

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 26th May, 1953.

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

Present:

His Honour, Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Messrs. M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, F. E. MILLER, R. G. MAPP, J. C. MOTFLEY, E. ST. A. HOLDER, V. B. VAUGHAN, MRS. E. E. BOURNE, and Mr. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 5th May, 1953, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Accountant General the Financial Report for the month ended 30th April 1953.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have also the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council to the following effect:—

The Legislative Council

To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

The Legislative Council have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Message dated the 19th of May from the Honourable the House of Assembly, and to inform the Honourable House in reply that the Legislative Council will be pleased to meet the Honourable House in conference at 4 o'clock p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber on the 26th of May, 1953, to consider the passing of a joint Address by both Chambers for presentation to

Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation.

H. A. CUKE,
Senior Member Presiding.

Legislative Council Chamber,
26th May, 1953.

Mr. WILLIAMS entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Dr. CUMMINS: I am commanded to lay on behalf of the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph, Message No. 14/1953 from His Excellency the Governor which reads as follows:—

MESSAGE NO. 14/1953.

His Excellency the Governor
To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Address dated the 5th of February, 1952, from the Honourable the House of Assembly, and to inform the Honourable House in reply that information has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that he has made enquiries regarding the matters mentioned in the Address and that it does not appear necessary to appoint a West Indian Adviser in Panama.

2. The Secretary of State has been informed that the previous Adviser's work consisted largely in planning activities relating to the establishment of Savings Unions, Producer Co-operatives and similar organisations, and considers that these activities can at this stage appropriately be organised by the communities themselves.

3. The Secretary of State adds that Her Majesty's Minister in Panama is always open to receive delegations from the West Indian community, and that the churches and organisations within the West Indian community do much to assist its more needy members.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor

Government House,
Barbados.
26th May, 1953.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am also commanded to lay on behalf of the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph, Message No. 15/1953 from His Excellency the Governor to the following effect:—

MESSAGE NO. 15/1953.

His Excellency The Governor

To

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to forward for the information of the Honourable the House of Assembly the official Programme of Coronation Celebrations which have been arranged by the Coronation Committee on the occasion of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 2nd of June, 1953. The period of the celebrations commenced on Saturday the 23rd of May, and will end on Saturday the 6th of June.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
26th May, 1953.
Barbados.

M.H.—7673 (No. 2)

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I am commanded to lay the following Papers:—

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for the nine months ended 31st December, 1952.

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for the ten months ended 31st January, 1953.

Annual Report of the Peasants' Loan Bank for the year 1st June, 1951 — 31st May 1952.

PETITIONS

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to present Petitions from the Highway Commissioners of St. George and St. Thomas respectively praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise them to increase the salaries of the Inspector of Highways of the said parishes. The Petitions are respectfully worded and I ask that they be taken as read.

Mr. HAYNES entered the House and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to give notice of a resolution to place at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee the sum of \$12,305 to supplement the Estimates, 1953-54, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1953-54, No. 4, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to give notice of the following Resolution: Resolution that under the provisions of the Officers of the Assembly (Salaries) (Amendment) Act, 1952, the salary of the Librarian and Secretary be \$2,280 per annum from the 2nd day of September, 1952.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—It is my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the money resolutions of which notices have just been given.

BILL

Mr. BARROW: I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Highway Commissioners of St. George and St. Thomas respectively to increase the salaries of the Inspector of Highways of the said parishes.

QUESTIONS

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

In view of the reply given to question No. 61 of September 23, 1952, does the Government contemplate making any statement with regard to the question of:

Unemployment Insurance for Agricultural Workers.

Mr. GODDARD entered the House and took his seat.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. BARROW, seconded by Mr. MAPP, the Bill to authorise the Highway Commissioners of St. George and St. Thomas respectively to increase the salaries of the Inspector of Highways of the said parishes, was read a first time.

POSTPONEMENT OF FIRST ORDER

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I am asking leave to postpone Item No. 1 on the Order Paper.

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

RESOLUTION FOR EXTENSION OF LEASE OF KINGSLAND FACTORY BUILDING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The First Order of the Day now stands in the name of the honourable Junior Member for St. Peter to move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to authorise the Governor-in-Executive Committee to enter into an agreement for an extension of the lease of the Kingsland Factory building from 1st August, 1953, to the 31st of July, 1954.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This resolution seeks to give the Governor-in-Executive Committee authority to continue the existing lease of the Kingsland Factory building as from the 1st August next until the end of July 31, 1954,—a period of one year. With respect to this building which is leased for a rum bond, it forms part of the Government Spirit Bond, Cheapside, although it is out of the City. At present, there are 3,000 casks of rum bonded in it.

I do not think that it is necessary for me to recapitulate the history of this bond to honourable members; all I think I need to say is that the Government has under consideration the question of bonding commodities as a whole and rum is one of the things. It is felt in some quarters that it is not Government's responsibility to provide bonds for private people, but in view of the conditions existing, where in an Act it is Government's responsibility to provide these bonds for rum, someone would raise objection and say that the Government will be imposing a hardship on their business should it amend the Act so that merchants should provide their own storage facilities. If to-day I state that the Government has under review this question of bonding and feels that it should be the merchants' responsibility to provide themselves with such bonds, I think the merchants themselves would put their houses in order. It is for this reason that in this resolution Government is not seeking to have a five-year lease but will renew the lease before its expiration should the building be required for further use.

In short, Government is not tying down itself to a five-year lease until a decision is reached in this matter. Therefore, without any more ado, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, — I beg to second the passing of this Resolution. Relative to the lease of this building, it is surprising to learn from the honourable member that Government has only renewed the lease for one year, but that is not worrying me as much as the rent which is being paid by Government. I think that \$480 per month is a rather tremendous sum to pay for this rum bond, whether or not Government pays for it on its own or whether the merchants have to furnish the money to pay for it. I feel that a suitable building for storing rum could be had at a nominal rent.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. HAYNES: When the Government decided five years ago to lease this building, the Government in those days had the option of buying the building but would not do so and up to now is still deciding to pay this large annual rent, Government having decided to renew the lease for a year. The result is that the present owner of Kingsland building is receiving a nice annual income out of a very old building. I said at that time that it was wrong to lease it for that amount of rent and I will say so again. Government should have bought that building which could be had at a rock-bottom price at the time and even if Government had cause to sell now, they could get much more for it than for what they purchased it. Like everything else, a narrow-minded view is taken of things and as a result, the poor taxpayer has to pay unnecessarily for these matters.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — I suppose that the reply which the honourable Junior Member for St. Peter will make to the statement by the honourable Junior Member for St. Andrew is that the merchants who make use of the rum bond repay the rent. I feel that would-be answer is not sufficient. Although merchants who make use of that bond might repay the rent it does not remove the fact that it is unbusinesslike for the Government to undertake to rent a factory building such as that for \$480 per month. Everybody knows that in recent years owing to the scrapping of factory machinery, there are many such buildings in disuse. I know, for instance, of a similar building situated in St. John which the owners would be glad if they could get even \$20 per month for it as rent.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Why don't you buy it and rent it out?

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — I do not see any reason why a matter of this sort should not be handled in a more business-like manner even although the Government is handling it. Some people seem to think that Government need not worry over savings that can be affected by good business dealings, but this should not be so. The question is that if you had handled this business intelligently, you would be able to ease taxpayers in some respect. I do not think any private individual would rent that building at that price. I am told that when the factory was scrapped, the owner was willing to sell that building for a sum considerably smaller than what the Government has already paid for it in rent. Why should not Government have bought that building when the price was reasonable and rented it to the merchants, even if Government made a small profit? The point is that you have up to now paid over \$5,000 annually for it and still find it necessary to rent such building.

I am sure that the owners of that building feel happy over the situation Government finds itself in renting that building and are hoping that Government will find it necessary to continue to do so; as a matter of fact, the owners are in a position where they can create a condition where the Government must continue to rent it. I hardly think that when they were running it as a factory that they made as much as what they are now receiving for rent. I do not know whose job it is to bargain for Government, but I know of no individual who would have arranged to pay that sum for rent of that building.

As it is, Sir, we are already committed to this expenditure, and it would be unwise for me to press for negotiations to be re-opened in this matter with a view of arranging for a nominal rent or else seeking a cheaper building elsewhere. I know that no honourable member can bring any argument to show reason why you should continue renting that building. As a matter of fact, that building is situated five miles from Bridgetown and if locality does not come into the picture, you can go any part of the island and get a similar sized building and for a very nominal rent. I have heard that the scrapping of Waterford Factory is under consideration and if that is so, Government should negotiate for the renting of that building.

Another point is that in view of the fact that transportation costs will be more on account of the distance from Bridgetown of this rum bond, it must increase the price of rum because merchants are going to add the additional transportation costs to the retail value of the product.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, — I am wondering too if Government is recovering all this rent from the merchants who bond rum at this bond. I well remember when the Government negotiated for that building, the rum trade was so lucrative that there were many merchants in the business and you could not find space for all of them. Since then, this trade has dropped and many who were then in the business have dropped out. I am of the opinion that Government does not recover all this rent from the merchants and is meeting with a loss there. I am therefore hoping that the honourable Junior Member for St. Peter would shed some light on this aspect. What I believe is that in the first and second years of the renting of this building by Government, it received what it had paid out in rent, but since then, I think that the drop in trade has caused Government to be showing a loss.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — This is the sort of Resolution which needs no further information or explanation than what I have already given. I do not think the honourable Senior Member for St. John was in his place when I introduced this resolution, else he would not have said all he did. It did appear to me as if he was prompted to say what he did by the honourable Junior Member for St. Andrew, but if that honourable member wants more information, I think he should ask for it himself.

Whether the Government should have bought the Kingsland Factory building or should not have bought it is not the question to-day, nor do you ask me to pass judgment on what was done by the Government of 1948 or 1949. Government must provide these bonds and if the honourable Senior Member for St. John was conversant with this matter, he would readily understand that Government under an Act is called on to provide these rum bonds. I hope the honourable member did not infer from his speech that Government should go around to see whether it could get a suitable building for a bond at a cheaper rent than what was paid. I would tell him that this question of bond-

ing rum is such a thing that when you have secured such premises you must remain there for sometime because of certain equipment which is used.

