

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 8th October, 1953.

A special meeting of the House of Assembly was held at 3 o'clock p.m. today.

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*), Mr. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., C.M.G., Q.C., Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS, (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs. M. E. COX, L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), F. L. WALCOTT, R. G. MAPP, F. E. MILLER, E. St. A. HOLDER, C. E. TALMA and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

Mr. HAYNES entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have summoned this special meeting for the consideration of two money Resolutions.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$52,118 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953—54, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953—54, No. 12, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

This Resolution is in connection with the normal Supplementary Estimates dealing with various Heads of the Estimates. I say that because I do not want honourable members to feel that we are asking them to deal hurriedly with something about which careful inquiry has not been made.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$238,457 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953—54, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953—54, No. 13 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

This Resolution is in connection with Capital Expenditure covering Water Supplies, Agriculture and Communications.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Bill intituled an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Inasmuch as this is a special meeting of the House summoned to deal with special matters, I am asking leave to move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the two Resolutions of which I have just given notice. If it is not clear to honourable members from the summons they have got, I want to say that the object of today's meeting is to make sure that it will not be necessary for the Waterworks Department to knock off during this week labourers for the payment of whom no provision has been made. As the House is well aware, there is a certain amount of capital work being done in the laying of extra mains, and, unfortunately the money which should have covered that work has not been all voted, and it is therefore necessary to have this Resolution for \$238,457 before the House. If honourable members are prepared to go on with the other items or not, I am in their hands; the important thing is to make sure that the Waterworks labourers do not get knocked off.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be now suspended.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. COX, the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, was read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider these two money Resolutions.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, — I am availing myself of the opportunity of making some general observations on the matters before us today. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said that these are the usual Supplementary Estimates, but I regard them as unusual Supplementary Estimates. It appears to me that a lot of this money is the result of the expenditure estimated to the last finan-

cial year not coming up to the estimate, and therefore these re-votes are necessary. I must say I suppose there is an explanation—whether it is a reasonable one or a foolish one—for this state of affairs, but certainly this House has been sitting regularly throughout the hot season and otherwise, and on occasions the Government has had nothing to do and to say that it will take the Government until the end of September to discover that certain monies estimated to be spent at the end of the financial year were not spent or were overspent is really asking honourable members to accept too much. There is something definitely wrong with the financial set-up of this Government. It is regrettable that these things should occur at a time when we have an expensive office in the Secretariat; if you go through these Estimates you will see that in making up the present year's Estimates certain expenditure was expected to take place at the 31st March, and at the end of September it is discovered that that is not so. There have been several Supplementary Estimates for these very Heads which have come up for consideration, I say these things in protest against the fact that such a situation has been allowed to take place.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES *RE* CAPITAL WORKS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I propose to deal firstly with the Resolution for \$238,457. It would never do for us as a Government to come into power on a promise to provide as much work as possible for people so as to ease the unemployment situation and improve the productive capacity of the island, and, of all things to have Waterworks labourers knocked off because the procedure for providing funds to pay these people for their work is not there. It would not do for us to lay ourselves open to the charge of not being up to date and keeping people out of work. If this Resolution is not passed these labourers will have to be knocked off, and nobody in this House would like to see such a state of affairs created knowing that we want to try and keep people employed. For that reason I am asking honourable members to make their criticisms and ask questions, and after they have done so I am asking them to pass these Supplementary Estimates so that we will not have to knock off these labourers. Honourable members will see what is happening; large water mains are being laid down and it is necessary to have the money with which to pay these labourers. As is customary, we are taking these Estimates Head by Head.

HEAD I — WATER SUPPLIES

Head I — Water Supplies — was called.

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

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman, — In seconding that motion I should like to say I am sure that the honourable junior member for the City is well acquainted with the time in which the various Department have to send in their estimates to the Colonial Secretary's Office, that is, at the end of September every year. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department sent in his estimate last year and he did not envisage that the material he had ordered would have arrived during this financial year. Sometimes

we order material and it arrives sometimes two or three years after it has been ordered, with the result that we have had on many occasions to pay an increase in the price originally quoted. On this occasion, fortunately for us, all the material has arrived within the financial year, and that considerably reduces the amount of money which would have been spread over the year. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department is happy to say that all his pipe and fittings necessary for the re-organisation of the water supplies have been received and he has paid for it. I think that we should all be glad to hear that because, as I say, sometimes the price of material goes up and we have to pass a supplementary Resolution so as to meet the increased cost. The amount which would have been spent over the financial year has been considerably whittled down and in order to continue this programme of work it is necessary to ask for a supplementary vote of \$200,000.

I know that honourable members will be quite pleased to hear of the progress made within this financial year. (The honourable member here gave a report of the work which has been done for the financial year up to the 31st September). This Report can be laid on the Table of the House if honourable members so desire. I would mention at this stage that the Chief Engineer has been very successful in his borings at Sweet Bottom, which is really Sweet Vale, in that he has been able to find a large quantity of water and he is hoping in the near future to close down the Bowmanston well which is always polluted at heavy rainfalls. I think honourable members will agree that the report on the work which has been carried out is a favourable one, and that with the explanation which has been given, the request for this additional amount of money is justifiable. If there is any question which honourable members want to ask in so far as the information I have given is concerned, I shall be quite willing to answer it.

Mr. LEWIS: I thank the honourable member for his long explanation as to the progress of the work which has been done by this Department, and we are extremely glad to know that such unexpected progress has been made. I think the honourable member said something about an increased cost.

Mr. COX: On a point of explanation. What I said was that this Supplementary Estimate is the result of the Chief Engineer being able to get in all his material within this financial year when he did not expect that. In the past we have always found that the order for material went over into another year.

