

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th October, 1953.

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

Present:

His Honour, Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*).
Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Mr. C. E. TALMA, and Mr. L. A. WILLIAMS, LL.B.
Prayers were read.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting of the 29th September, 1953, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. MILLER entered the House and took his seat.

DOCUMENTS.

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

Also, Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of the Commissioners of Highways, St. George, for the half-year ended 30th September, 1953;

Also, Statement of Revenue and Expenditure on tenantry roads by the Commissioners of Highways St. George, for the half-year ended 30th September, 1953.

PAPERS LAID.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I beg to lay Message No. 24/1953 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable House of the Acts assented to in the name of and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Message reads as follows:—

Message No. 24/1953.

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

The Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the following Acts have been assented to in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen:—

The Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1953 (1953—26).

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1953, (1953—27).

The St. George's and St. Thomas' (Highways Inspectors) Act, 1953 (1953—28).

The Higher Education (Loan Fund) Act, 1953, (1953—29).

The Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export (Amendment) Act, 1953, (1953—30).

The Public Utilities Act, 1951 (1953—31).

The Quarantine (Amendment) Act, 1953 (1953—32).

The Christ Church Parish Loan Act, 1953 (1953—33).

The Naturalization (Amendment) Act, 1953 (1953—34).

The Underground Water (Repeal) Act, 1953 (1953—35).

The Saint Peter's (Highways Inspectors) Act, 1953 (1953—36).

The West Indian Sea Island Cotton (Exemption from Duty) (Amendment) Act, 1953 (1953—37).

The Old Age Pension (Amendment) Act, 1953 (1953—38).

The Medical Registration (Amendment) Act, 1953 (1953—39).

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.

23rd October, 1953.

(M.P.—1216 Vol. II). ~~767/20~~

Dr. CUMMINS: Also on behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I have the honour to lay the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1953.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House the Animals (Importation) Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1953.

Mr. ADAMS, Mr. MAPP and Mr. BARROW entered the House and took their seats.

PETITION:

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of the Parish of St. George praying the House to pass a Bill to give them authority to raise a loan for the sum of £6,000 for the purposes of repairs to parochial buildings of the parish and erecting and equipping a Communal Bath. The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petition was taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1953.

Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$2,727 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimate, 1953-54 Part I, Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953-54, No. 17 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$480 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. 18, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. CUMMINS: I also beg to give notice that I am asking for leave to suspend Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the resolution for \$480 of which I have just given notice.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money resolutions of which I have just given notice.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to give notice of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House are of the opinion that in view of the prospects of an abnormally large sugar cane crop and the fact that there has been a marked decrease in the number of sugar mills in the colony, Government should at an early date make the necessary arrangements with each sugar factory to ensure that the processing of peasants' or smallholders' canes is not unduly delayed as has happened under similar circumstances in the past, to the financial detriment of the said peasants or small holders.

The House are also of the opinion that these arrangements should include the drawing up of satisfactory weekly schedules for the receipt of a pre-determined amount of canes from the said peasants or small holders who normally supply canes to the said factories.

The House desire to emphasize that,

(a) the manufacture of sugar constitutes the main industry of the colony and its importance is such that the general welfare and prosperity of a large proportion of farmers and workers depend upon it;

(b) the processing of canes into sugar must take place if the small cultivators are to derive any profit. These cultivators are so dependent on the manufacturers that they are faced with the practical danger of finding themselves at their mercy, a fact which is almost always translated into arbitrary control;

(c) Sugar cane is, after a certain period, an easily perishable product;

(d) the relation between the producer and the manufacturer is a peculiarly close one and this relation is of vital interest to the community in general.

These and a variety of other reasons which need not be enumerated here, demonstrate the deep public interest involved in the sugar industry and justify regulation of certain of its phases in the sense of a public utility service.

Mr. BARROW: I beg to give notice of a Bill from the Vestry of the parish of St. George to authorise them to raise a loan of £6,000 in order to enable them to carry out extensive repairs to parochial buildings and to erect and equip a Communal Bath.

QUESTIONS

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

Is Government aware of the fact that Back Pay Sheets for the Elementary School Teachers have been completed by the Department of Education and sent on to the Audit Office for over a month?

2. Is it a fact that since these Pay Sheets have reached the Audit Office none of the Staff of the Audit Department have been detailed to audit them?

3. If the answer to No. 2 is in the affirmative will Government take steps to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs?

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

Is the Government aware that the Schedule of fees payable to District Auctioneers under the District Auctioneers Act 1904 is in need of revision upwards?