I pointed out that at present, there were 3,000 casks of rum stored in the bond and speaking under correction, I think with the increase of excise duty, Government receives about six shillings on a cask plus other duties which are collected when the rum is taken out of the bond. Yet it is not a question of making money on the bond. It was calculated that the premises was large enough to store 5,000 casks of rum which would bring in £500 annually, but while that was the calculation, it does not mean that 5,000 casks of rum would be stored there all the time, sometimes there would be much less than that in bond. The question is that you must have a bond because at present, there are 3,000 casks of rum bonded there, and there is no other alternative than to lease the building for a further period. You cannot take it anywhere else because you do not have another bond house. As I told the House in my opening remarks, Government is not thinking in terms of providing bonds either by renting or purchasing suitable buildings, but Government is giving serious consideration to the question of private people providing their own bonds. If or when that decision is reached, the Act will be so amended, but Government does not want to bring down this amendment suddenly because the people who are in this business are accustomed to this privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the honourable Senior Member for St. John was in his place when I was making my introductory remarks, he would have realised that the Government was not thinking of continuing leasing this building for the next five years, but by leasing it for only one year which would expire on the 31st July, 1954, this period would give those private people ample opportunity to find their own storage place should such a decision be reached. As I have said, we are guided by an antiquated Act which lays it down that Government must provide these rum bonds.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first item under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the Senior Member for the City to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the Pan American Airways. This honourable member is not in his place.

The second and third items are under the name of the Senior Member for Christ Church, but that honourable member also is not in his place; so too the honourable Senior Member for St. Philip under whose name items Nos. 4, 5 and 6 stand.

Item No. 7 stands under the name of the honourable Junior Member for St. George to move the passing of an Address relating to slot machine telephones in villages.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — I am asking leave that Item No. 7 be postponed.

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

ADDRESS *re* CREATING HOUSING SCHEMES IN ST. GEORGE.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Item No. 8 under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the honourable Junior Member for St. George to move the passing of an Address to His

Excellency the Governor relating to a Self-Help Housing Scheme in St. George.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — This Address reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly To

His Excellency The Acting Governor

The House of Assembly is aware that the plantation tenantry system can no longer be regarded as a civilising influence upon a people yearning for social advancement; and will request Government to survey the parish of St. George like other parishes, with a view to creating housing schemes, 'Self-Help' and otherwise.

2. The House further requests that in planning sites, attention be paid to bringing such homesteads within easy proximity of existing public utility services.

Sir, I think the bottom of this question is whether or not at this stage of the history of this island it is advisable to decide that the system under the existing Tenantry Act should be brought to an abrupt end. As honourable members are well aware, housing schemes by Government are well established in the parish of St. Michael and recently a Self-Help Housing Scheme by Government has been brought into existence in the parish of St. Lucy—the extreme northern parish of this island. I am therefore appealing to Government to see the necessity of giving similar opportunity to the population of St. George. In doing so, I will point out that in one of the districts of that parish, known as the Drax Hall area there are lots of rab land which are on the main road that can be used for a Self-Help Housing Scheme, and particularly so owing to the fact that public utilities are on that road. Because of the old plantation tenantry system, you will find the people of that district living in the back of this road, some parts of the village running into a gully. Not only is it so in this district alone, but it actually prevails in every district of this parish. I am therefore asking Government to survey this parish like other parishes, with a view to creating housing schemes, the Pine Housing Scheme where there is new constructions and various methods of housing schemes carried on all the year round; I am only asking that some little scheme be created so as to give opportunity for the back-behind-the-canoe villagers of St. George to live on the highway where they can enjoy some of the facilities of Government.

I think it is rather disgraceful in this age to find that cane fields border the main highways and the people who produce the wealth of this country are tucked away in the back gullies. I feel this Government would achieve another laurel to its crown if it can secure some of this rab land which now borders the highways and give it to those people who live in the gullies, so that they could enjoy some of the Government services. Sir, it is difficult to understand why human beings should be asked to live in the middle of broad cane fields, some on sloping hilltops which call for ladders to get in and out of the houses and some in the bottom of gullies. Another galling feature that is difficult to understand is that under the plantation tenantry system the owners of these small houses are not allowed to build proper steps and plastered foundations to their houses and because of that, the houses are always shabby in appearance. The reason for that is that the owners must always live in the expectancy of leaving the spot. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have bypassed in this age such conditions of life for human beings; everybody should

in some measure be able to live to enjoy some of the things which make life worthwhile.

Although I am primarily concerned with the parish of St. George, I must also state that these conditions exist in other parishes, and although I dislike doing so, if you take St. Andrew as an example, you will find a majority of small houses in that parish that the residents have to get ladders to get in and out.

Two years ago, I moved an almost similar Address to this which was passed by this House, and I was hoping that by now some change would have been brought about in this tenantry system so as to give people the opportunity of providing themselves with a homestead which would give them a pride of ownership. The prevailing system is only a relic of slavery and I am asking this Government which has it in its power, to acquire this rab land for housing schemes. I am not asking for land suitable for agriculture to be used in housing schemes.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I regret that I find it necessary at this stage in the history of Barbados to rise to second an address of this nature which has been moved by my colleague. The conditions of survival in the country parishes of this island which my colleague have drawn to our attention are nothing more than deplorable, particularly what he said about canes being grown in the limelight, to the front of highways, while human beings who are responsible for the production and wealth of the island are sent to live in the back places and gullies far removed from modern civilisation. These conditions are survival of the days of slavery when human beings were regarded as of less value than the product of their labour. Sir I am very glad that this Address has been initiated by the honourable Junior Member for St. George and I am proud to associate myself with it, but I regret that in these enlightened days with a Labour Government, we have not yet given priority to one of the essential needs of the country parishes of this island.

There is not only this land area to the front so that the people can enjoy some of the amenities of life which we should give consideration to, but there are other motives which I would suggest to Government are of equal importance and would save public expense in the long run. It is a regular habit nowadays for plantation owners to rent people land in most inaccessible parts of the island and then call upon the Government to instal water and build roads to those inaccessible parts.

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

HOUSE PROCEEDS TO COUNCIL CHAMBER FOR JOINT CONFERENCE

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time has arrived for this Honourable House to join with members of the Other Place in the Conference which this House asked for in an Address which was passed at the last meeting. I am therefore asking honourable members to accompany me in the usual manner to the Council Chamber where we would sit in Conference.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and followed by honourable members in order of seniority proceeded to the Council Chamber where they joined with members of the Other Place in Conference.

JOINT MEETING OF LEGISLATURE

HIS HONOUR THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gentlemen, I beg to move that the Hon'ble Mr. Cuke take the Chair and preside over this joint meeting.

Hon'ble Dr. H. G. Massiah seconded.

The question was put and agreed to.

HON'BLE H. A. CUKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, and honourable members of the House of Assembly the object of this meeting is to agree between the two bodies of the Legislature to a joint Address which we will both pass in our respective Chambers. The Address is to be sent to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Coronation.

HON'BLE Dr. H. G. MASSIAH: Mr. Chairman,—It gives me great pleasure to suggest to this Conference that we should pass the following Address to Her Majesty the Queen. I am fully conscious of the fact that we are not passing it formally now. We will pass it formally in our respective chambers. The proposed Address is as follows:—

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the President and Members of the Legislative Council and the Speaker and Members of the General Assembly, of the ancient colony of Barbados, with humble respect desire, on the occasion of Your Majesty's Coronation, to convey to Your Majesty our heartfelt wish that Your Majesty may have a long, peaceful and glorious reign.

2. We feel sure that the splendid example of your illustrious father and grandfather will sustain and guide you in the years ahead, and we pledge to Your Majesty the same devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person as was ever rendered to them.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—I beg to second the motion so ably moved by the Hon'ble Dr. Massiah.

Question that the Address be agreed to by both Houses of the Legislature was put and agreed to.

MESSAGE TO GOVERNOR

HON'BLE Dr. H. G. MASSIAH: Mr. Chairman,—As a corollary to the Address which has just been agreed to, I beg to move that the following Message be sent to His Excellency the Acting Governor:—

*The Legislative Council and The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The Legislative Council and House of Assembly have the honour to request that Your Excellency will take the necessary steps to telegraph to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen the accompanying Address passed this day by both Houses of the Legislature.

Mr. Brancker seconded.

The question that the Message be agreed to by both Houses of the Legislature was put and agreed to.

HON'BLE H. A. CUKE: His Honour the Deputy Speaker and I will make arrangements for presenting the Address and the Message which we have just agreed to. I would like to thank you gentlemen for meeting here today and for the happy manner in which this meeting was conducted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We thank you gentlemen for receiving us and co-operating with us in this matter.

The Conference concluded, Mr. Deputy Speaker and the House, preceded by the Marshal carrying the Mace returned to the Assembly Chamber and Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Mr. E. D. MORTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

ADDRESS OF LOYALTY TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ON EVE OF CORONATION

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — I ask leave of this House to move the passing of an Address which was agreed to in conference by both branches of the Legislature in connection with the forthcoming Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — It falls to my lot and it is my privilege and pleasure in the absence of the Senior Member of this Chamber, the learned and honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph to move the passing of an Address to implement the decision of the two Chambers of the Barbados Legislature which met in conference a very few minutes ago.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you know, within a few days there will take place in the United Kingdom the Coronation of the second Queen Elizabeth, and it is not surprising if on a day like this we cast our minds back, of course very briefly, to a similar occasion only four centuries ago when the first Queen Elizabeth acceded to the Throne of England. As you know, it was in 1558 that Queen Elizabeth, as history recalls ascended the Throne of England, and as history is said to repeat itself, Sir, you will recall that that first Lady was 25 years old on her accession, almost a similar age of the Present Queen and we trust that history will repeat itself in the case of the present Queen and that she like the first Elizabeth would live to be seventy.

If I may be allowed, Sir, I will read a sentence which I gleaned from a noted historian in reference to the first Elizabeth. I feel it is appropriate to the present Queen as it was to her predecessor of the same name. It runs as follows: "She inherited large and complicated problems and with them, she received from her father a full measure of the personal qualities most necessary for their solution. The atmosphere in which she ascended the Throne was so electric that a long period of calm was needed."