Mr. LEWIS: I wanted to get that point clear; the programme has got to be brought forward and therefore you have to bring forward the expenditure. I wanted to assist the honourable member by finding out if this Department has been able to do work faster than some other Departments which are working under the Five Year Plan, and if so it would be advisable to enquire as to whether this Department is doing its work with its own labour or whether it is doing the work by task or what. I think that there is some method by which this Department is speeding up its work. The honourable member has given us some very good information to the effect that in the Sweet Bottom or Sweet Vale District the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department has been lucky in finding water; I intend at some time or other to put a proposal before the Government that if they continue to find water where they were told by the late Dr. Senn they would find it, the people of this colony should show their gratitude for the work

done by him. I understand that the work which is being done by the Waterworks Department is as a result of the work done by the late Dr. Senn, and if it is a fact that his report is being used to the advantage of the people of this colony, it would be an act of grace on the part of the people of this colony to attempt to discover where the late Dr. Senn's relatives are and make them some grant, ever so small, as an expression of their gratitude for the late Dr. Senn's work. The late Dr. Senn made his report for the Government free of charge and soon after he left this colony he died. I understand that he has left a widow and two children. The people of St. Lucy had to have a cart going around with water during the dry season, and the fact that they have been relieved of that burden and the late Dr. Senn's work is associated with those people getting water irrespective of the engineers of the Waterworks Department — it is something which would redound to the credit of this island if a gesture of the sort I have suggested were made.

Mr. MILLER: In supporting the remarks of the honourable junior member for the City in respect of the late Dr. Senn, I think that the Government should go out of the way to do something for the widow and children of the late Dr. Senn. It is known that Dr. Senn died as a result of bladder disease which he contracted at a well at the Pine, and his children were forced to live in a smaller house than that which they occupied when he left home. I feel that if no survey other than the late Dr. Senn's has been made in this colony as far as water is concerned, the Waterworks Department must work on the late Dr. Senn's report. I feel that whether they find water at Sweet Vale or at any other place, this Government should feel itself duty bound to pay some gratuity to Dr. Senn's widow, and that gratuity would not cost the Government any half a million dollars. If the people of this colony have benefited from the work of the late Dr. Senn, the least that we could do would be to make some grant to his widow who is in abject need.

I thank the honourable senior member for St. Michael for his report on the work of this Department; it is true that in the City they have attempted to paint the lily, but I am asking that they start a campaign for carrying out private supplies. There are too many people on the waiting list and the cost of these supplies is being made prohibitive. The Government is spending a fortune in getting water but the people are unduly delayed for their private supplies. I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Michael to see that the community does not suffer because you have to pay 33% or 33½% on the cost of imported lead pipe when the Government could use galvanise mains. If these private supplies are carried out much happiness will be brought to the needy people and the Government could reimburse the Waterworks Department of the considerable sums of money which are being spent. I think the Department should pay special attention to carrying out a campaign for providing private water supplies.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—I cannot indulge in the generosity of the honourable junior member for the City and the honourable junior member for St. George.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given some latitude in that respect but I am not entertaining any more of that.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sorry I made you change your mind. Anyhow, in view of the fact that the suggestion has been made, rather than remaining

silent about it, I would like to say that I do not support such an idea at all. To make that suggestion would be to say that you did not expect the best from the official who was paid. (Mr. LEWIS: He was not paid one cent.) Anyhow, I do not subscribe to such an idea. The rapid stride which is being made in extending the water service is commendable and I hope that this rapid stride will be extended to other Government Departments. I am told that this work is being done by task and if doing work in that way will expedite construction work, I would suggest to the Government that they continue to adopt such a method. I hope that other people will adopt a similar policy so as to get work done more economically than in the past. At the Department of Highways and Transport I think a lot of money is wasted on account of idleness on the part of certain employees; it is suggested that improvements have been made at that Department and I am hoping that that is so.

In connection with the water service, I want to say this; at Howell's Cross Road a water main is laid in an avenue for several months and householders still have to walk about half a mile to the front road so as to fetch a pail of water. The position should be that as soon as a main is extended to a new district, the water should be turned on. There is no sense in laying a main in a district where people have been suffering from the lack of water for many years and then compel those people to wait for six months before the water service is installed. Another suggestion I would like to make is this; now that you are spending so much money in extending the water service you should make the initial cost of installing new services as reasonable as possible so as to encourage more householders to install services. That is a good means of getting back your revenue; if you make the price of installing water attractive and you get 10,000 people to install water into their premises, that means a saving to you. You should not spend all this money on the extension of the water service and not try to get back something from it. I have had the experience of having to pay more than \$5.00 for repairing a joint in half an inch galvanise pipe. That is something prohibitive; it is known that you can get material from the stores in Bridgetown cheaper than you can get it from the Government. I have had to leave the Government Department and go down Broad Street and buy my equipment because I got it at a cheaper rate in Broad Street; that is something which can be supported by many people. The system of extending the water service does not call for any undue criticism, but I must draw these anomalies to the attention of the Government Bench and hope that they will be remedied in the not too distant future.

Mr. HAYNES: I want to mention the matter of the extension of the water service to the District "F" Police Station. As you know, Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult for the policemen and the horses there to get water; it is the responsibility of the Government to have water installed at this Station. Some of the money voted in the Estimates last year was to be used in this connection and I have been told that the matter has been held up because the Police Station is in the wrong place. I know that the Police Station is in the wrong place, but the Government should consider removing it. I have taken up the matter of supplying water to this Station with the honourable senior member for St. Michael and he has promised to get it settled. I am taking this opportunity of asking him on the floor of the House to redouble his activities in this direction.

Mr. TALMA: Before the question is put, I would like to ask what is the policy of the Government in so far as private water mains are concerned; I would like to know whether, in this Resolution, provision is made for the purchase of private water mains in thickly-populated districts where there are no Government mains. In these districts you will find that a great number of people are denied the right of tapping these private water mains. I want to know if the policy of the Government is to allow the tapping of these private mains. For instance, there is a private water main at Maxwell and there are dozens of householders on both sides of the road and they are denied the right of tapping this main. There is a private main at Rockley and there are many others running through roads in the suburban areas where people are denied the right of tapping those mains, or if they are granted the right of tapping them, the cost of doing so is very exorbitant. I would like to know if the Government will give householders the right of tapping these mains so that they will be able to get their water installed. I am not condemning anything; the Government's idea is actually to supply water to all or at least to as many people as possible, but I think their policy should be to purchase these private mains wherever possible so that these mains will be Government mains and they will be at the disposal of all and sundry.

Another point is this: at election time we promised the electorate that the poor people in the back tenantry roads would get water, and I want to know if we are getting ahead with this programme. I want to know if this Resolution provides not only for the front areas but also for the back roads. When you think of a place like Parish Land and those back tenancies where I had to seek votes, I would like to know what is happening. I would be failing in my duty if I did not make that enquiry.