If the answer be in the affirmative will the Government please take the necessary steps to do so?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. BARROW, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. George to raise a loan of £6,000 for the purposes of repairs to parochial buildings and erecting and equipping a Communal Bath was read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be now suspended in order to deal with the resolution which I gave notice earlier to-day.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion which was agreed to.

SPEAKER'S ATTENTION DRAWN TO ADDRESS

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw to Your Honour's attention that an Address has just been given notice of by the honourable senior member for St. Philip which as far as I have heard deals with enactments. It seems to conflict with the Sugar and Fancy Molasses Control Act, 1943, which makes provision for dealing with the question of grinding peasants' canes. I do not know if Your Honour is aware of it, therefore I would draw to your attention Section 7 of the Act where you will find that the Sugar and Fancy Molasses Control Board is given the authority to deal with anything like that. Questions as what I have heard in the Address are dealt with annually by that Board, especially when there is a big crop to be reaped. I therefore draw it to Your Honour's attention.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour and I have ironed out this Address before I gave notice of it. In the first instance, it does not conflict with any Act and in the second instance, it does not merely deal with peasants' canes but also suggests that the time has come when the whole system of manufacturing sugar should be declared a public utility service. I am sure that there is no Act on the Statute Book to deal with that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to inform the House that the honourable senior member for St. Philip submitted that Address to me before presenting it. I perused it and found that it was quite in order.

ORDERS NOS. 1 & 2 POSTPONED

Dr. CUMMINS: I am asking leave to postpone Orders Nos. 1 and 2, and am asking that Order No. 3 be taken as the first Order of the Day. There being no objection, leave was granted the honourable member.

BILL TO AMEND APPRENTICESHIP BURSARIES ACT, 1928

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day now stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928.

Dr. CUMMINS: Sir, This Bill deals with the emoluments paid to a Master Workman under the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928. These workmen formerly received £4 for teaching apprentices their different trades and this Bill seeks to amend that amount by a raise upward to the sum of \$30. Take note that on this occasion the amount is in dollars instead of pounds. I would like to say that not so long ago, the number of these bursaries was increased. There were 24 formerly but now they are an unlimited number. The amount paid to the apprentices was also increased and I think it is only fair that in view of the rising cost of living, tools and materials that these master workmen be paid something extra.

Under Section 2 of this Bill it will be noted that it seeks to amend Sub-section 1 of section 3 of the principal Act by deleting therefrom the word "bursaries" where the same occurs after the word "approve." The reason for that is that in 1951 when the Act was amended, it deleted in that sub-section of that section the words "twenty-four" and the following words were inserted in its place: "such number of bursaries as the Legislature by resolution shall approve." The word "bursaries" after

the word "twenty-four" was erroneously left in. This section of this Bill deletes that word and "Sub-section (1) of section 3 of the principal Act will now read as follows:—

"The Board may during the operation of this "award to suitable candidates on condition of their "becoming apprenticed to approved master workmen in such trades respectively as the Board may "select, such number of bursaries as the Legislature "by resolution shall approve of the value and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth and to "such further conditions as may be prescribed by "regulations."

Section three of this Bill amends section (4) of the principal Act by deleting the words "four pounds" and substituting the words "thirty dollars."

These are the amendments to the principal Act and I beg that this Bill be now read a second time. Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the Government to one point relative to bursaries. I take it that these bursaries are awarded to boys whose parents are in straitened circumstances and by the awards, Government wishes to help these boys to learn a trade properly. Now Sir, there is the case of an apprentice who was sent to learn his trade at the Barbados Foundry but he was dismissed from this particular place some time ago, it being said that this boy spoilt \$73.60 in work. Because of that, there is no more employment for him there.

Now Sir, this particular boy was at that Foundry for the purpose of learning his trade and I am wondering how that boy spoilt that amount of work if he were learning his trade. Certainly he was placed in a higher position than an apprentice to be able to spoil that amount of work. Whatever may have been the case, the fact remains that this boy has been dismissed and although entreaties have been made on his behalf, the foreman would not re-admit him at that foundry. The mother of the boy said that she was quite willing to pay for the damages and though that offer was made, that boy is still refused re-admission.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: That boy has been reinstated.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I have just understood that that boy has gone back to work but it was only yesterday that I went to that particular Foundry, made enquiries and understood that the boy was still denied re-admittance. The person whom I interviewed at first—I think he is the Superintendent—told me that the occurrence happened so long ago that he was finished with it. I then said that I would like to know the reasons for the dismissal and he told me that the only thing the boy was dismissed for was because of spoiling the work. I then went to the foreman and talked the matter over with him and he told me that the boy would not be taken back because he was rude. Under the circumstances, I do not know what to believe. I will only ask this question: What good this Government is paying money to people to learn youngsters a trade and then for this foreman to be in a position to dismiss this boy because he spoilt work? Bear in mind, the Superintendent said that the only reason why the boy was dismissed was because he spoilt work, and as I have said, the mother of the boy says that she is quite willing to pay for the damages in order that the boy should complete his trade. I went to another foundry and enquired whether he could be taken there to complete his trade and I was told that it could not be done. I am throwing out to Government that if it is going to allow these youths to be treated in that manner