Sir, what can be more appropriate to-day in describing the conditions in which the present Queen Elizabeth will be crowned Queen of Great Britain and the British Dominions beyond the seas? Certainly Sir, she inherited large and complicated problems and certainly, she had the benefit of receiving from her father, the late King George VI—and I go back to her grandfather, the late King George V. and her great grandfather, King Edward VII.—a full measure of the personal qualities most necessary for their solution. As the historian whom I quoted proceeded:—"The death of Mary brought to the Throne of England a princess whose personality was destined to leave an indelible mark on the history of England." I feel that we all believe and hope that Queen Elizabeth II is destined to leave an indelible mark on the history of England.

As you know, Sir, it has been said, sometimes humorously but nevertheless true, that the loyalty

of the average Englishman to the Crown is second only to that of the average Barbadian to the same Imperial Crown. If nothing else, it is undisputable that our loyalty is even stronger than that of the average English subject. As you know, we have been called, and a vast number of us revel at being called "Little Englanders" and "People of Little England" because of the deep set attachment of people of this colony to the Crown of Great Britain and to the person of the reigning Sovereign. It is not necessary to dwell on the loyalty to the Crown of the people of this colony, or certainly honourable members of the other Chamber and this Honourable House, nor do we need to dwell on our sincere allegiance to-day, for this loyalty and allegiance have ever been so for the three hundred years that this colony has uninterruptedly been British; for all that time there has been the same strong inflexible adherence to the British Crown as it is to-day.

We, who love drama and have a care for literature, recall the golden age of English Literature which was during the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth, such poets as Bacon, Spenser, Marlowe, and the immortal, William Shakespeare. These imperishable names in English Literature are names which we will ever remember and ever prize as priceless heritage of English Literature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is only necessary at this stage, I suggest, for me to formally move the passing of the following Address:

"To Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the President and Members of the Legislative Council and the Speaker and Members of the General Assembly, of the ancient colony of Barbados, with humble respect desire, on the occasion of Your Majesty's Coronation, to convey to Your Majesty our heartfelt wish that Your Majesty may have a long, peaceful and glorious reign.

2. We feel sure that the splendid example of our illustrious father and grandfather will sustain and guide you in the years ahead, and we pledge to Your Majesty the same devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person as was ever rendered to them."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg formally to move that this Address do now pass. (Cheers).

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — Like the honourable member who has just sat down, it has fallen my lot to second this motion, for if the honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph was here, I too would have been left out. However, I am here to second this motion which has been so ably moved by the honourable Senior Member for St. Lucy. It goes without saying and it is well known that the loyalty of Barbados to the British Crown with that long tradition of over three hundred years of unbroken allegiance is as firm to-day as it ever was. We all do hope that no cloud would pass over this horizon which would cause us to waver from this loyalty. Every Barbadian breast to-day pulsates with this loyalty to the British Throne.

During the past few years, it seems that with every new Sovereign, public acclamation to the person of the reigning Sovereign increases over that given to the predecessor and so enhances that loyalty and devotion to the British Crown. Not only, I suppose, is this so with Barbadians, but it may also be said of Englishmen and all other British subjects abroad. So, Sir, we do hope that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II will continue to occupy

that place in our hearts that has been occupied by her predecessors.

But, Sir, the honourable member made reference of the conditions in which Queen Elizabeth I acceded to the Throne of England and the similarity of the conditions that exists to-day with Queen Elizabeth II in that exalted position. It has been said of Queen Elizabeth I that her heart's desire which she always expressed was that she should always be as good a queen as ever there was, and that her reign would appeal to the gratification and desires of her people at home and I suppose this is the thought and the desire of Queen Elizabeth II. The honourable member also reviewed briefly the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and I would like to mention some of the important events of policy that actuated ministers of her day. History records that the policy of ministers of Queen Elizabeth I was based on economy at home and that they strove to maintain that no foreign influence should dominate their policy at home. These were remarkable traits and we feel sure that the present ministers of Queen Elizabeth II would try to emulate the precedent set by ministers of Queen Elizabeth I.

The honourable member also mentioned the progress in literature in the days of Queen Elizabeth I; a progress which produced such good men as Bacon, Spenser and the immortal Shakespeare. I would also like to mention that during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I it is said that the foundation of modern England and the Colonial Empire was laid. Commerce in England of that day became greater and the mariners, Drake and Raleigh, started to expand the maritime possessions of Great Britain and the foundation of the British Commonwealth was laid and the Colonial Empire was started when a Charter of the East Indies was granted by Queen Elizabeth I.

It is also said that social conditions of the people started to improve in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. These are conditions which we hope that ministers of Queen Elizabeth II would emulate and I believe that they intend to emulate some of these policies because it is significant that during the first year of her reign that the ministers are doing everything in their power towards the furthering of peace. They are examining every prospect which in their opinion would bring about peace and this is admirable. I do hope and I know this Honourable House would join with me when I say that we hope those ministers would not confine themselves to the bringing about of peace with other nations with whom they are at variance but would also examine the prospects of peace within the Empire. We are hoping, Sir, that they will not only try to bring about peace with nations which have big armies, big navies, big air forces and atomic weapons, but that they will also grant peace to those people who can only represent themselves with sticks, stones and spears. (Cheers) We are hoping, Sir, that they will remember that these same hopes and aspirations for security and peace in their homeland are also felt in the breasts of other peoples within the Empire (Cheers).

As I said before, it has been said that during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the social conditions of the people improved. We do hope that they will be a further improvement of the social conditions of all peoples within the British Empire during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. We do hope that during this reign of Queen Elizabeth II, her ministers would pay some more attention to the social conditions of peoples whom they call backward and benighted and that they would try to improve them not only in word but in truth and in deed, and as has been said, we would be one large human family and that all people with

some justifiable pride will be able to say individually, "I am a British citizen." If these results can be achieved during this reign of Queen Elizabeth II as I have every hope it will, we will be able to say that the reign of Queen Elizabeth II was blessed by God and loved by man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, — I beg to second this motion which was so honourably moved by the honourable Senior Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. BRYAN entered the House and took his seat while Dr. CUMMINS was speaking.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it and I will ask honourable members to signify their approval by standing in their places.

Honourable members stood in their places as was requested.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—As a corollary to the Address which has just been passed unanimously, I beg to propose the following Address to His Excellency the Governor:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly have the honour to request that Your Excellency will take the necessary steps to telegraph to the Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen the accompanying Address passed this day by both Houses of the Legislature.

I beg formally to move that this Address be now passed.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to inform the House that I will arrange with the Senior Member presiding in the Other Place with a view of presenting these Addresses to His Excellency the Governor.

**DEBATE RESUMED ON ADDRESS RE
HOUSING SCHEME FOR ST. GEORGE**

Mr. BARROW: When I was called off making my address with respect to the creating of housing schemes in the parish of St. George to attend a Conference with members of the Other Place, I was saying that there was not only the acquisition of land area to the front with which we should give consideration to alone but that there were other motives which were of equal importance.

It is indeed fortunate for the reputation of this Island that visitors coming to these shores and probably noticing the lack of planning in the siting of villages which they see from public highways when they ride around are not taken down in the gullies of the rural parishes, else they would be severely shocked at the conditions they would see prevailing in many of them. The landlord system in this Island has created rural slums in the backwaters and gullies and then the Government is called upon to undertake great capital expenditure to construct passable roads and to provide other amenities for the people who happen to live in those areas. Therefore, if only from the point of view of public economy, we are asking Government to pay some heed to this address which has been moved by my colleague, it stands for reason that if Government implement the system of zoning village communities and preventing land-

lords from renting back-of-all land and gullies to agricultural workers that the expenditure which the Government would have to incur for putting these tenantry roads into proper condition would greatly be reduced.

I think that my colleague is not selfish in mentioning this parish of St. George, although it happens to be the parish which we represent, because the conditions in this parish are more deplorable than any other parish save the parish which he mentioned. In some of the districts of St. George, the inhabitants have to travel, in many instances, a distance of over a mile to and fro to get a bucket of water. Many are the times I have seen little children with big buckets of water on their heads having this strenuous duty to perform before they get to school. It is rather to be regretted that children of this generation should have to spend so much time going to and fro to standpipe and home before they begin their rightful duty of studying in school.

Sir, I have six recommendations which can spring as corollaries from this address. Some of these I have mentioned in this Chamber before. The first is that we should appoint a Town Planning Officer at the earliest possible opportunity. I think the Hon. Colonial Secretary when he was acting Governor made some mention of this at the opening of the Legislature. The second is one which I have time and time again taken every opportunity to mention and that is the institution of land registration in this colony. The third is that there should be zoning of the parish areas along the lines suggested by my colleague and that is most specifically set out in this address. The fourth is that there should be some control on rural development and this can be worked in conjunction with zoning of villages. The fifth is that landlords who wish to cut up land which is a distance from the public highway for rental purpose should see that all amenities are easily accessible to the would-be renters. This should be written in the Act of this Island and the various Acts in this island relating to this matter should be more strictly enforced. Along with this, provision should be made for water to be installed in every house spot that is being sold out. The sixth recommendation I am suggesting is that we have reached such a stage in this thickly populated island—should I say over-populated island—that we should watch very carefully our methods of land utilisation. I do not mean getting the gross yield out of the soil. I mean that the owners of land should not be allowed to profit indiscriminately on cutting up good agricultural land which we have available at our disposal today. We have reached a point of intensification of our land for agricultural purposes and there is no virgin tracts to be obtained apart from what we may gain should we get a Deep Water Harbour here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of these factors are strong arguments in favour of this Address. The control of village development is essential to the bringing to its utmost our present agricultural policy. We should do something to bring near to the public highways these people who live on lands to the back and in inaccessible districts; not necessarily on the public highway because it will present a traffic problem. We should place these villages just off the public highways with a circular road defining the limits of the village. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think we can afford to wait much longer in order to implement these proposals because it has become too serious a matter from the point of view of public revenue of this colony.

The last thing which I want to mention but which has not been mentioned by my colleague is that in the carrying out of these proposals, Government should set an example as regards to land tenure. Government should at the same time of implementing these proposals bring into force some legislation giving greater permanency to agricultural workers on land so that their houses could be put on more secure foundations. In so doing, community and family life of the peasants and workers in the villages will be solidified. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are some of the corollaries which I feel are concomitant with this Address which has been moved by my colleague. It is not a simple problem but I feel that it is a problem which should be tackled directly and forthrightly.