Mr. COX: I would like to tell the honourable senior member for Christ Church that I am more than sympathetic with his suggestion as regards some of these private water mains. I had the unhappy experience of a case in the parish which the honourable member represents—a case in the St. Lawrence area. A lady up there wanted to erect a building and made arrangements with some people who owned some water mains in that area for her water service, but up to the last moment when she thought that everything was all right, the people just refused to allow her to get the service. As a result she had to suspend her activities in so far as the erection of the building was concerned. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department found a remedy for the state of affairs and this lady was able to erect her building. I am quite in sympathy with what the honourable member says, and this matter is one which I will draw to the attention of the Government and one which will have my wholehearted support.

As regards the installation of water in tenantry roads, I would like to mention that water has been installed in Water Street Tenantry. If the honourable senior member for Christ Church will remember, last year in the Estimates we provided the sum of \$250,000 for the provision of additional mains and standpipes, but in this financial year after we agreed on the Five Year Plan that amount was reduced to \$45,000 and the honourable member will see that \$45,000 can go nowhere \$250,000 will go. However, the installation of water in tenantry roads is a matter which has to be considered, be-

cause having water in these various areas is very essential.

The honourable junior member for the City is very pleased to see the progress which the Waterworks Department has made, and he asked whether the work is being done by contract or by days' labour. I will say that it is by both contract and days' labour. I am glad to know that the honourable member appreciates the good work which the Chief Engineer has done.

The honourable junior member for St. George made a point about the extension of water mains in the various areas and he also praised the work done by the Chief Engineer; I have to thank the honourable member very much for that. I am sure that both the Engineer and the Government will do their best to meet the demands as expressed by the honourable member.

The honourable junior member for St. Andrew referred to the question of installing water at the Bisset Hill Police Station. An amount of \$222,000 has been put in the Estimates for this financial year and that matter is still under consideration. I can say that I have drawn the matter to the attention of the Government and it is under active consideration.

I have to thank the honourable senior member for St. John for his praise of the work done by the Department, but he went off the point when he referred to the Department of Highways and Transport. I should like to tell the honourable member that this Department does not waste any money: later on honourable members will see that there will be a considerable saving due to the efficiency of the Director and his top-level staff. Very good work has been done at considerably less expense than in the former days. I am hoping to be able to show the honourable senior member for St. John the good work which has been done all over the country.

Mr. LEWIS: I wonder if the honourable member will recollect the remarks made in connection with the re-organisation of the water supplies during the consideration of the Estimates that, in view of the increased cost of electricity for pumping water, the Government would consider getting their own plant for working the pumps at the Belle. Honourable members will remember that the increased cost of pumping water almost exceeded the amount of revenue which the Government hoped to get from it. I asked the Government to consider whether it would not be more profitable for them to generate their own electricity for pumping this water.

Mr. ADAMS: That matter is under consideration.

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

HEAD V—AGRICULTURE

Head V—Agriculture—was called.

Mr. ADAMS: The notes to the items under this Head speak for themselves. I beg to move that Head V stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I take it that the Fisheries Development Scheme must involve the "Investigator" which is now alongside the Wharf, and there are rumours that this boat has been out of commission for a long time. I am wondering if some honourable member can give some information about this boat. I have made enquiries and I understand that this

boat has been overworked since July, that because of some defect which has developed there has been the loss of a lot of oil and then something else was discovered. I take it that this is just the normal wear and tear. This "Investigator" has cost this Government a lot of money. There are rumours that this boat is being worked to the detriment of the fishermen and it has to be kept up in the Wharf so that the fishermen cannot get at it. I hope that competent people are actually running this boat and looking after it from the navigational and other points of view, and that we are not having something which will incur expenditure without finding any new banks for fishing.

Mr. ADAMS : I have nothing in this file covering that point. This is a re-vote of money and information on every Head is here except information about the "Investigator". If the honourable member has any point to make on this matter, he can, however, bring it privately to the notice of the honourable junior member for St. Peter and get the facts, or, if he is not satisfied with that he can move the passing of an Address to the Government drawing attention to the unsatisfactory state of the "Investigator", but the question does not arise under this Head.

Mr. LEWIS : The honourable member has not looked up the right file; he has looked up the information under current estimates.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : If the honourable member knows something which he would like me to take up with the Department I am quite willing to do so; but I am not in a position now to say that the "Investigator" has been tied up since July because I am not aware of that.

Mr. LEWIS : This is a serious matter because this boat cost a lot of money. If the honourable member does not know that the "Investigator" has been tied up then I regret that because he really should have known it. However, I hope he will investigate the matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : I have work to do other than walking about to see whether a boat is tied up or whether men are missing from the Agricultural Department. The day when I have that function to perform I will perform it; up to now, I am performing my function in the House. If anything is wrong with the "Investigator" that is a matter for the Fisheries Department.

Mr. LEWIS : I do not think the honourable member should take that view of this matter; it is regrettable if he does not know that the boat is tied up, and he does not have to go to the Wharf to find that out. Let the honourable member discover what I have said through the proper channels and promise the House that he will do it.

Mr. ADAMS : We are right 99.9% of the time, but being human beings we cannot always be right. When honourable members want to know about things they will know about them, but the members of the Government do not know. Last Sunday I was at Bathsheba; it was the first time I went there for this year, I was so busy seeing about the things which the honourable members for the City should be seeing about. It is for honourable members to get information from their constituents as to what is going wrong, but how can we be blamed if for the first time we hear something on the floor of the House?

Mr. LEWIS : I thank the honourable member for the interest which he is taking in the City; but I believe he means the City of London, not the City of Bridgetown. (Laughter).

The question that Head V stand part of the

Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD VI—COMMUNICATIONS

Head VI—Communications—was called.