by an individual or individuals and then offer any excuse to members of this Assembly when we investigate the matter, I shall ask the Government to set up a Committee to enquire into this matter of bursaries.

I do know of another case, but that was one in which the boy was really wrong and he was discharged. His case is one which I would say we should forget, but the case with this particular boy at the Foundry is one which we must do something about. Here it is that this boy's mother is quite willing to pay the damages so that the youngster can be reinstated and become a decent citizen and one man at that Foundry is in a position to say: "Go, and go for good." I do not think that is good enough if this Government is spending money to learn these youths trades. This Government should be in a position where it could see to it that if any of its apprentices commit a fault, that they should be punished or if they spoil goods, that some amends should be made although I do not think that an apprentice should be entrusted with that amount of money in goods. I look at it as carelessness in the foreman to allow a boy to spoil that amount of goods. What is the good of us sitting here and voting money yearly, both for these apprentices and the master workmen when a master workman can chase home an apprentice and without justifiable reasons? I would say that this is a case where it is unjustified to send away the boy particularly in view of the fact that the mother was quite willing to pay for the damages. Sir, I think something should be done in this matter.

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

Mr. BRYAN entered the House and took his seat.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

The four clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, As you know, when this House goes into Committee, I will take the Chair. Before I do so, I would like to make a few remarks on an item which I am almost sure will be dealt with when the House goes into Committee and when I will be in the Chair. I therefore would like to know definitely whether Resolution (a) will be dealt with in Committee so that I can crave your indulgence to say something on it now. I am not questioning your ruling, but I do not think it will be fair to me to deal with a particular resolution that I would like

to make a few remarks on but which I will be unable to do on account of my having to take the Chair. I therefore would like to know from the honourable member in charge of these resolutions if Resolution (a) will be dealt with in Committee now and if so, I am asking your permission to say something on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the honourable member knows, for me to grant you permission, it will only be a special indulgence as there is nothing before the House.

The question that Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply was put and agreed to.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1953-54, NO. 14

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, This first resolution is for the sum of \$2,750 to be advanced from the Public Treasury (to be subsequently refunded from Loan Funds) and placed 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. 14, which form the schedule to this resolution.

According to the addendum, this resolution is to cover the cost of the revision of the wages of workers employed on Capital Works for the financial years 1952-53 and 1953-54. I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: With reference to this resolution, Mr. Chairman, I am asking the honourable junior member for St. Thomas to bear with me while I ask him a question on it. This resolution is one which is to advance money from the Treasury which will be subsequently refunded from Loan Funds. It is necessary, therefore, that the whole idea of Loan Funds be explained to this Committee. Speaking from memory, it is stated in the Five Year Plan that the advance from the Treasury up to a certain time and up to the figure of two million dollars will be taken out and then Government would raise a loan to recoup the Treasury to that amount. That has been stated in the Five Year Plan and that Plan also envisages a total loan of about six million dollars to carry out in its entirety the commitments in the Plan. This two million dollars which the Government is proposing to raise so as to recoup the Treasury is for money which has already been spent therefore you cannot add to that. Bear in mind that you have decided already as to the advances up to a certain time. Bear in mind also that out of that two million dollars that you proposed to raise by loan, you have only raised \$500 thousand. What I would like to know is what Loan Fund would this \$2,750 be repaid from? I think this information is necessary to this Committee. It looks to me as if there is some confusion of ideas. This is the position: You owe two million dollars; you have only raised half million dollars of that sum; you cannot add to what you have taken out of the Treasury already because that has been advanced already and you have struck a balance. Are you going to recoup the Treasury as you have said out of the six million dollars that you propose to raise by Loan Funds but which you have not begun to raise? I am at a loss to understand. As far as I have learnt, the two million dollars with which you propose to recoup the Treasury by a Loan Fund has already been advanced from the Treasury. You have already decided that you are taking so much from Current Revenue, so much from Accumulated Bal-