I have much pleasure in seconding the passing of this Address.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, —This Address is one of those dealing with Housing Schemes that are passing this House with great frequency. The Addresses are worded in much the same way with the insertion of the name of the parish represented by the particular honourable member who brings the Address. Some months ago we had an Address of a similar character, and on the Order Paper there is one in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip.

Now, Sir, as far as the honourable junior member for St. George is concerned he has been living in this island for a longer time than the honourable senior member for St. George, and he is well aware of what the "so-called" Labour Government—the honourable senior member does not pretend to be a member of that party—has been doing. It is easy for those who are acquainted with what the "so-called" Labour Government has been doing to see that far from not giving priority to housing and matters of that nature, the Government has been giving them very great priority. Anyone who has been living in this island will realise that five years ago the Government brought to this House the Town and Country Planning Bill. That Bill was passed by this Chamber. You will remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the minor clauses that held up that Bill for a long period. You are also aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Government has made it clear that the question of the Town and Country Planning Bill would be resumed when you bring your local government system more up to date.

You will realise that many of the things that have been referred to by the honourable senior member for St. George are not done in communities like Barbados, but in English communities, where the system of local government is very much different from that of Barbados. We must set our house in order first, and one of the main things before us is this question of authority. It must be borne in mind that this is something that we have to agree to. That people who live in remote areas should be given an opportunity to live in areas where they can get certain social amenities will be agreed upon; but the honourable junior member for St. Joseph who lives in the country will tell you that there are people living in remote areas today who prefer to live in those areas for economic reasons.

I do not go in for exaggeration, Sir. No school child has to walk two miles in Barbados to fetch water unless a pipe is broken.

Mr. BARROW: At anytime that the honourable junior member for St. Peter wants to take a drive with me I will take him to the parish of St. George and show him where you can walk one mile

going and one mile coming to fetch a bucket of water.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I know St. George better than the honourable member does although he happens to represent it. There is no place where you have to walk two miles to get a bucket of water.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member said one mile going and one coming.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: You can multiply anything in order to put your case. However, Sir, in an Address of this nature, if we are willing to discuss it calmly and logically we can do so. But it is not fair to gibe the Government and to say that we are not giving the question of Housing priority. This Government, it is true, is not responsible for the Belfield Scheme. But since that scheme has been going this Government has spent considerable sums on Housing. Any honourable member who takes the trouble to look into the Estimates will see the revenue we get and the amount of it we spend on social services. Then when you compare what is spent on Housing with what is spent on other services you can ask yourselves whether it is true that the Government is not paying any attention to Housing.

Now some years ago the honourable junior member for St. George had an Address passed in the House asking the Government to give consideration to the question of Housing in agricultural districts along with security of land tenure. Before that can be implemented he comes along with the Address that we are discussing today. He is asking the Government to survey the parish of St. George like other parishes with a view to creating Housing Schemes, self-help and otherwise. The other Address dealt with the question of land tenure because the burning question then was that. Government is at present acting on that question in that a sub-committee has been set up to investigate the problem of giving security to people who live in agricultural land; who rent plots of agricultural land, and who rent plots other than agricultural. That is still a very important question, and it cannot be solved easily, because people acquainted with the law say that there is no model legislation that you can come to the House with and say "this is the model legislation you need for this problem you only have to put it into shape for your respective territory".

The matter brings to light such important questions as (1) Do you want to give everyone on all lands the same security? (2) What is the position of a man who rent land for agricultural purposes in comparison with that of a man who rents land for a house spot? (3) Which of these two sets of people need greater security? Those are questions that will have to engage the attention of the Government. They cannot be settled in a day. We are still fortunate in this island that we have some people who are willing to give up some of their time without payment and to offer their knowledge for the benefit of legislation to be passed.

If you turn to the question of the Labour Welfare Fund, that again is an instance of where Government made a decision even against the popular thing of the day, playing fields right and left. Government decided to spend a portion of that money on Housing. Now that the Government has done that, I doubt that anyone could say that Government has not tackled the matter with urgency; because if you look throughout the other West Indian islands today no one can say that there is any other island that has put the Labour Welfare Fund to a better use, and as quickly as Barbados. We are one of the first, if not the first island that

started the Housing Project, and I think that the charge against the Government that they have not given priority to this social problem is uncharitable and unfair. As a member of the Government I will not allow any statement like that to go unchallenged; because Housing is one of the most important things that a Government can see after, and this Government has given it constant attention.

With regard to the question raised in this Address, at one time the seconder of the motion said that there are people living in certain areas not fit for human habitation; and at a later stage he suggested that so far as land utilisation is concerned, you have to be careful that you do not utilise your agricultural land in such a way as to diminish your source of production. I would like to say that that is one of the big problems that we have to face in this island with the population growth as it is, remembering that when children are born you have to put them somewhere. That is one of the headaches that this Government has, and that any future Government will have—finding decent accommodation for an island of this size and population without diminishing your source of production of sugar. It is no easy thing. Of course with a Town and Country Planning Officer Government can go some way in helping to solve this problem. But we should not lull ourselves into the feeling that by giving people sites we can settle this problem just like that, and there will be no people living in these unfit areas, unless you believe that the Government can by a stroke of the pen nationalise all the land without compensation and give it to the people, so that you can move any people to any given area. Even if all the land was government land you would still find people in areas not the most suitable because of this very problem of agricultural production.

If you consider the history of this island in relation to the plantation system you will find that Barbados is unique in this respect that you had all these individual plantations existing in the early centuries; and unlike other islands where the people on the plantations lived in barracks, the owners of plantations in Barbados made provision for their labourers.

The other very difficult question is that of roads. In a country of the size of Barbados we have to maintain an expenditure on roads that is unlike expenditure in any place of its size in the British West Indies. If you go down Broad Street you will find a number of roads that do not lead anywhere; but the Government must of necessity spend money on their upkeep, and the upkeep is becoming a considerable burden on Government's finances. Similarly in the country areas we also have to face the problem of siting. You will see the wording of the last part of the honourable member's Address. I would say that that part of the Address is reasonable indeed, because I am sure that the mover of the Address will bear in mind that planning is the important thing in solving our housing problem. But I would like to ask the honourable junior member for St. George if he would prefer Government to postpone consideration of his first Address and pay attention to this. Because he can very well see that his first Address strikes at the very root of the problem in which he is now seeking to have adjustment made. We have first to give people security of tenure, and the next problem is for the Government to buy land for all the people in the island or give them the right to say that the Government is the owner of all the land and you need not rent land from private plantations or investors.

In Barbados it is known that the system of freehold does not favour many of these attempts to change the social outlook of the island, and I will say that very few members are willing to introduce in this island a system of leasehold which will be more in keeping with their social aspirations. Most of us realise that, but few are bold enough to tell the people that the freehold system is not in the best interest of a community such as Barbados with a redundant population and shortage of land. Some people are against leasehold because it takes away initiative. That is so; but if there is no land to acquire initiative will be useless. That is one of the problems we have to face in any community where the freehold system is part and parcel of the system you are dealing with. I am sure that if any honourable member were to suggest to a peasant that it would not be in his best interest to own a piece of land as freehold but on long lease the peasant would feel that you want to take away the land from him.

When Professor Shepherd came here that is one of his observations which I agreed with. But the love of the freehold system is endemic in the social fabric of the Barbadian and I do not think that anyone can get it out of him. I must emphasise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Government has been giving priority to Housing from the beginning, and it continues to give attention to it. I hope that very soon the report of the sub-committee which is studying other points raised by the honourable junior member for St. George will come before the House and honourable members will have an opportunity to discuss it and legislation designed to give greater security to agricultural workers and tenants as a whole.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker — I should like to make a short contribution to this debate. But before I begin I want to correct one of the statements made by the last speaker. The honourable member said that the "so-called" Labour Government courted unpopularity by refusing to continue spending Labour Welfare Funds on playing fields when it was popular to do so, and insisted that some of the money should be spent on Housing.

Perhaps the honourable member's memory is not quite good on this point; because the decision to expend Labour Welfare Funds on playing fields was the policy of the Government.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Sir, I do not know if the honourable member was listening to what I said. I said that the Government courted unpopularity because it did not spend more money on playing fields.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is what I am saying. The honourable member went on to say that the Government had decided instead of spending more money on playing fields to spend it on housing. But it was the Government's policy that what was not spent on playing fields should be invested abroad. Because the amount of money which accrued to the fund could not be all spent on playing fields. Therefore in 1949 the Government brought down a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Price Stabilization, Rehabilitation and Labour Welfare Act, to permit them to invest abroad funds which were not speedily required and which were accruing to Labour Welfare Funds. In the meantime the Vestries were maintaining an insistent clamour for some of this money to be spent on Housing for sugar estate workers.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was speaking as a member of the present Government. If the honourable member is speaking of what was Government's policy when he was a member of the Government I

cannot answer for him. We were never on the Government together.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If the honourable member is referring to when I was a member of the Executive he knows very well that we had no funds accruing to a Labour Welfare Fund. As a matter of fact I do not even think there was a Labour Welfare Fund in existence then. What I am talking about is the policy of the Government of which he is a member with regard to money accruing to the Labour Welfare Fund.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member trying to relate the Labour Welfare Fund to the purpose of this Address?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not trying to do that, I am merely trying to correct a misapprehension on the part of the last speaker about the spending of the Labour Welfare Fund on Housing. I am saying that in 1949 when the Labour Welfare Fund had money accruing to it at a very rapid rate—faster than it could be expended on playing fields—the Government decided to send down a Bill to give them authority to invest these funds abroad.

The Vestries throughout the island were carrying on much agitation that money from the Labour Welfare Fund should be spent on Housing; the Vestries of St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. John and every one of them. If you refer to the newspaper reports you will see that week after week every rural vestry in the island was demanding and insisting that Government should spend some of this money on Housing. It was not that the planters on these Vestries were interested in the housing of agricultural workers, but because they wanted to relieve themselves of the burden of making continuous loans to sugar workers for the repairs to and construction of their houses.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would be glad if the honourable member did not continue on that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to mention that this decision to spend Labour Welfare money on Housing was the result of the insistence from the planters on the vestries for the reason I have mentioned.