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

Mr. COX : I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS : This Head includes electrical installations at Seawell. I would like to know when these electrical installations at the Airport will cease to reach the four and five-figure amounts which are sent down here for them. Will this amount complete the cost of these installations at Seawell? This is one of these re-votes in connection with which it has taken the Government from the end of March until the end of September, 1953, to discover that the money they estimated to spend at the end of March would not be spent. That is something ridiculous. This House has been sitting Tuesday after Tuesday when every other Legislature has taken a holiday off during the hot weather, and what has happened? We are voting money for items in respect of which we have discovered in September that the amounts were not spent at the 31st March! I say that that is reducing things to the ridiculous; the Financial Secretary is being handsomely paid for the work he has to do and he has a department of his own. He has a particular Department for knowing whether a vote has been exhausted or whether the estimated amount has not been spent, and do you mean to tell me that it has taken the Department six months to discover that this money was not spent? — Absolutely ridiculous; Resolutions for capital expenditure have been coming in here ever since and something must be wrong. It seems to me that in the year 1952-53 they have discovered some genius at estimating; they have discovered that they want the money which was voted in 1952-53 and they must have the last penny of it. Is it a fact that these Departments have said: "We have got something outstanding from the year before and let us have the money for it now?"

Mr. ADAMS : If I were in the honourable member's position with such information at my disposal, I would probably make the same remarks; but let us read the note to this item. The note says :

"An amount of \$31,000 was provided in the 1952-53 Estimates and Supplementary Estimates. It was considered that this amount would be expended during the financial year 1952-53 and therefore no amount was re-voted in this financial year. The actual expenditure to the 31st March, 1953, was \$22,725.45 and a revote of the unexpended balance of \$8,274 is now required".

The Government is sympathetic with its critics, because in the absence of Ministerial Status, we are not in a position adequately to defend a particular proposition; but that note is pretty straightforward. We are asking for a re-vote of the balance between \$22,000 and \$31,000 because by the end of March it is likely to be spent.

The honourable junior member for St. George drew our attention to the possibility of electric bulbs and wiring being stolen from Seawell; I never heard that until I heard it in this House, but it was useful to have that matter brought to our attention. If honourable members bring these matters to our attention, we can call on the Administration and say : "Here is information; we believe our informants are willing to go to the Police and give evidence, if necessary, at the Court of Grand Sessions. We want to bring this to your attention because it was said on the floor of the House." Every honourable member can be of useful service in pointing out things which are going wrong. I have told honourable

body to do the job as soon as possible and I hope so too.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I shall deal with Item 111: (New) Rearrangements and alterations at Government Laboratory. The note to the item reads as follows: "Revote of the unexpended balance of \$1,300 of the amount of \$1,375 provided in the 1952-53 Estimates. Owing to the proposed extension of laboratory facilities by the equipment of a special Toxicological Laboratory, it was considered advisable to postpone the rewiring, etc. recommended by the Fire Officer and the Government Electrical Inspector."

I understand that it has been decided to put up a special laboratory for the Government Analyst and that it would have taken a certain amount of money but the Government intends to spend the amount on that laboratory over a period of three or four years. That means that this laboratory would not be completely finished before that time and I think that is very undesirable. As far as I have been made to understand, the amount that this laboratory is estimated to cost is very small and I do not see the reason why the whole amount should not be expended in one vote instead of giving approval to a small sum in one year and then approving of another sum in another year. If the Government considers this laboratory necessary and the estimated cost is a small one, I see no reason why the money should not be expended at one time.

As regards to what the honourable junior member for the City referred to, I would like to remind him of the speech which the Hon. E. S. Robinson made in the Other Place on the Maude Bill. He said that they were the people who were putting the money in the Treasury and they should be the ones who should say how it should be spent.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would like a member of the Government to tell me something about this new item, No. 109: Radio-Telephone Equipment.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, I too would like to know something about this item. I would like to know whether the Department of Science and Agriculture is introducing a 999 system in that department. We do not have any forest fires to fight in this country nor is this department responsible for combating cane fires as that is within the province of the Police Department. It seems to me an epidemic in the different Government Departments since the Police Department has got a 999 system that all the others wish to have the same system. Even this very Chamber seems to be infected with this disease of the desire for a radio-telephone equipment. I cannot understand why this equipment is needed at the Department of Science and Agriculture; may be, some satisfactory explanation can be given. Perhaps, the wood ant inspector is to be directed by radio-telephone how to carry out an enveloping movement on the mealy bug, the recent pest of the sugar cane.

With regard to Item No. 107: (New) Anemometer, I understand that this is an instrument for measuring wind velocity and direction. To my mind, the instrument which is now in use as an anemometer has not the constituent parts from which you can read the direction and the speed of the wind, because as far as I know, just to have four little things going around outside of a building, which while might be very interesting to watch, are not of any use for measuring wind velocity.

I certainly think that the explanatory notes which are supplied in this Chamber could be very much fuller. What we are supplied with are couched in general terms and in respect to the note on this matter, no one without any scientific knowledge of

interest of the subject would know anything about the way in which the taxpayers' money is spent in this direction. I would like to tell members of the Government that it would save a lot of time if they would draw to the attention of the different departments that they should give fuller explanation of the way in which money is being spent in these matters.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—What the honourable senior member for St. George has just said brings out more forcibly the point which I made earlier. I was speaking then on the unexpended balance from the 1952-53 Estimates in order to pay for certain equipment which was provided for in the last financial year but which has only now arrived. Within the Estimates of 1952-53, there are thousands of dollars earmarked to pay for equipment on order and it is deliberately left out of the Current Estimates. You know that this equipment is on order and will be coming at some time. You know that you will have to pay for it, but you refuse to put it in the Estimates. When you do so, you are giving a wrong picture of the finances of the colony. I say so with all seriousness. These things should be included in the Current Estimates. It is the only way that honourable members can get a true picture of the situation. The day may come when the revenue of the colony may not be as buoyant as it is now and you should not allow this slackness to go on any longer. It is wrong.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, — I am still awaiting a reply from a member of the Government with regard to the query I made about the special laboratory which is being fixed up for the Government Analyst. I merely want to know whether the amount provided for under the Head only forms part of the programme; and if the figure asked for this laboratory is more than what is stated here; whether the Government intends to spread it over a period of three or four years.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, It appears to me as if no attempt is being made by the Government Bench to reply to the questions which have been asked on this resolution. I queried about the Radio-Telephone equipment because I see no need for it at the Department of Science and Agriculture. I must say again that this is another occasion when I must await the consideration of this matter by the Other Place to know what it is all about. I think it is ridiculous if honourable members must continue to know about things in this manner. This Government has time and again shown its unwillingness to explain matters of this sort. I am therefore making an appeal to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to try and pay greater attention to the business which is being handled by this Committee. I will sit with the hope that one of the members on the Government Bench will say something on it.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, What I would say is that all these items are only a question of a revote. They are all matters which this House has agreed upon already. A certain amount of money has been passed previously to provide for each of them and through some lapse, you are asked to revote the rest of the amounts. What more can Government say about them?

