. Honourable members who have asked questions will get the answers from me privately. When you are playing a game, you stick to the rules, even though you may get beaten; in this game of politics, you should likewise stick to the rules.

The honourable Senior Member for St. John, more so than the rest of his colleagues, if he had taken his work properly before coming to this House would have seen that this resolution was not brought out of the blue. Even in the Addendum accompanying the resolution, it says that it comes from out of the Five Year Plan. How did this honourable member contribute to the debate? I will just remind the House that this honourable member kept on talking about an inspector like a professor of zoology who gave a description of a camel, an animal which he had never seen nor had he read much on it, but from what evolved out of his inner consciousness he proceeded to describe it. The honourable senior member for St. John kept on talking on what evolved in his mind as pertaining to an inspector of youth and then proceeded to say that this officer was unnecessary. I wonder if he would have said what he did if after he had seen the reference made in the Addendum to this Youth Employment Service being agreed upon in principle in the Five Year Plan and referred back to the Memorandum on the Five Year Plan and read what was said about it. I will read the paragraph dealing with it. Let me remind the House that it was threshed out here during consideration of that memorandum. If this honourable member had done his parliamentary work properly he would not have made the speech he did. Of course, it is no new thing of his to come in here and make such speeches. He comes in here and speaks as if he were a gramophone record. You will hear what he says to-day all over again. We have heard it before and we will continue to hear it, because the honourable member is incapable of thinking out anything original.

Honourable members will remember that a Select Committee pointed out the necessity for a Youth Employment Service, and as a result of that, we got statistics from the Education Department and from the Labour Commissioner's Department. That is why this Youth Employment Service appears in the Five Year Plan. The paragraph reads:—

"Every year in this island nearly three thousand children leave school. About a third of these do not find employment and of those that do, some are not fitted for the occupations upon which they enter, others could do better in other occupations. There are no proper arrangements for the guidance of these boys and girls. In view of these conditions, the Labour Commissioner has recommended that a Youth Employment Service should be started. The chief function of such a service is to help boys and girls when they leave school to find the work which they are best fitted to do; in such work they can develop their abilities to their own benefit and to the benefit of the Island. It will be necessary to set up a Youth Employment Office with a Youth Employment Officer in charge, under the general supervision of the Labour Commissioner. A special room would be required for this purpose, as it is essential that school leavers should be treated separately from adult members of the community who are seeking work. The estimated capital cost of establishing this service is \$1,000 and the maximum annual recurrent cost is \$3,466."

If the honourable senior member for St. John wanted to help this Chamber by his debate, he would

have read and studied this. I promised honourable members while we were considering the Five Year Plan and since then I have renewed the promise that as a result of the debates in this House as to what honourable members think should take priority in the Five Year Plan, we, the members of the Executive from this House will advise the other members of the Executive as to what this House says should be given priority. That is why you are not going to see a resolution for a parliament building for a time because of the great criticism it has met with in this House. According to the criticism, all questions affecting employment should be given A-1 priority and then buildings. This argument shows how essential it is to have this Youth Employment Service. Barbadians once upon a time were able to emigrate to other countries in large numbers but it seems a forlorn hope that other countries will open their doors to Barbadians again. Barbados will always have an employment problem unless that happens again. It is perfectly true that there are insufficient jobs for everybody in this Island but that is the more reason why when you have five jobs open and fifty persons apply that you make those five jobs available to the five persons who will be best suited. A person should not secure a job which would be of no benefit to himself or to the community. The saying square pegs in round holes is not merely confined to the House of Assembly.

The difficulty that honourable members have is to persuade the electors of Barbados that we are wrong and that they (the honourable members) are right. For seven years we have been at it, and for 70 years we will continue. I apologise to the House for taking notice of the four horsemen outside of the Apocalypse.

Mr. Speaker, some of the points made by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas are very sound points. There is one thing that I would remind him of, and that is that the establishment of a Youth Employment Agency will help in the problem that he has mentioned, the possibility of replacing men with boys. It is frequently the work of a trade union—if it is really a trade union—to see that employers do not employ boys in place of men so as to save expenses.