In any question of improving housing facilities for workers in the Sugar Industry, the important thing is first and foremost to make more of the land in this island available to the people who want to build houses or repair them. And that is why as the honourable senior member for St. Peter has said you find the Order Paper of this House cluttered with Addresses dealing with land tenure. That has been the position for the last ten or twelve years. Anyone who comes into this Chamber and is interested in Housing realises that it is more or less closely linked up with the question of land distribution. You cannot get people to build a more durable type of house unless they have some security of land holding.

That, Sir, is why as far back as 1940 when the late Mr. Gordon Rose went down on the Simon Bolivar I was asking the Government to acquire his estates in St. Thomas in order to make more of the land in the country available to the workers for agricultural and housing purposes. In more recent days I have suggested that some limit should be placed on the maximum amount of land which any individual or company should be allowed to own in a small island like this in order to make more land available to the working classes both for agricultural operations and, of course, for housing purposes, and for any other recreational and social purposes that the Government might think fit to devote it to.

Whenever you start, and if ever you start to tackle this question of rehousing the working classes you are bound to come up against the big stumbling

block of land. Almost all the land bordering the main highways is owned and controlled by the plantations of the island, and the inaccessibility of many of the tenancies that have been referred to is due to the fact that the plantations, interested in utilising every inch of land for agricultural purposes, pushed the workers into the gullies in the interior or any part of the estate where land could not be cultivated. Regardless of the inaccessibility of these places, regardless of their distance from services like water, light and transport, the plantations pushed the workers back into the gullies as long as they could get every square foot available for agricultural purposes.

On many occasions I have driven through this island with strangers to the island, and they always ask you "Where does the large population of Barbados live?" You can drive for miles without seeing a single house although the country is supposed to be over-populated. The answer is that they live in the remote interior. You can leave Boarded Hall on the way to St. Philip and for over a mile you cannot find a single house. Only sugar cane. But if you leave the main road and go about three quarters of a mile in, in some little bog where the doctor cannot reach and where you have to bring the corpse in the coffin out to the hearse in the main road, far from any civilized utilities and services you will find the working class people; the people who labour on the sugar estates.

That is one of the reasons why we have to spend so much money on these miles and miles of sub-arterial roads; because as the social consciousness of the people awakens they become more articulate in demanding at least the elementary social necessities, and you have to spend this tremendous sum of money to build roads to get into every little village and tenantry in these remote parts of the various parishes. We could save a lot of money on road repairs if we acquired some of the more ideally situated land, from the point of view of accessibility along the main highways, and abandoned some of these tenancies; then much of the money which you have constantly to spend in keeping in repair and constructing some of these tenantry roads would no longer be needed. You would then remove the people and re-site them on plots along the main highways.

In the parish which I represent there are numbers of tenancies with miles of tracks, and my colleague and I have been repeatedly asked by the people "what about our roads, when are we going to have them repaired?" I can think of six tenancies right now where it would pay the parochial authorities much better to underwrite the entire cost of moving the people and abandoning these tenancies than to start making roads and keeping them in repair. That, I believe, is something to which we should pay immediate attention.

In a community in which you have adult suffrage the people will demand their elementary rights. If the people live on cliffs 2,000 feet above sea level or in gullies 1,000 feet below, it is not their fault; they have been forced to live there. It is a matter of necessity. But the people feel that you must bring the amenities of civilisation to them. That is why I feel it would be better to remove them to places where these amenities can be easily extended to them rather than to spend a lot of money on carrying the amenities to them where they live now.

One further point in reply to the honourable senior member for St. Peter: He claimed that in Barbados the expenditure for housing under the Labour Welfare Fund is so to speak superior to any in the British West Indies; that the facilities which our

labourers get under this Fund are incomparable to those extended elsewhere under a similar authority.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I think that the honourable member is paraphrasing what I said and he has not quite got the point. I was speaking from the point of view of time since the Fund was initiated, and I said that in no other island had the Fund been made better use of as quickly.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am glad that the honourable member has cleared up the point, because British Guiana has gone ahead of us. In that colony they are lending out money from this Fund no less fast than we are today. They had the same disputes we had here. You take money from the Rehabilitation Fund and you give it to the factories as a free gift. The question was why not also give the labourers money as a free gift from the Labour Welfare Fund.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the honourable member some latitude. He said he would not attempt to relate the Labour Welfare Scheme to the present Address. I think that he has dealt with it sufficiently in its irrelevancy.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not intend to infringe your ruling, Sir, I merely wanted to clarify some misapprehensions which might exist. The only way that we can see this question as a whole is to approach it from the right perspective. That is to say, that when you think of rural housing today, you have to think in terms of the Labour Welfare Fund. As a matter of fact if you turn to the Five Year Plan you will see that the entire question of the expenditure of Government funds on housing has been influenced to a great extent by the existence of the Labour Welfare Fund. In other words the existence of government funds on Housing has been infinitesimal purely on account of the existence of the Labour Welfare Fund.

I should like now to make this final observation. Although Barbados may have started spending money from the Labour Welfare Fund before the other—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member insists on referring to the Labour Welfare Fund. As I interpret the Address it is something over and above the Labour Welfare Fund.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I agree entirely with Your Honour, although, in the actual application of the principles or proposals suggested you will find that it is a case of Government applying these principles on the basis of the Labour Welfare Fund. Whatever you start to do along these lines you will find that your policy will be influenced by the question of the amount of money in the Labour Welfare Fund.

Since the Labour Welfare Fund is so closely linked with Housing, it is almost impossible to discuss in any way comprehensively, one, without touching incidentally on the other. All that I am saying is that if we are interested in improving the housing of agricultural workers in the rural areas, give them what help they need both from Government Funds and from any other funds which exist for the purpose. But in advancing money to them it would be well to consider doing what some of the other colonies are doing today.

In British Guiana the agricultural workers pay no interest on loans from the Labour Welfare Fund. In Barbados they pay interest. Again in British Guiana they get a special rebate for repayment of the loan within a specified period. So that concessions to the people of British Guiana work out far more advantageously than to the people here.

Whenever we begin to think, Sir, in terms of affording the maximum assistance to sugar workers in the rural areas, we have to ask ourselves how will

we get the necessary amount of land. Are we going to expropriate land holdings? Or are we going to purchase estates on the market? Or are we going to adopt the suggestion which was advanced by some land experts, but which I do not think will even be the policy of Barbados—the question of leasehold?

The last suggestion will never be popular in this island, and for obvious reasons. It will not be popular if for no other reason than the fact that land hunger in Barbados will die hard. In this colony more than in any other colony in these parts the people have been denied of the possibility of owning their own land. They have a hunger for land of their own that the passing of centuries will not be able to eradicate. Even today more than two-thirds of our land is owned by plantations. A few dozen sugar concerns own more than two-thirds of the entire arable acreage of the island.

After emancipation of the slaves there was no land settlement here as in Jamaica, Dominica, St. Lucia and other colonies. The plantations were deprived of the labour of the slaves but they kept the land. And in the years following emancipation nothing has been done to make more of the land in the country available to more of the population. It is true that estates go into the market for sale but they just go around in a circle—from one company to another. That is why the economic position of the ruling class in Barbados remains almost entirely unshakeable regardless of the political complexion of the Government in power. The greater portion of the land remains in the hands of the same people.

Now, Sir, my views on this question of land can be well known by reference to the Order Papers of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that the honourable member is getting on now to a land settlement scheme rather than to a housing scheme.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I said from the beginning that the question of housing is indissolubly linked up with the question of land settlement. You cannot tackle it properly unless at the same time you tackle the question of land ownership.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member is aware that the Government can acquire land compulsorily.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If Your Honour will permit me to make a passing reference to an Address which I had on the Order Paper some years ago, the first point that I made was that people cannot be expected to construct houses in stone as long as there was no security of land tenure. You are wasting time and money if you are merely rehousing people on existing sites and under existing conditions. You have to begin to acquire land in the various parts of the island. I think that we will be starting on the wrong foot if we think merely in terms of housing without at the same time thinking in terms of sites for those houses.

In the Address which I tabled some time ago I made it perfectly clear that we were not getting the most out of the expenditure on housing today for the simple reason that most of the repairs and construction are being done out of materials imported into the colony. Within a very short while we will have spent over two million dollars on housing under the Labour Welfare Fund alone. Nearly every cent of it has been spent on wooden houses which means that the greater part of that money is going out of the country. If we want to benefit from the expenditure of this money we should see to it that locally manufactured materials are utilised to the maximum extent. There is no point in giving this money to the manufacturers in Canada. Let us utilise the possibility of using more of our own block stones. Even

when you build of cement blocks it means that tens of thousands of bags are coming into the country every year. But if you used block stone it would mean that you are expanding your own economy with the money from the Fund. But you cannot use block stone unless you have land. That is why I said that the question of housing and that of land settlement are indissolubly linked up.

I will say no more at this stage except to try to impress upon the Government the importance of conducting efficient investigations into the possibility of the abandonment of some of these highly inaccessible tenancies, removing the people who live there and saving money which this and future generations would have to spend on repairing the roads of these inaccessible tenancies. You will be at the same time making it more possible for people all over the island to obtain the social amenities which those who now live in the more fortunate areas can so readily enjoy.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker—I do not intend to be as long as the last speaker. I will begin by saying that I think that we make a mistake by classing all these tenancies together. There are several types of tenancies.

There are gully tenancies—a blot on the island. They should be abolished during the tenure of a government that claims it is interested in the people. There is no excuse at all for the continued existence of gully tenancies. Then there are other tenancies like Drax Hall, a little off the beaten track, but not inaccessible. What is needed in tenancies like that is the introduction of such amenities as water and proper roads. There are other tenancies which I will term “peasant tenancies” to which the residents are tied by the actual ownership of cultivated land. It would be almost impossible to abolish those tenancies or to do anything with them but to give them roads and water.