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I cannot remember agreeing to the purchase of radio-telephone equipment for the Department of Agriculture. What has been happening all along is that you get a block vote for certain expenditures from this Department and on that account, you do not know exactly for what the money is to be expended. In the course of time, you see the items for which the amount was voted when you come to consider a resolution like

this. In this case, the explanatory note does not give a full explanation. Along with that, members of the Government will not give a fuller explanation or do not know for what purpose is the item needed. If the last supposition is true, a member of the Government can be discreet enough to get up and say so and promise to give the necessary information at some other time. Instead of that, as I look around the Table, I see the honourable senior member for St. Joseph indulging in a sideline discussion which I feel can better be done in the drawing room of the honourable senior member for the City with whom he is speaking. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, behaviour like this outrages me. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph knows that if he had to scrape a lone vote or two to get this resolution passed, he would give greater attention to it.

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

HEAD XXIII (5) — BOARD OF HEALTH

Head XXIII (5) — Board of Health was called.

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

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like it to be recorded that as a member of the Board of Health I find it strange that this matter has come up for consideration in this Chamber and has not been put before the Board. The Board has not been paid the courtesy of knowing that this vote has been exhausted and needs supplementing. I feel that this should not be so.

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

HEAD XXIX — MISCELLANEOUS

Head XXIX — Miscellaneous was called.

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

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I shall deal with Item 31: Payment of passages of Public Servants. I understand from the note that almost the entire vote in the Current Estimates has been expended up to the 31st August, the commitments including payment of passages on first appointment of eight officers and the return passage of one officer on agreement. I do know that quite recently we have had two officers who came to this island after they had retired, and though they were on a three-year contract in the first instance, after putting in a few months' service they had to return to their homes. I refer to the late Accountant General and more recently to the Income Tax Commissioner.

Sir I feel that a public statement should be made as to whether this Government just pick up these 'lame ducks' and pay their free passage hither and thither from this island. No matter how efficient officials like these may be, when they come here on re-employment after retiring from some other place, there should be a system on which they should be medically examined. I do know that there are some regulations to this effect but it does seem strange to me that some of these officials are coming to this island periodically and having to go back shortly after they take up their appointment. I am also wondering whether when it so happens if this Government is called upon to pay their return passages. It means, as in the case of the Income Tax Commissioner, that this Government is paying the coming

out and return passages of this officer and within the allotted time of the contract will have to pay for the coming out passage of another officer to fill the post; that is, three sets of passage money paid in the course of a year. A statement should be made in this connection. I know that some people will say that these officials were medically examined previous to taking up the appointment and found to be fit enough to assume the post but after they came out: they contracted some tropical disease. Whether this is so or not, this House should be told. I do not know what are the regulations governing an official who has to return before his contract is ended because he finds himself a sick man. Is this Government in honour bound when these sick officials are sent here to pay their passages back when they have only worked for a short period of the contract—say for a few months or the course of a year? I think a statement should be made because people are enquiring about it. I hope honourable members do not think that I was personal when I referred to those officers. Referring again to the late Accountant General, I understood that he had a bad heart and it grew worse as a result of his coming here.

Another aspect to the question is that this vote of \$10,000 for passages has been exhausted within the course of less than half of the financial year. Now that we are paying good salaries to these officers, are we losing because of that? Certainly an explanation is necessary. You have people coming to the island and going back shortly afterwards and one of the reasons is that they are sick. This Government is called upon to pay the passages of that officer back. There was an officer who came out to the General Hospital recently and within a month after he had taken up his office, he had to go back to England for medical treatment. I think it was because of eyesight troubles. Certainly that officer should have taken that specialised treatment before he came out here. Every honourable member should be interested in this matter to discover what is happening with the people's taxes because we levy these taxes and sometimes the people find them hard to pay.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I leave this matter in charge of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas and I regret that I have to leave at this stage owing to a pressing appointment. I would just like to say that some time ago, the *Advocate* made an absolutely undeserved and unwarranted attack on two officers of this Government Service when it stated that this Government had in its Service all lame people. Very often the Government has ignored these stupid attacks on officials but replying most forcibly to that statement in the *Advocate*, Government took pains to point out to the public of Barbados that anybody who has been selected to take up any of these appointments with Government is carefully examined before they are appointed to the position. One or two honourable members go out of their way to attack this Government or some officials of the Service, but who would have imagined that the honourable junior member for the City who has so much time to search things up does not know all of that or cannot appreciate it. Mr. Charlton, the late Accountant-General is now in his grave. The honourable member has found it his duty to attack that unfortunate individual.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I must protect myself. I have never attacked anybody. I merely said that officials appointed to the Government Service after they have retired from service in other places come here and get sick soon after they have taken up their positions. They are given their passages hither and thither. I mentioned the names

of two officials or of their jobs to direct the Chamber to whom I was referring. I did not attack any person.

Mr. ADAMS: I was saying that nobody takes up any appointment with the Government without medical examination and I will say further . . . (The honourable member for St. Lucy is carrying on a vociferous aside with the honourable senior member for St. Michael).

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, Will the honourable senior member for St. Joseph distinguish as to which of the two honourable members for St. Lucy he is referring?

Mr. ADAMS: I mean the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. I think that almost every honourable member of this House knows that the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has the great distinction of being almost the first colonial leader of a Fascist organisation in Great Britain therefore, I cannot accuse him of being a Communist.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, All that I am saying is that it is not true that the lame, the halt and the blind can come out and take up an appointment with this Government without medical examination. Even with ordinary twenty and thirty-year-olds in the Government Service it cannot be done, let alone appointments like the late Mr. Charlton who was retired from services before he was appointed. I say again that it is the duty of people like the honourable junior member for the City,—especially that honourable member who is unique in this respect and makes it his special duty—to keep the Government centred on matters like this. Members of Government, like all other honourable members are fallible and if we do not have people like the honourable junior member for the City to point us to mistakes, we are liable to make them; but when the honourable member is suggesting that the Government has done something wrong in this respect and has not seen to it that his facts are right but is suggesting that Government has allowed itself to be fooled by somebody, I cannot sit and allow that. I must point out that that is not true. What the honourable member is suggesting is that these officials come out here with some disease which they did not allow you to discover, therefore, you should not pay to send them back to England.