As regards the point raised by the honourable junior member for Christ Church, only incidentally would that be the function of this officer. If he saw anything he would have to report it to the Labour Commissioner. Let us remember the Act which we passed in 1938 amending the law relating to the employment of young people and women. It was the result of the old Convention of 1919. In that Act the Labour Commissioner, the Harbour Master or a Police Officer could prosecute cases where children or women were employed where they should not be employed as regards hours or the nature of occupation. As far as this officer is concerned, from the nature of his duties he could not help knowing that a child is employed in circumstances which are a breach of the law; but it would not be his particular job to see about that.

I think I have touched on all the points made by honourable members. Whatever measure comes down to the House to which reference was made in the Five Year Plan is coming at the time it has because we have carefully considered the criticisms of the House and are bringing it down at the time that the House has by the nature of their criticism told us to. In spite of what the honourable member talked about steam rolling things through the House Tuesday after Tuesday, the Government is always mindful of what is said in the House, even when it is said by those who do not care for the accuracy of their statements.

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

END OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—That is the end of Government Business. I understand that the honourable senior member for Christ Church has a Vestry matter to deal with. It is a matter for the House, of course, but in the usual way the Government always likes to give members with Vestry matters an opportunity to deal with them during the time for Private Members' Business. In short, I am not prepared to go on with any more Government Business today. Inasmuch as the honourable member has a Vestry matter to deal with I suggest that we remain in the House and deal with it. In view of the weather it is obviously the desire of honourable members that we adjourn for a week or two.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave that Order No. 14 under Private Members' Business and standing in my name be taken as the first order of the day.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member to move the second reading of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of Christ Church to raise a loan of \$12,000 for erecting a building for use as quarters for the Matron of the Almshouse of the said parish.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—This is one of the customary Bills which come before this House seeking legislative sanction to authorise a Vestry to raise a loan. This Bill seeks to give authority to the Vestry of Christ Church to raise a loan of \$12,000 for the erection of a building to be used as quarters for the Matron of the Almshouse. The present quarters are in a very dilapidated condition, and almost unfit for human habitation. The proposed new building will be of stone and will be more comfortable, and will provide a long felt need for this Officer, and for her successor in office. Without more ado I move, sir, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to second that. This matter has been before the Vestry for three or four years, and I am glad that it is now before the House. As the honourable senior member for Christ Church has said, these quarters are in a very dilapidated state. Great improvements are expected in Christ Church, and this is the beginning of them. We hope to start a library and the Vestry has offered free, gratis and for nothing a piece of land on which to put the library. We hope that the Government will get a move on with that matter as speedily as possible. I have very great pleasure in seconding the motion that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker,—I do not like this Bill at all. I feel that inasmuch as we have just passed the Maude Bill and we have all hopes of having a new local government set-up to deal with these matters, the House should not pass a Bill of this sort. I can hardly see members who supported the Maude Bill supporting a Bill like this. The honourable junior member for Christ Church has said that this is the first of many improvements which are to take place in that parish. Honourable members when we discussed the Maude Bill agreed that the vestry system is outmoded, that the vestries have failed in their duties and that they should be abolished. After so many years of existence the august body of the Christ Church Vestry has now decided that it is necessary to improve certain quarters up there.

Now what I want to call to the attention of honourable members is the fact that for the past couple

of months the vestries have been sending Bills to this Chamber seeking permission to incur large amounts of expenditure in their respective parishes. Does it not occur to honourable members that that might be purposely done? I am wondering whether we will sit here and allow the vestries to do this thing, so that when the new authorities take over they will find themselves confronted with huge commitments purposely incurred by the outgoing vestries. I feel that there being the possibility of a change we should allow things to remain as they are. Let the vestries confine their attention to the needs of the sick and infirm and such matters. These works of a capital nature costing thousands of dollars should be left until the new authority takes over.

There is another vestry seeking permission to borrow money to replace the roof of the rectory at a cost of £1,200. Business men as we claim that we are, should we sit here and give them that permission? (A MEMBER: Second hand business men). The honourable member can sneer as much as he likes. He knows that these vestries have a lot to do with the economy of the people. He is where he is to save the people from exploitation. But he does not move a hair to show that he intends to prevent such ill treatment. If you are interested in the welfare of the people you must be interested not only in Central Government politics, but in Local Government politics too. The honourable member talks about socialism here and in the streets; but he does not move a hair to prevent the few planters who dominate the vestries from taking advantage of the poor and destitute of the parish.