Now, Sir, there is a big tenancy called Kendal in St. John which is completely isolated. As near as it is to Cliff Tenancy it is a most difficult matter to get from one to the other.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will draw to the attention of the honourable member that this Address deals with St. George only.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I am making a motion that it be amended to cover all parishes of the island. However, Sir, I repeat that there are some tenancies which should be abolished, and others which should be given proper social amenities. There are also certain tenancies occupied by agricultural workers whose greatest need is lack of security of tenure. It is very wrong that in this almost 21st century a person has the power to give a peasant a week's or two weeks' notice to leave a certain locality where perhaps he has lived all his life. That is something which I think all West Indian Governments should do their best to remove.

With those two points, Sir, I endorse the Address; but I think it is a mistake to classify all tenancies under one head.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I want to support this Address. I was pleasantly surprised last week when a letter came to the Vestry of St. Andrew and other vestries asking them to give their views on a housing scheme. I was extremely pleased to see it because one very seldom gets anything on a high-level in these days from the present government. To my mind, the question is very important. Day after day I drive through the parish which I represent, and I see houses in most inaccessible places, and in that parish there are owners of land who would be glad to sell proper sites if the Government would take steps to acquire them. I am hoping that

this Address will not be forgotten as it is of a very important nature.

I agree with the honourable junior member for St. John that all parishes should be included in the Address. I do not think there is need to say anything more. The matter has been very carefully threshed out, and I consider it a very urgent matter. I beg to second the amendment moved by the honourable junior member for St. John.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker—I will accept the amendment. It does not make any difference one way or the other. The scheme that I am suggesting in my Address is being carried out in St. Michael and St. Lucy. Although my Address may appear to be parochial, it is not. It seems that some people get up to debate an Address without having paid the mover the courtesy of reading it. I am accepting the amendment; it does not matter as long as the people will benefit. A rose called by any other name is just as sweet.

This Address has been confused with another one that I had passed some time ago. There is no similarity. The first Address dealt with the question of giving security of tenure to those who rent land for agricultural purposes and for house-spots. People do need that security. You are expected to put your house on your back in seven days like a piano. The tenantry idea has come down from the old plantation slave yard where the slaves were herded together in some place far enough from the plantation that the owners would not have to stand the stench and suffering of those slaves. They were put into gullies. I am asking that all that be changed now. In other West Indian islands the land question was handled differently after the emancipation of the slaves. Nothing was done in Barbados.

Let us examine St. Andrew which is represented by the last honourable member who spoke on that Address. He has tenants who have to climb like goats to reach their houses. There is nothing wrong with my Address, Sir, and I hope that it will be implemented by the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker.—all I am asking in this Address is that the rab land that borders the public highways should be acquired for individuals who live in the back districts of St. George or in the other parishes. This Address is entirely different from the first which I brought to this House. Sir, I am really interested in the people, especially those of my constituency who expect me to fight a cause like this. There in those back villages of St. George, you will find the entire lot of wooden houses being enclosed with palings of conch-shells and three-gill bottles.

(A VOICE): That is very ornamental, I believe.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that honourable member is viewing this condition with ridicule; something to provoke laughter. But Sir, again, all I am asking is that the honourable Junior Member for St. Peter read this Address once more and he will see that all I seek to get done is what has been done in St. Michael, but on a more restricted scale. As you know, with the plantation system of renting land to peasants and agricultural workers, none of them can buy a stone and put it under the house they live in. Obviously, this system is maintained because the peasant must always be at the mercy of the plantation owner. It can thus be seen that all I seek to give these people, by the implementation of the terms of this Address, is a chance to live in an area where they can enjoy some comforts of life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will say no more. I am satisfied that honourable members will view this

Address in its true perspective and will pass it. I will then live in hope that in the not distant future these things which the Address seeks to implement but which seem impossible to some honourable members will come to pass.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I did not intend to speak on this matter, but in view of the honourable Junior Member for St. George having made reference to zoning and hearing that he as a plantation owner has given some of his tenants notice to quit, I rise to ask him whether what I have heard is a fact. I heard that sometime last week he served some of his tenants with notices to get off his land.

Mr. MILLER: Sir,—knowing the honourable Junior Member for Christ Church as I do, I know that he is not given to making statements unless he can vouch for the accuracy of them, so I hasten to tell the honourable member that his statement is inaccurate and that I have given no man any notice to move his house off any land which I possess.

Mr. GODDARD: I thank the honourable member for his information. I am very glad to hear him say that. I was hoping that what I heard was not so.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—Hearing the honourable Junior Member for St. George make reference to people having houses with palings of conch-shells and empty bottles, it somewhat leads me to believe that the honourable member is making sport and is not altogether serious of the passing of this Address. I do not think anything like that should have crept into his speech. However, relative to this Address, it is a fact that many villages in the rural parishes are situated in the back of large cane fields. Being an undertaker, I know of certain villages where one must drive about a half mile in from the public highway before he reaches the particular village. But I think the question is: Are these people who live in these backward areas willing to leave? Some of these people have told me that if they could just get water in the village, they would not want to leave it, because when they are taken alongside the public highway, they would have no where to tether their stocks; they would have to do away with keeping stocks. It is a fact that many of those people do not wish to leave those villages because they earn money by raising livestock and the places where they live are conducive to such a calling. If Government acquires rab land near the public highway for them, Government will only be able to rent them one house spot and that would not be enough to raise even one sheep. Yet, I do know that there are some of these people who would like to get out of those places.

I would therefore sound the warning that before Government does anything in the matter, it would find out from the people who live in the particular village whether they want to leave and see whether the number wishing to do so would justify the venture. I feel that if Government can carry the water main in the particular districts, the people would feel more happy. Water is the burning question to them.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I too endorse the terms of this Address and believe that it is also the desire of the majority of honourable members of this Chamber to support it. I would like to state that within recent weeks I had the idea of bringing in an Address more or less along similar lines. I can say with a great degree of certainty that this Address represents the wishes of the majority of members of this Chamber and no matter what defence may be attempted by Government, it knows that it must tackle this problem. I know that Government is paying some attention to this matter, but the majority of us feel that it is not dealt with as

expeditiously as we would like. We know that the sum of \$500,000 has been set aside from the Labour Welfare Fund for rural development and already Government is asking for suggestions by a notice I have seen in the Press of how that money should be spent. These suggestions are to be sent to the Acting Financial Secretary or to the Colonial Secretary's Office.

I view this Address as an indication of the manner in which members of this Chamber feel that this money from the Labour Welfare Fund should be spent. We are asking that Government instead of establishing more playing fields and providing amenities for people who have no settled place to live; who have no security of tenure and who under the old plantation system were granted certain facilities but who are victimised nowadays; that Government would earmark this money for rural development to be spent in providing security of tenure for these people by the establishment of housing schemes. We are hoping that Government would initiate such schemes in every parish.

I am hoping that the terms of this Address will be implemented because it expresses the desire of the majority of members of this Chamber. It seems to me that Government should do away with the appointing of committees with legal technicalities to study this matter and act with more promptitude by spending this money at once on the purchasing of rab land near to main roads for this purpose. I feel that no amount of legal terminology can solve this problem; it can only be solved in a practical manner by Government taking up the money it has in hand and spending it on acquiring these areas of rab land to the front. I would also say that Government should act first in the districts where pressure is being brought to bear on the tenants of that area. I think that the sooner Government realises that no fanciful bits of legislation regarding security of tenure can be devised with such skill as to get around this difficult question, will be the better. The sooner Government sets out to acquire these bits of rab land for the people, the quicker would this problem be solved and relief be brought to these thousands of village dwellers who are suffering from not only security of tenure but the lack of necessary amenities of life.

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

Mr. MILLER: As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. BARROW: As Your Honour pleases.

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

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

On re-assembling.

ADDRESS *RE* GRANTING OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO COMMEMORATE CORONATION OF H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the honourable Junior Member for St. Michael to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the granting of scholarships to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This Address reads as follows:—

The House Of Assembly To His Excellency The Acting Governor

The House of Assembly begs to inform Your Excellency of its desire to commemorate the Coronation of Her Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II by granting of ten (10) Scholarships for Boys and Girls born of Barbadian parents in straitened circumstances.

2. The House of Assembly further desires that these Coronation Scholarships should cover the island and therefore suggests that one each be tenable at the following Government Aided Schools—Harrison College, Lodge School, Combermere, Cole-ridge and Parry, Alleyne School, Boys' Foundation, Queen's College, St. Michael Girls, Alexandria and Foundation Girls.

3. The House of Assembly therefore requests Your Excellency to take immediate steps to implement this Address.

Sir, This Address readily recommends itself to honourable members and I anticipate it will get an easy passage in this Chamber. This Address will serve a two-fold purpose. It will be a fitting way of commemorating the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and at the same time, it will provide additional educational facilities for those who because of the limitations of the parents, but who would benefit from such facilities, must be considered as most deserving. I think we all would agree that this is a good gesture to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The signs of the times indicate that the reign of Queen Elizabeth II will be an important era in the history of the British Commonwealth, perhaps, in the history of the world. We know what burden rests on the shoulders of Queen Elizabeth II in the carrying out of the duties of her office, but yet the ease and confidence with which she has taken up the reins of office augurs well for the future. In granting these scholarships, I feel we would be following in line with the desire expressed by Her Majesty in her Christmas Message to her peoples. In granting these scholarships, we would be providing opportunity for some boys and girls who might never be able to get this facility without this aid and by which they may be able to make their contributions towards a better world during this reign of Queen Elizabeth. In this age, we need men and women of ability and it is possible that the granting of these scholarships may produce politicians, statesmen, a Prime Minister or even a Governor-General of the West Indies. By the granting of these scholarships, we might also be able to produce women who benefitting therefrom, might become queens in their own right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, As I have said at the beginning, this Address recommends itself to honourable members, therefore it is not my intention to say very much although much can be said. This Address needs no poster. I therefore formally move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—In seconding this motion, which I do now, I must congratulate the honourable Junior Member for St. Michael on the statesmanlike approach to this matter for instead of acting as some mere parochially minded person when they come from a particular parish to deal with only things pertaining to that particular parish, this honourable member surveys the entire island and makes provision in his Address for a

scholarship at each of the Secondary Schools in this island, no matter where that school may be sited. I trust that certain honourable members will follow that example and realise that the age of the purely parochial politician is over.