ances and the advances have been made up to a certain date. I do not see how you can get this money unless this House decides to let you raise the whole loan for six million dollars. It seems strange to me that out of the two million dollars which you proposed to raise by loan that you have only raised half million dollars and you are still advancing money against Loan Funds. It is true that this \$2,750 can surely be paid out of the Current Revenue or from accumulated balances in the same way as the other amounts, such as the next resolution with which this Committee will deal with later. Somebody seems to have had confused ideas or there is some simple explanation which I cannot unfortunately see. I want to know something about it before I vote for this resolution. It is causing me some worry because it is not clear to me.

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

Mr. GODDARD: As I see it, we have already been committed for the amount in this resolution. We have done work of a capital nature in the past and we have decided since then to pay the workers on those projects retrospective pay so this must come from out of Capital Expenditure. The Government has advanced two million dollars out of the Treasury and it is to be recouped out of Loan Funds. The Government has advanced that money but so far, it has only raised half million dollars therefore there is still 1½ million dollars to be raised to recoup the Treasury. What I particularly want to know is, why since the half million dollars was raised last year that Government has not sought to raise another half million dollars? The first half million dollars was raised since last year and Government said then that it would raise another half million in six months' time. Is the money market not suitable for it to be raised now? As I see it, Government will have to raise it at some time. Apparently, Government has some information that this is not the right time and if that is not so, I would like to know. However, it does seem strange that Government is raising loans to recoup the Treasury and yet has come now for further loans from the Treasury pending the raising of a loan to recoup the Treasury. At any rate, this work has been done and the money to pay for it has to be raised in this manner.

On the question, I would like to ask the Government when do they propose to go ahead and raise the balance of the money needed? Of course, the amount in this resolution would have to be added to the 1½ million dollars. The question is: Does the Government consider raising another half million dollars in the near future or does it think that this is not the appropriate time, probably because of the scarcity of money in the market?

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, Allow me to voice again my question to the honourable member in charge of this resolution as I think I have been misunderstood by the honourable junior member for Christ Church. This question is not as simple as the honourable junior member for Christ Church has made it out. I would like to congratulate him for saying that this is clear to him. I would like to say that if two million dollars has already been advanced from the Treasury for work of a capital nature, you cannot go back to the Treasury and ask for this money to be repaid by the same Loan Fund. The fact that you have only raised a half million dollars of the two million that you propose to get does not alter the situation. The fact remains that the figures are there that the money has already been

spent on school buildings, this, that and the other. You cannot tell me that you are advancing more money because it would be more than two million dollars. Any more money that is taken out of the Treasury to be refunded from Loan Funds must come out of a further loan, — other than the two million dollars. I am again asking the honourable junior member for St. Thomas whether the \$2,750 contained in this resolution is advanced against that two million dollars also or if it is to be advanced against the six million dollars that has been mentioned as the overall in the Five Year Plan. I know that you cannot add it to the two million dollars. That is a commonsense thing. The only way it can come out of that two million dollars is if you have added up the certain amounts which have been spent already and they come to 1½ million dollars and you said that they amounted to two million dollars.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the figures which the honourable junior member for the City has mentioned at my finger tips. I have sent for the file and until it arrives when I will give the honourable member the information which he wants, I am asking leave to postpone this resolution.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1953-54—No. 15.

Dr. CUMMINS: This resolution is for \$112,055 to be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part II—Capital, as shown in the Schedule to this Resolution.

As can be seen from the Addendum to the Resolution, consequent on the recommendations of the Salaries Commissioner, the emoluments of the Unestablished Staff and Casual Workers employed on Capital Works have been revised.

The increases in wages and Cost of Living Allowances of these employees paid from Capital Works are not chargeable against the amount of \$415,000 provided in this year's Current Estimates under Head XXIX, Item 39, Salary Revision. Therefore, this amount of \$112,055 is required to cover the cost of the revision of the wages of these workers for the financial years 1952-53 and 1953-54.

I think this is quite clear. It means that this amount of money was not included in the sum of \$415,000 which was passed by this House in the Annual Estimates. This \$112,055 is to pay Unestablished Staff and Casual Workers who were so employed during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54.

I will deal with the various heads separately.

HEAD I—WATER SUPPLIES.

Head I, Water Supplies, was called.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD II—HOUSING.