Mr. Chairman I am apologising for having to leave now. It is not that I am willingly running away but I have a pressing engagement to which I must attend. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas will handle this matter in my absence.

I am appealing to the honourable junior member for St. Lucy for somewhat interrupting his impassionate discourse. Doubtless, the honourable members is making it clear that he is an expert on being born in mud. He is so noisy in his behaviour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the honourable junior member for St. Lucy to keep quiet.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I will obey your instructions.

Mr. ADAMS: I will say again that Civil Servants come here to take up appointments but before they are allowed to take up their respective appointments they must have a thorough medical examination. For any honourable member to keep on saying that this Government allows itself to be fooled by somebody who come here with an illness and after he gets here he makes out a case that he has contracted some tropical disease is absolutely unfair. An accusation like that can come only from the honourable junior member for the City. Again, I apologise for having to leave at this moment. If the honourable member wishes to say anything about the matter, I hope he will repeat it when I am in the House.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I only rise to say that ingratitude is worse than obeah. It is ingratitude that has caused me to have a lot of time on my hand. I have paid for it dearly. I am sorry that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph did not leave it to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to reply to the simple question I asked. I said that I knew that there was some regulation which made it necessary for people who come here to take up an appointment to submit to some medical examination before they come out here but it is a fact that after some of them come out here they get a medical certificate to show that they developed some tropical disease. Notwithstanding that, I have heard of one who developed a disease that could not be discovered before he came out here; so I was asking: Do you pay the passage back under circumstances such as that? Are you going to allow the Colonial Office to throw on you more retired people than is absolutely necessary?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Again, I must speak to the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. I am appealing to him for the second time to keep quiet. If the honourable member continues with his interruption, I will have to get His Honour the SPEAKER to take the Chair.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, As I have said already, I have nothing against any of these officers. I merely gave the names of the officers so that you will know the particular circumstances. People are enquiring about this matter. They are saying that Barbados seems to be the only place where the public is burdened with these passages on account of so many cases of illness soon after these officers from away take up their appointments. We pride ourselves with the statement that Barbados is the best governed place in the Caribbean but I do not think this sort of thing happens in the other colonies.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I apologise if my asides with the honourable senior member for St. Michael caused any interruption. It is true to say that when you apply for a post in the Service you have to submit to a medical examination and if you have any disease whether tropical or otherwise, you have to disclose it. Despite all that safeguard you do get people coming out with an illness which was either not disclosed or of which they were not aware. I too have heard that the last Income Tax Commissioner suffered from blackouts which forced him to return to his home a few months after he was appointed. What I say, I have heard from a doctor. I always like to be informed by someone who should know; generally, I take my advice from people who are in a position to give it expertly. A doctor said that many Barbadians suffer from that illness also, so it could be that the Income Tax Commissioner developed that illness over here. If that officer had that illness before he came out here he would have had to disclose it. But that is a small matter. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph always thinks that everybody is wrong in their statements and the Government is always correct and his manner is very hostile. I want to tell all the members of the Government including his pimps. . . .

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I object to the remarks of the honourable member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable junior member for St. Lucy must withdraw those remarks.

Mr. WILLIAMS: If I may put it more charitable, I would say his satellites. When I came back from England the Leader of the House—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. If you are

going to make any remarks towards the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, he is not in his place.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am not responsible for that. I was asking him to stay. When I returned to this island I did not ask the Leader of the House to take me into his party. He asked me whether I would join it and I willingly joined to help the progressive cause. I will say here and now whether I remain in Barbados or not that I will encourage any person who wants to help in the progressive cause to keep out of his party and away from him as long as he continues to have that attitude.

Mr. BARROW: I think the attitude of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph towards the honourable junior member for St. Lucy—in fact, both honourable members for St. Lucy—was quite unfair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the honourable member to deal with the head under the Schedule of the resolution. I am not going to give any more latitude in this respect.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise to deplore the attacks on three of my colleagues by the honourable Leader of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will not entertain that.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would only like to crave your indulgence relative to this matter which I think is of great public importance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not entertaining it.

Mr. BARROW: I am indeed very sorry that this House is not interested in matters of public importance. If however, I cannot succeed in raising this matter now, at a later stage, I will move the adjournment of the House to deal with it.

Sir, I hope when I sit down I will get answers to some questions which I shall ask in a moment and that no further attacks will be made on my colleagues or on myself. Speaking on Item 31, Payment of passages of public officers, under Head XXIX with which we are dealing, I would like to tell this House that I have heard from a good authority that the Chairman of the Medical Council or such a body is contemplating making a test case of the issue that there is an influx and exodus of medical officers at the General Hospital before their contracts are expired. I would like to know from the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, who should be acquainted with this matter, whether this is true or not. I would also like to know from the same honourable member whether in view of the fact that representation has been made by these public officers about conditions which they find existing here but which ought not to exist, or for some other reason, the Government finds itself bound to pay the return passages of some of these officers soon after they have taken up their appointment. I understand that four or five such passages had to be paid by the Government in one month. Obviously, the fund which you pay passages to Barbados and from Barbados is divided as can be seen from the explanatory note to this item because it states that known commitments include payment of passages on first appointment of eight officers and the return passage of one officer on agreement. From what I have been made to understand, within three months, we had to send back and pay the return passage of a doctor who took up his appointment only a few months previous to his resigning and it appears to me as if we cannot do anything about it although he was appointed on contract for three years in the first instance, as is the case when these officers are appointed. We cannot sue these people for a breach of contract because representation has been made for their appointments here by our agents, not necessarily the Crown Agents. These agents are

people who are sitting down in offices in the United Kingdom and who do not know anything of conditions in Barbados at all. As a result of this, I would like to know from the honourable junior member for St. Thomas whether it is true that representation has been made by the British Medical Services on behalf of this island whenever there is a need for an appointment to our medical services, and if these representations have been made, whether because of condition existing in this colony, we find ourselves having to apologise to these officers and to pay their return passages before the end of the contractual period. I would also like to ask the Government how many officers who have come here during the last five years to take up appointments on contract have fulfilled the terms of their contracts. I would also like to know how many officers who have come here during the last twelve months on contract have not fulfilled the terms of their contract. These are the questions which I would like to get answers, if not today at some other time. I will be prepared to wait until Doomsday for the answers. I am not going to reflect on the question whether this Government should be paying leave passages as it is not called for under the head of the Schedule with which we are dealing.