However much, Sir, may have been spent on education, I feel that one cannot spend too much. It may well be that very slight minor adjustments might be made to the phraseology of this address. Frankly, I would have preferred if the honourable introducer of this Address had not in the first line used the word "beg," but the substance of the Address is so good and the nature of it is so wide and valuable that I will refrain from appearing to quibble about trifles. I lay claim to a certain amount of experience in the educational set-up of this colony owing to the fact that I happen to be an active member on Governing Bodies of certain of these schools. As one who is so engaged, I feel that the least and lowest educated in this community are keen on having secondary education for their children even if they cannot afford to do so. I would therefore sound a warning now that these scholarships should be granted to the fullest extent because if we grant scholarships and the parents cannot provide the necessary books, the children would not be able to get the fullest benefit from them. You only have to look at the terminal reports of the teachers at these schools which in many cases state that such a child would do much better if he or she had the necessary text book.

Now, Sir, the only thing in this Address with which I find fault, if fault is to be found, is that the number of scholarships asked for is rather small considering the clamour for scholarships such as these. Even if because of the number of schools at which the honourable member is asking for scholarships, Government would think the number extravagant, the honourable member has put the number at each school at the irreducible minimum — one scholarship for each secondary school in this island. If the honourable member would have no objection, I would suggest that instead of the word "beg" in line 1, that the words "respectfully wishes" be substituted therefor. "Her Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II" in line 2 and 3 seems rather redundant and I think it would be better to omit that phrase and substitute "Her Most Gracious Majesty."

Mr. Deputy Speaker,— I cannot imagine that there will be one dissenting voice to this Address and I know that Government will have no difficulty in understanding what is required to be done in this Address. As a matter of fact, I think I had better put it more strongly by saying what we are demanding it to be done. According to the suggestions I have made as to the possible slight change in the phraseology, Sir, I heartily support this Address. As I have said, there is nothing more important to us than to have education and more education. There is still a large number of children leaving elementary schools of this island who are unable to avail themselves of further education because of the lack of free secondary education which their ability and aptitude entitle them and of which the financial position of their parents robs them. When we pass this Address today, I am sure this will be the one thing which we will be happy in passing and which we will be unanimous as we did early today when we passed another Address which dealt with the subject of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. MAPP : Mr. Deputy Speaker,— In respect of the celebrations locally of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I am sure it will come

as a breath of fresh air to find that we are proposing to spend money on something tangible rather than on fireworks and the other celebrations which we are going to witness in the coming week. When it is stressed that we are spending \$75,000 on our Festivities, I think that a suggestion like this rather saves the day so far as this House is concerned.

Sir, I am sorry no member of the Government is in his place to listen to me, but I would like to suggest so far as Coronation Year is concerned—if we may apply that term to this Year of Grace, 1953,—that not only should we grant more scholarships, but that Government will do a spring cleaning so far as education in this colony is concerned. I do not intend to wander out of the ambit of this motion, but I feel, Sir, that it would be folly to award more scholarships to schools in this colony at a time when the holders of scholarships cannot take the best advantage of them because of the lack of any proper direction so far as education is concerned. It is for this reason that I would prefer a spring cleaning before awarding more scholarships. I would like to see some of the cobweb which entangles education in Barbados at present cleaned out. I think the best way we can begin is by sending the Director of Education to the Mother Country for a Coronation holiday. Everyday is it becoming more and more apparent that there is no policy in our education; there is nothing positive going on; there is a lack of direction and a woeful neglect in putting right the things which have gone wrong in the Education Department of this island. Not long ago, I asked questions concerning the new school at Richmond and the replies which I received to these questions are amazing. They show up the ignorance—if I may use such a strong word—that pervades the direction of our educational affairs in this island. One of the answers stated that the Richmond School would teach boys and girls to take a sense of pride in their work. Sir, this is the first time that I have heard that you build a school to teach boys to take pride in their work. In the past, Sir, there were headmasters who although being paid infinitesimal salaries as to what are received today, took so much pride in the boys of their school that they instilled in them all the sense of pride that you can wish in those youths. They were taught to do their work thoroughly whether in school or out of school; but today you have to build a big school to get that done. I think under these conditions it is a waste of time and energy and money to award more scholarships. I am not finished on this subject; but I will not say any more on it now. Had it not for the fact that the replies to my questions having been laid on the Table of this House just before the Session came to a close, I would have been able to discuss this matter at greater length. I shall however wait a more opportune time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, like the honourable seconder of this motion, feel that ten scholarships are not enough especially if you take into consideration the number of boys and girls who are knocking at the doors of secondary schools and who stand in need of such opportunity. But, Sir, I am reluctant to make any motion to add to this number because as I have expressed already, I feel strongly that we are wasting money in our educational policy. I feel this House should set apart a special day to deal with our educational system and, if necessary, pass a motion in case ministerial status takes too long to come to be sent on to the Secretary of State for the Colonies demanding the removal of the present Director of Education, or for a Commission of Enquiry into our educational system.

Sir, I would suggest to the honourable mover of this motion that he insert the words "at least" before the number "ten" in line 3 so that it would read "by the granting of at least ten (10) scholarships". This would mean that ten would be the minimum Government should award, but could award more than ten.

Sir, I am sorry that I cannot move a motion to add to this Address "that this House would appreciate in Coronation Year having a full enquiry into the educational policy of this island or the lack of it." I think this enquiry is long overdue. I think the Government will be well advised if in the near future it does something about it. I repeat that you either remove the present Director of Education or the Government set about at once in having a Commission of Enquiry into the policy of education. We are certainly not even marking time, because you are either going forward in your educational policy or you are slipping back.

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker—I am prepared to accept the suggestions of the honourable Senior member for St. Lucy and that of the honourable Senior Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. ALMA: Sir, I too would like to support the terms of this Address, more especially in view of the fact that this will be the only action on the part of the Government which will in time prove to be of a permanent and lasting nature. What I do mean is that after the illuminations and decorations to prove our loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her Coronation are over scholarship—such as these, if implemented and awarded to each of the secondary schools in this island to deserving boys and girls will in the future hold lasting memory of this Coronation Year. It is not enough in this year of grace, 1953, to celebrate the Coronation of Her Majesty with bunting and flags and things of that nature, therefore, it is for that reason that I welcome this Address and would support its passing. I regard any money spent in this direction as money well spent and to the good of the future generation as a whole.

In so far as the general educational policy of this island is concerned, I do not intend to enter in that atmosphere of the debate tonight but I will say *en passant* that the question of attempting to establish a secondary school along lines of the Richmond School gives a picture of the confused trend of thought that is prevailing so far as secondary education is concerned. Without attempting to decry the Richmond School, its educational policy is neither one thing or the other. It was created in a confused atmosphere and therefore must have a confused policy. (Cheers). If that Sir is an indication of our educational policy, it means that our educationists or the one responsible for directing our policy of education have no real sincere desire for facilitating secondary education in the proper way it should be, but is merely creating an atmosphere in which confusion must eventually arise and must exist in the minds of the populace, especially those who will have the disadvantage of passing through the present institutions of learning because they are neither secondary nor primary. I think that these modern institutions are only going to retard progress. However, I will not elaborate on that point any longer. I will only say at this stage that whoever is responsible for this laxity, whether it be the present Director of Education or his predecessor, Mr. Hayden, whom I know started this confusion, that they will realise that it is high time to see that it is working to the detriment of the youth of this colony and I hope that this present

Labour Government would soon look into the policy and have it revised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I heartily endorse the terms of this Address as moved by the honourable junior member for St. Michael and I hope that Government will not take a cheese-paring policy but that it will see fit instead of granting one scholarship to each of these schools will see fit to grant two scholarships at each. When you compare the \$75,000 which is being spent in decorations and illuminations, it will take probably about 50 years or longer before that \$75,000 will be utilised in the granting of twenty scholarships of this nature. I do not think anyone would say that there is no necessity for these scholarships. I remember quite well that there was an Address which was moved on the floor of this House for the putting into effect of free secondary education in this island. I think that Address was moved by Your Honour or that you voiced sentiments in agreement with it. I feel confident that if Your Honour were not occupying that distinguished position, but were occupying another seat, you would be very forceful in seeing that this Address be passed.

Sir, with these remarks, I am hoping that not only would Government grant ten scholarships but twice that number and with free books and everything else that will help the scholar to take the best advantage of the facilities offered him.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I am sure you would excuse me if I strike a strange note while speaking on this Address. May I ask why should an Address of this sort be brought to this House by a member of the Government Party? When one considers that this Address is asking for ten Coronation Scholarships and then remembers that in the Manifesto of the Labour Party which forms the present Government that the Party promised free Secondary Education, one can easily see that this Address speaks against the statement in the Manifesto. While I sympathise with the honourable Junior Member for St. Michael because of his good intention which caused him to move this Address yet I cannot refrain from observing the irregularity of an Address of this nature.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the honourable member mean irregularity?

Mr. ALLDER: Sir, it does appear to me an irregularity but I shall say instead that I cannot refrain from observing the incompatibility of an Address of this sort with the policy of the Government as is contained in its manifesto. I daresay that the public has read it or listened to the promises by the Labour Party of free Secondary Education, therefore, this Address means that the promise of free secondary education has been thrown to the winds and because of that, the honourable mover of it in his wisdom is forced to bring this soother to this Chamber for approval.

What I did hope to see Sir, but which I regret has not taken place is that the honourable member in his zeal has not done justice to the branch of education which needs more sympathy than this branch which is proposed in his Address. I would prefer instead of the granting of ten scholarships to secondary schools to see him suggest ten additional bursaries to each of the recognised trades.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member is at liberty to make an amendment to the Address.

Mr. ALLDER: Yes Sir, I am well aware of that, but I am going to suggest to the honourable mover of the Address—and I hope he would agree with me—that theoretically, there are many who are taking advantage of the present secondary education which is offered here, but skilled workers

are sadly lacking in the various trades through want of encouragement; therefore Government should set that example. I feel this Address should suggest to Government the need of bursaries to the various trades. I think that these bursaries would not cost as much as the scholarships to the secondary schools, but that their benefits would be more far-reaching than the scholarships. I would therefore like to suggest to the honourable Junior Member for St. Michael to make an amendment to his Address. Instead of the ten scholarships to secondary schools for which he is asking that he would insert twenty-five bursaries to the various trades of this island. I think this amendment very appropriate and desirable. Mr. Deputy Speaker, from what I am hearing around this table, I need not suggest any change; it does not seem to meet with the approval of honourable members.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable Members in favour will please say "Aye" and those against will please say "No" I think the "Ayes" have it.