The honourable member knows that we are about to change the system of local government. We are only waiting on the decision of the Other Place relative to the Maude Bill. He also knows that in commercial life when an old management is to be removed from a business the attorneys of the business do not permit the old management to involve the business in any large scale and unnecessary expenditure in view of the fact that the new management will want to meet things on the level. All along these things were to be done in the parishes, but the vestries sat and said nothing. But now that the Maude Bill has passed this place and is before the Other Place for their decision, the vestries are putting the taxpayers of the parishes to great expense by doing things which they never thought of doing in the past. What is more, several of the schemes which the vestries are now carrying out may not be acceptable to the new authorities in the various parishes. You may remove a department from one place and put it another place because it suits you to do so; but no one knows if the new authorities will want it there. Therefore you should allow the existing departments and services to operate as they have been operating in the past until the change comes about.

Mr. Speaker, it is needless for anyone to think that the change is not coming about. Even if it is delayed for a considerable time it still has to come. And it is for members who were glad to see the Maude Bill introduced and who strongly supported it, to see that the taxpayers, helpless as they are, are not committed to any unnecessary expense. All these years the vestry of Christ Church did not realise that the matron's quarters should be improved and all the other things must be done that they want to do now. I feel that we should not give them any further permission to borrow money or spend money or things of that sort unless it is something directly connected to relieving the poor and destitute people of the parishes.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—Regardless of the sneers and sarcasm which may have come in the form of asides from members on the other side there is a lot in what the honourable senior member for St. John has said. I am in perfect agreement with him that we should not permit the vestries to embark on large scale expenditure at this time when, with the proposed change in the system of local government, a lot of the things that they agree to now might be changed by the new authorities.

As regards the case about the roof to the rectory, the vestry who are charged with the responsibility of keeping parochial buildings in order cannot afford to allow this roof to fall in, and therefore we will have to allow them to repair it. Then, in the case of the matter being discussed in the Bill before us, I will say that Christ Church is a big parish, and regardless of the changes that may take place they will need central services. I cannot envisage Christ Church sharing an almshouse with another parish, although one might envisage St. James and St. Thomas sharing homes for the ill and infirm or aged. A parish with the population of Christ Church will more or less always want to have its own facilities, and therefore I am supporting this Bill. If the old house is in a bad state and has to be pulled down they will have to put up a new one, and even if it is not used for the same purpose it can still be used under the new set-up. As far as Bills like these are concerned what we have to concern ourselves with is whether or not we have any suspicion as to the responsibility of the people who are going to expend the money. As long as we are satisfied on that score, no harm can be done.

But I will say, sir, that in principle the suggestions made by the honourable senior member for St. John are sound and should be taken seriously. The vestries should not be allowed to make a last-minute splurge and embark on any extraordinary expenditure before they lose power. I certainly feel that the opinion of most of the members of the House is that the points made by the honourable senior member for St. John are good in principle, and I support them. I feel too, that only in excep-

tional circumstances like the present one should we be prepared to support any extraordinary or large-scale expenditure.

Question that the Bill be read a second time was put and agreed to without division.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA seconded by Mr. Cox the honourable senior member for St. Thomas (Mr. MAPP) was appointed Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the day's session.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA seconded by Mr. Cox Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into committee on the Bill, Mr. MAPP in the Chair.

On motions of Mr. TALMA seconded by Mr. GODDARD in each case the 13 clauses of the Bill were called and agreed to.

On like motions Schedules A and B and the Preamble were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA seconded by Mr. GODDARD the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motions of Mr. TALMA seconded by Mr. GODDARD in each case the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title was called and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In moving the adjournment of the House I will ask honourable members to agree to adjourn for two weeks. While in this weather it might be a good thing to adjourn for a month, on the other hand it is possible that important matters will have to be discussed before the end of this month. Therefore I am asking honourable members to be content with two weeks' adjournment.

I move, sir, that the House do now adjourn until this day fortnight, the 18th of August, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Cox seconded.

The question was put and agreed to without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.