Head II, Housing, was called.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw attention to Item No. 9 (New) Windows in Bay Street. Is this a new item? How has it come under this Head?

Mr. ADAMS: My recollection of this item is that it is the window which faces F.M.P.C. grounds and aside of the Barbados Gas Company. This spot of land is part of the Bay Estate and the Housing Board has to see after it.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Sir, This House has very little information on this island's housing schemes. We get from other departments of Government information regarding what they are doing but seldom do you see any information concerning the Housing Department. I do not know if other honourable members would agree, but this has been my experience. I would like to know how the Self-Help Housing Scheme is progressing and what it is costing this Government. I think it is time that the Housing Board take note of many things which I consider are most important if there is to be a rapid progress in housing. It is time—if I may draw an instance—that the Housing Board take note of trying to manufacture locally some material for housing. In this respect, I think I can do no better than quote from a document from the Secretariat of the Caribbean Commission.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to draw your attention to the honourable member who is reading from a document.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the honourable junior member for St. John is going to read from the document which you have in your hands, you will have to hand it over to the Clerk. I will ask the Clerk to take note.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Alright Sir, I will do that. It has this to say:—

"It is not my intention to propose any single formula for all tropical situations. That would be folly. Rather, I do propose that, with infinite modification and variation, certain principles can be widely adapted to tropical housing problems."

"That is, I believe these principles to be useful for countries or regions where the community decides not to wait for a generation or two until it has achieved relatively great overall economic advance; and where it is decided to mobilize and utilize the available resources, not to build a few hundred houses, but to improve the shelter of the whole population as best possible within the limit of those resources."

It goes on to say:—

"For on these two points great mistakes have been made over and over again. Virtually paralysed by the enormous size and complexity of the task, many governments have in effect called it hopeless for the time being, and have decided to do almost nothing about popular housing. They don't like to take this negative and defeatist position, but they feel helpless when they are unable to find a practicable formula."

I think this applies to this Government:—

"Or, conversely, under the necessity of making a start, they devote the resources which the government itself can muster to the construction of new houses for only one-percent of the families who need them, or perhaps, one-tenth of one percent. For example, if the government of the small tropical country that were used earlier for an illustration were to devote its \$300,000 per year to providing 300 one-thousand-dollar houses, these would be far better than huts, but they would make almost no impression on the problem. That country has, perhaps, 600,000 insanitary huts, and new families and new insanitary huts are being created at the rate of perhaps 10,000 per year. A programme of 300 houses each year would eliminate

"the 600,000 huts in 2,000 years; and meanwhile,—well, it becomes preposterous."

This is exactly what I have risen to criticise. At the rate of expenditure which the housing projects of this Government is going to be, I see no possibility within our generation of really making any substantial contribution to this problem.

I do not know if honourable members have read this available document, but speaking of manufacture of local materials, it says:—

"As has already been pointed out, an effective use of indigenous materials, such as clay, stone, coral, lime and timber, would contribute much towards the improvement of housing conditions. The results of a recent investigation made in this very country, Barbados, may be cited as an example. (A VOICE; Hear! Hear!) The clay on this island was examined and was found suitable for use in the manufacture of all classes of bricks, tiles and earthenware pipes. A local brick and tile industry would be entirely feasible, and the supply of natural gas adjacent to the clay deposits would make possible the use of a kiln which would turn out bricks very economically. These could be produced not only for local consumption, but also for export to other West Indian islands (Trinidad excepted) and British Guiana."

With information like that, Mr. Chairman, this Government is inexcusable for not having working by now this brick factory and producing enough as to supply other West Indian islands. Economically, it can be done. This Government has gone into it. If it is put into operation at once it would lower the cost of building material appreciably.

This document should be read by every member of this House. It further states:—

"Barbados also has substantial reserves of coral stone which have not been exploited. This material is extremely soft when first quarried and can be cut into slabs with a hand saw. The mechanization of quarrying methods might revolutionize building economics in Barbados, and possibly, even in other islands of the Caribbean region, if economic methods for exporting the stone can be found."

Sir, it then speaks of certain machines which turn quickly into form building material. This is what it says of the "Landerete" machine:—

"The 'Landerete' machine has been widely used in Africa, and favourable reports have been given on its operation. The unit costs £195 and is hand-operated. It is estimated that eight men operating it on the site can make 300 blocks a day. It does not use undue quantities of cement (this is added in proportions varying from 1/10 to 1/20 of the volume of the soil) and produces excellent results with a light sandy soil containing little clay. The presence of free lime is not a disadvantage. The excavation should be kept damp, not wet; a mechanical concrete mixer will produce the best results."