I will ask the honourable Junior Member for St. Michael and the honourable Senior Member for St. Lucy to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. BRYAN: As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. BRANCKER: As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th June, 1953, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. MAPP: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This is the only day for the year which I would term as a free day for members to devote some attention to Private Members' Business. I do not think that it is fair now this opportunity occurs for some honourable members to stifle discussion by their attempts to seek an adjournment of this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th June, 1953, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye" and those against will please say "No" I think the "Noes" have it.

ADDRESS RE ERECTION OF T.B. SANATORIUM TO COMMEMORATE CORONATION OF H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next item under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the honourable Junior Member for St. Lucy to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the erection of a T.B. Sanatorium to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — In moving this short Address, I have made some slight amendments to the original and it now reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully wishes to inform Your Excellency of its desire to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by the erection of a T.B. Sanatorium or some proper place other than the Barbados General Hospital for immediate isolation and treatment.

The House of Assembly therefore requests Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to implement this Address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, During this Coronation time, I thought of this Address and am not ashamed of it standing in my name as I feel very strongly about it. Tuberculosis is a problem in our society but the reason why we do not think so is because we do not know accurately the number of notifiable cases. It is well known however, that quite a number of people in the olden days who were afflicted with this malady would see an old witch doctor who would prescribe the usual bush tea for what was then commonly called consumption. However, while this is not the case now, you still have many people so afflicted but who will not seek proper medical attention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker,—We first have to ask ourselves if there is a Tuberculosis problem but if we do not believe that a large number of cases which should be notified are telescoped, we can never think that it is a problem. The reason why I begin in this manner is because there are some people who are prone to compare a Tuberculosis Sanatorium with a lazaretto. While this is not exactly so, there is need for a T.B. Sanatorium or something like it. Medical statistics show that it takes from five to fifteen years to know whether or not a person is suffering from leprosy while in the case of tuberculosis, it is a much shorter period, for after a patient is given an X-ray examination it does take three months to know whether there is a lesion caused by the T.B. germ; sometimes it is as long as three to five years before it shows up. Having decided, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is need for a sanatorium for tuberculosis cases, or something short of a sanatorium, I do not think we should say, let the generation of 50 years from now think of erecting one. There are some people who know that there is need for such a thing, but think this way. Those people also see in the same light with respect to the erection of a Deep Water Harbour. I am one who thinks that the present generation if it sees the necessity for something should start ahead and provide that something, even if it leaves it to posterity to pay for it. This is the way I feel Government should think on this matter.

With respect to the erection of a T.B. Sanatorium, there is a school of thought which thinks that you should not worry to erect it, because from the trend of the incidence of the disease in the United Kingdom and the United States, it is a fact that the T.B. rate is going down. Because of that trend of thought, they are saying that if you have a sort of isolation ward around the other medical services that would be sufficient to meet the emergency. I think that is an error of thought. It may be quite well to have an isolation ward for T.B. around the other medical services in the United States because of the union between medical research and the hospitals, but that is not the case in this island.

If I may quote a few figures of the incidence of T.B. they disclose that in the United States at the beginning of the last decade it was 270 per 1,000, but recent figures show that it has dropped to 30 per 1,000. In Great Britain the incidence has dropped to the rate of 40 per 1,000. These figures do disclose a substantial drop in the incidence of the disease. Because of this, there are people who would say that if you erect a T.B. Sanatorium now, within the next fifty years there would be no necessity for it; it will be much like the use of our Leper Hospital to-day. I do not agree with this form of thought. I feel that once there is an incidence of the disease, there should be some proper place to treat it.

If Sir we decide that there is need for a Sanatorium, I know Government will confront us with

the enormous recurrent cost it would be. I have in hand some figures which can be used objectively as regards to the cost of such a hospital. They are taken from a recent Jamaica scale. The figures show that a hospital of 100 beds would cost \$1,000 per bed annually to run it. I take it that this means after it has been furnished and has been equipped with the necessary X-ray and pathological equipment. The erection of such a sanatorium exclusive of pass.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to second this Address and in doing so, I do not think there is much more I can add to what the honourable mover has said. I believe honourable members will recall that one of the first things I did on gaining my seat in this Chamber was to move the passing of a similar Address. With my experience of health matters in St. Michael, I felt that some steps should have been taken ever since I move that address. The time has gone on and from time to time other members of this Chamber have seen in like vein and moved similar addresses. I shall not comment more on this matter than to content myself with the words of the well-known hymn:—

“Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.”

I will be betraying no secret when I say that tomorrow I will be part of a delegation which will wait on the Head of the Administration and Health Officers to discuss the same matter. I shall therefore reserve a lot of what I would say now for that occasion. I also observe that you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from your position on another public health Board are also doing your bit to focus Government attention on this very important matter. I refer to a similar motion standing in your name on the Agenda of the Board of Health; so I think with all these forces at work and almost simultaneously, they would wield together to blot out the warped policy of those who think there is no need for this Sanatorium in Barbados. I will go as far as to say that with these forces working together as they are now and the Government of Barbados refusing on the advice of any living mortal being in the community, no matter what an expert he may be in this matter, that person would be counted as the first criminal of this colony. I say again that with a delegation from the metropolitan parish waiting on the Head of the Administration; with this Address passing this Chamber and with your succeeding in having your motion passed at the next meeting of the Board of Health, the Government will have no pretext at all in dismissing the matter. I will also say again that if Government takes any advice which will be contrary to the views put forward by these meetings, be it from any minister of health, that person would be an arch criminal of this colony.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am glad to see that the honourable mover of this Address amended it to broaden the terms in it when he inserted “or some other suitable place for immediate isolation and treatment.” With the greatest respect to medical practitioners, I would say that they are not the only persons who read public health journals and other similar publications. They are others who by their interest in public health read these publications and because of that are aware that modern discovery and treatment for this dreaded disease can go a long way in saving the lives of many who

are so afflicted instead of those persons having to be confined to a sanatorium. It is for this reason that I was glad to see the amendment to the Address.

As I speak on this subject, and look around the Table, I wonder if honourable members ever ponder over the severity of this disease. I know that none of them will vote against this Address. Sir, I have seen this disease wipe out whole families as many as eight, nine and ten of the same family while other people stood by watching helplessly. However, I would not say that this disease is on the increase to support the passing of this Address. I think it is to the contrary, but as I have said to the Minister of Health in this Chamber in private conversations and to other people who are interested, it would be an unwise thing if because figures prove that it is on the decrease that we still make no effort to bring the figures even lower. For this matter I will pay tribute to the standard of public health education to the masses in this colony over the past ten years which in a great measure has been instrumental in keeping the incidence of this disease as low as it is in this colony. I can heartily endorse the statement of the honourable mover of this Address when he referred to the olden days when people afflicted with this dreaded disease took sweats and such things, because I know that modern educational facilities in public health have partly blotted out that period which was not so long ago. People today are realising more and more about health standards and as a result, you do not find them going into hiding when they are afflicted with this disease as was the case a few years ago, but you will find that they actually go by the twos and threes to doctors and having been informed that they are so afflicted they ask for isolation.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, I think any matter of this sort should always be known to the public. Within recent times the Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital has fallen into the habit of calling upon the Commissioners of Health for the parish of St. Michael to isolate people who have been found suffering with this disease when undergoing treatment at the General Hospital. It is well known that there has been a showdown between these two parties with the result that the Health Commissioners for St. Michael have refused to take in their institution any more people so afflicted coming from the General Hospital or from any of the other parishes mainly because there is no room to accommodate them in the Isolation Ward of that institution. Therefore, from the evidence which I have received and from the facts at my disposal, Mr. Speaker, it strikes me that while we will be glad to have some proper sanatorium, the immediate necessity is not a Sanatorium, but because of modern drugs the immediate necessity is some proper place for isolation.

In seconding the passing of this Address, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope this is an occasion when the Deputy Leader of this House who should be the adviser to the Government on health matters, will give it his undivided support and would stress that there is need for a proper place for isolation. Before I sit down, I extend to him an invitation to visit the Isolation Ward at the St. Michael's Infirmary and there he will see children from the age of five years accommodated with grown-ups. If something is done speedily, it might be possible to save the lives of those children. Before I sit down I will also remind the Government that it is common knowledge that at the General Hospital when nurses protest over their working among cases of T.B. without the necessary protection, they are told that

if this malady does not carry them, something else will. Sir, that answer is not good enough. I hope the officials who make this statement at the General Hospital will discontinue saying so, in view of the fact that they more than anybody else know what state of affairs exists at that institution and that it is correct to say that there is no protection for the nurses or even the other patients there against T.B. patients.

It is known that I can make a very long speech over this matter, but as I believe every honourable member of this House is now thinking over this matter seriously, I will say no more now. I take much pleasure in seconding this Address.

Dr. CUMMINS: I would like to explain my position. The honourable member seems to be labouring under the delusion that because I am here I am supporting his motion. I am here because if I go away there would not be a quorum. I am non-committal where this motion is concerned. The honourable member has just said that nurses at the General Hospital have been told that if tuberculosis does not carry them something else will, and added that he hoped that it would be denied. The honourable member knows that a statement like that does not pin down anyone. If he wants to have something done he should say who said it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The statement was made by medical practitioners in charge at the General Hospital. In investigating a matter of that sort please do not merely let the people on one side say they did not say it.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable junior member for St. Lucy and the honourable senior member for the City to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

DEBATE ON ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I would like to proceed with Order No. 11 under Private Members' Business.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I will object. I move that the House adjourn until Tuesday 16th June.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I would just like to say—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If honourable members would keep quiet a moment, I would like to point out that if this House is adjourned without a quorum being present it will mean that at least the clerks and I will have to come here next Tuesday — Coronation Day, while honourable members will be at liberty to absent themselves and have a good time.

Mr. ALLDER: I beg to second the motion for the adjournment.

Question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 16th at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and agreed to *nem. con.* and Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.