There is another question I would like to put.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is asking many questions. He should put them in writing.

Mr. BARROW: I can do so later, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know whether Government is aware of any discrimination being practised in the appointments of Barbadians taking up posts in the Public Service in contradistinction with Englishmen or other island personnel who are appointed here. Why I ask that question is because I understand that there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the officers of the Public Service because the Government has given certain concession to officers from the United Kingdom which are not given to Barbadians.

One other thing, Mr. Chairman. I refer to Item 9, Cleaning of Government lands. I hope the Government is aware of the deplorable insanitary conditions which prevail at the property known as Stockton. It is a vast breeding place for mosquitoes and a virtual thicket. I hope Government will pay some attention to the cleaning of this site in order to keep it reasonably free of undergrowth and breeding places for mosquitoes.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I must say that you have tried your best to enable honourable members to get answers to their questions. You have allowed questions to be asked over and over again, but it appears as if you have failed in your attempt. It is regrettable that honourable members after being perfectly satisfied to attend this emergency meeting at short notice—my summons was handed me only the night before—and even at such short notice they have shown interest in their work by asking what I consider to be requisite questions to the issue and members of the Government seeming to have no desire to give answers to them.

The honourable senior member for St. George mentioned something about medical officers resigning their posts at the General Hospital soon after they have been taken up. I understand that part of the difficulty in securing personnel for the General Hospital is because of the unholy alliance between the Superintendent of the General Hospital and the Director of Medical Services. That state of affairs makes the tenancy of employees at that institution almost unbearable, and it is more apparent when it affects professional people. Sometime ago, this House

was denied the opportunity of hearing of a particular affair which took place at the General Hospital. I think it was in connection with the death of someone in which there was difficulty in finding the records. If you have someone who is taking the opportunity of his position to exercise dictatorial powers on medical personnel who come out here on contract and because of such action they have to return before their contract has expired and owing to such circumstances they must be given a free return passage, it seems to me that when you get an officer in that position you might be able to establish claims of giving him his return passage. I hope matters like that will be answered.

I have read the lengthy note on Item 9, Cleaning of Government lands. It refers specifically to the cleaning of the wharf. When I read it, it struck me that the Wharf must be Crown lands. I know that there are arrangements between the Central and Local Government for cleaning of certain places but if this vote is for general cleaning of the Wharf and as stated, it must be done by the Sanitary Department of St. Michael, it appears to me that schooner captains who come alongside the Wharf and who are responsible for any mess that they may make alongside their berth, that they will not be responsible for cleaning up this mess after this action has been taken. Previously, the Sanitary Department undertook the scavenging of the Wharf. The authorities have now discovered that instead of getting a scavenging unit of theirs that they should let the Scavenging Department of the Commissioners of Health do the cleaning for which the Government would pay. I think the Wharf is regarded as a Public Highway. The Police Department makes Highway Regulations to suit it. I was never aware that the Government was responsible for cleaning of the Wharf. I know that it has become a virtual frontage for the storing and sale of coals and wood. I know that the Government has issued instructions that the people who are engaged more or less in trade alongside the Wharf that they should be held responsible for any mess which they should make. I hope this responsibility would not be observed in the breach. I hope that the acceptance of responsibility on the part of the Government for this cleaning would not lead to downright carelessness on the part of those who are now responsible for that cleaning.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like the honourable junior member for the City to understand that although the Wharf is a public highway that only a part of it comes under the Highways Act of 1908 and that the distinction of the Wharf does not include the cement portion of it; so technically speaking, only a part of the Wharf is a public highway. It therefore seems to me that you are going to get an anomalous position if it is discovered that there is refuse lying partly on the cement portion and partly on the other portion and who should be responsible for that refuse. Let us say that a broken barrel is found lying partly on the road and partly on the cement portion. Will the Commissioners of Health clean only that part of the Wharf which is a public highway and leave undone the other portion and as in the case which I cited of the barrel overlapping that the Commissioners would consider that it is not within their province to remove it? I wonder if the Government has given the Commissioners of Health the responsibility of cleaning the whole area of the Wharf. It seems to me a very peculiar situation. If this is not done, you will find that refuse will still continue to drift from one side on to the other and somebody would still be saying that it was not their responsibility.

Mr. LEWIS: I thank the honourable senior member for St. George for that information.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am not attempting to answer all the questions. In the first place, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph before leaving the Chamber had spoken at some length and in the second place, I did not hear all of what was said because two honourable members on my immediate left were at one time engaged in a private conversation which was very audible to me. I did not hear all of what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said but I think he did answer the questions of the honourable junior member for the City. Apparently, the honourable junior member for the City is not satisfied with the reply. The honourable member however ought to know that anybody coming here on contract to take up an appointment is examined medically so that if they should come here and take sick before the expiration of their contract and have to return, their return passage will be paid. This is not done in Barbados alone; it is done in every British country.

The honourable senior member for St. George has asked many questions and I intend to tell him privately that if he wants replies to them, he will have to put them in writing. I did not get them clearly when he asked them.

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

HEAD XXX—INCOME TAX AND DEATH DUTIES

Head XXX—Income Tax and Death Duties was called.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXX stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXXII—DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT.

Head XXXII—Department of Highways and Transport was called.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXXII stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, For some months now, the labourers of this Department have been very dissatisfied. They are saying that the Head of that Department who is not in need of money has got his back-pay and they who live from hand to mouth will have to wait for over a year before they get theirs. There is nothing under the Head set down for these people, nor does the explanatory note inform me that provision is being made to give them backpay. This is very discouraging. Sir, when you have employees such as these and you allow some trifling to create discontent in their minds, the taxpayers have to pay for it because discontent prevents a man from giving of his best while on the job. In that mild manner I am hoping to hear that provision will shortly be made whereby these employees will get what has been promised them.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman, On this question of backpay generally, I should like to tell the honourable member that about ten weeks ago, I was working on that matter. It included some increase as well as retrospective pay for these labourers who work at that Department. I think the honourable member would appreciate the fact that all established and unestablished employees have already received their increased wages as well as their backpay. It is the casual workers who have not been fully attended to.

and it is due to the manner in which they are employed. When I say casual workers, I mean those workers who may work for Government for a whole week, a few days in the next and then may be laid off for a period before they are re-employed. On account of that casual way of working, it takes some time in searching up the various records for the compilation of the work each of them has done in order to determine their backpay. The Department of Highways and Transport had finished their work in this respect some weeks ago, and has sent the matter on to the Audit Department. As honourable members know, the Auditor General is out of the island and Mr. Ramsey, who is a very efficient clerk in that Department has recently left the island on a course and as a result of that, the work of that Department has not moved on as sufficiently fast as one would like.

I want to assure the honourable member that up to yesterday I was at the Waterworks Department looking into this question and it appears to me that it is only a matter of days before these people get their retrospective pay. I am in deep sympathy with these people. I too feel that they should have been given their retrospective pay long ago but I am convinced that owing to the nature of the work which they do and the manner in which they are employed that better could not be done. I saw an officer from the Audit Department working on these figures and he was doing his very best in order that these sums could be paid shortly. In addition to that, honourable members should know that a cost of living allowance is also calculated on the sums which are paid to these people and that complicates matters and makes it more difficult and arduous to reach a correct total. I however will give the honourable member the assurance that in the very near future these people will be given what is due to them.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable senior member for St. Michael might be able to make out a case for the Audit Department but there is a little something which I have heard which would tend to decrease the blame on that Department. There seemed to be some ruling given at first to some Departments that casual workers who worked for a certain period of time were not entitled to this backpay but later another ruling was given rescinding that so that a further research had to be made in the matter. I say that for what it is worth.

Mr. COX: I appreciate the remarks made by the honourable member. When this question of retrospective pay was first gone into, I understood that an order was issued to the various departments that persons who had worked for less than 150 days would not have been entitled to it. I took up the matter with the then Financial Secretary and he told me that he had given that order based on a decision of 1949. I then drew to his attention that it was a mistake. While it is true that it was decided to do so at first due to the fact that it would entail a lot of work, that decision was revoked by Government and it was finally decided to pay everybody. Apparently, the Financial Secretary lost sight of the second decision. After I drew the matter to his attention, he sent another circular to the various departments telling them that they must give retrospective pay to all employees who had worked during the period even if they had been employed for only a day. I became aware of that situation after some representation had been made to me by some individual who had been working at the General Hospital but had gone home sometime after the date from which retrospective pay was to be given and my going into the Audit Department to see about it.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am well aware that you have given some latitude to discuss this question under this head but be that as it may, I am craving your indulgence to just draw another little matter to the attention of the Committee. I would just like to remind this Committee that every year there is a considerable amount of money set down to be spent on plant, tools, spares and equipment for the Department of Highways and Transport. Already this year, \$30,250 has been voted and it is now supplemented by \$4,500. What I want to draw to the attention of the Committee most particularly is that every year there are vast sums voted under the Supplementary Estimates for this Department. I do hope that under the new regime this item of plant, tools, spares and equipment, would receive greater attention than previous. I think that thirty, forty and fifty thousand dollars is more than a reasonable sum to be spent in that manner every year. It is something which should be watched.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman, I hate to rise again but I do so to assure the honourable member that the Director of Highways and Transport has been giving attention to this matter and has told Government that many of the tools of that Department have become obsolete and he intends to get a set of modern tools which he hopes would last for many years. He has also suggested that the tools which would not be of further use to the Department could be sold at auction by the Government Auctioneer.

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

HEAD XXXV—HOUSING BOARD.

Head XXXV—Housing Board was called.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXXV stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, The amount of \$285 which is put down under this Head is for the purchase of a safe and I take it that this is a new item for that Department. I would have expected that since the Housing Board have been called on to collect money by way of rents, over that lengthy period it would have had a safe already. I do not know if they overlooked the security of having a safe. However, I am very glad to see that though to my mind a safe should have been secured for that Department a long time ago, it is being sought to provide one now. It is not set down as a new item, probably, it might have been an item of furniture before, but it does not strike me as such.

Mr. COX: Yes Sir, this is a new item. What really happened before at this Department was that as soon as money was collected, the messenger took it to the Treasury. That was a daily occurrence. Recent experience is that the messenger cannot get to the Treasury in time on all occasions and as a result, the Manager-Secretary has to take home the money with him for better security than if it were left at the office. He feels that it would not be quite safe at his home either and therefore he has asked for a safe for the office.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this Resolution for \$52,118 do now pass.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case the resolutions passed in Committee of Supply were read a first and second time and then agreed to.

DOCUMENT LAID

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—On behalf of the honourable junior member for St. Peter, I am asking permission to lay a document.

Mr. LEWIS: Before that permission is granted I want to say that I am not going to object to the laying of the document, but when you are prevailed upon to hold a special meeting of the House, it should be regarded as a special meeting of the House at which particular items are dealt with.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This document was released from the Colonial Office today. As we have it today and the honourable member is one of those who object to the Press getting something before the Legislature gets it, we considered that this document which deals with the Industrial Mission should be laid before the House today before it is released to the Press. That is why we are asking leave to lay it.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to lay the Report of the Mission of the United Kingdom industrialists on industrial development in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and British Guiana.

Mr. BARROW: I am sure that honourable members will be glad that this Report has been laid, but surely some arrangement could be made whereby in any matter in which a colonial Legislature is involved, the authorities could make a release at some time, say a few weeks prior to the release through Her Majesty's Stationery Office in London. Even if the honourable junior member for St. Peter in all his zeal had caused an emergency meeting of the House to be held at 8 o'clock this morning, in view of the fact that Her Majesty's Stationery Office would have released the document four hours earlier, it is quite possible for an evening paper in one of the colonies to be vouchsafed this information long before any colonial Legislature was vouchsafed it. Perhaps this is a matter over which the House has no control, but I wish the members of the House would ask the Colonial Office to extend to them the courtesy of giving us an adequate preview of any matters which so deeply concern our economic and industrial future.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—That concludes the business of this meeting and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

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