Sir, the housing scheme of this island is proceeding without such machines although they are procurable. Various types of machines are devised in order to process various types of soil into adequate and substantial building material so as to make the construction of houses radically cheaper than we have them now and what strikes me is that all of these different types of machines seem to be ignored by the Housing Board. I am not aware of any building machine here. With the results reported on our limestone, I would like to ask if anything is being done to cheapen the cost of houses built by our Housing Board. I do not think anything has been done to

cheapen the cost of our houses with the result that our housing schemes remain one of the most expensive in the whole area. Sir, all this document is telling you is that it is not beyond our possibility to lower the cost of houses from what it is at present and that we will be able to produce more with the money we have by modern methods of utilising the material we have at our disposal—not what we have to get by importation from abroad. This is what the document says of building material:—

“The Conference was unanimous that a reduction in the present high price of cement would have a significant effect on the building problem, and recommended that, where the production of cement within a territory was under consideration, the possibility of regional assistance being made available towards the cost of the project should be considered.”

Sir, this community is populated enough to have its own cement producing plant and we can produce it at half the price if we get the plant. If we do so, we would be able to build cheaper houses; we would be able to cut our housing costs by almost half and that is within the possibility of this Government. If this Government does not take this step, the families who now need houses will die before they get them. This is my contention and I am backed up by the solid comments of experts, specifically reporting on housing in the tropical areas. I am not satisfied, and this House should not be satisfied, that enough has been done by the authorities concerned to tackle our housing problem. I wonder if any of our housing authorities have read any of these paragraphs which I have quoted. It is their duty to read these things. A politician does not have to be an architect or a housing expert but it is an absolute necessity for him to follow the advice which experts have documented for him to see. When experts show you the possibility of things, act on them. Use your administration initiative and carry out the ideas so long as they are acceptable.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I always have to remind the House that if the honourable junior member for St. John wants to conserve his energy that he should make a gramophone record of his speeches in here on any Tuesday and instead of his getting up to speak after that, he can play the disc which was produced from his speech. He repeats the same speech Tuesday after Tuesday; he uses the same words which convey the same nonsense and his speeches are the same display of utter absence of knowledge of the things he is speaking on.

Not perhaps chronologically, but within recent years, this island has done as much as any British Caribbean area in experimenting with different forms of materials for building houses. We have done as much as any island in these parts save Trinidad. I have told the honourable member so already. He has only to go to the Pine Housing Scheme and there he would see five houses built, side by side, with different materials. Some are of stone, some of cement and sand, some of megerete; all experiments have been made to see which would work out the cheapest and which would last the longest. I could have made a much fuller article of what the honourable member read if I had written it. We have sent for specimens of the different kinds of building materials from all over the world in addition to those which have been sent to us. Terrocrete, a modern concrete from Brazil; all of those sort of things come before the Housing Board with the necessary data for members to examine. Some have been attempted, while some have not been attempted because there is a lack of the materials here. When

it comes to Barbados limestone which the honourable member mentioned, that is the sawstone block with which we have been building for 300 years. Sir, the Housing Board can give him figures of the various costs of these things. The Board can tell him what it would cost to build a house so much of stone, so much of cement, so much of pine, and so on, as well as the cost of labour in each case which is generally of a uniform cost. The Housing Board can give him these figures because it has worked out every combination to see which would be the cheapest.

Sir, it is not true to say that these things which the honourable member read are written mainly for organizations like the Housing Board, but that Board does not take any notice of them. I am going as far as to say—I am not praising myself when I say so—that with the exception of Puerto Rico, there is no place in this area that can produce more statistics of building costs than Barbados. And the only reason that Puerto Rico can surpass this island in that respect is because it has millions of dollars and because of that, its housing experts can make all sorts of experiments irrespective of what they will cost the island. The experts from there have come here and have seen what we are doing with regard to housing and they said that we have done well.

A few Tuesdays ago, I reminded the honourable junior member for St. John that a top-ranking officer on housing from the United States of America came to this colony and discussed housing with the Housing Board. He saw what we were doing and said that we were working on right lines both as regards to our buildings and methods of making people pay for houses, as well as other things. I am sorry that the honourable senior member for the City is not in his place and did not hear what the honourable junior member for St. John had to say on this matter. Could anybody picture the honourable senior member for the City who is a member of the Housing Board for many years allowing the Board to go on marking time? He would be one of its greatest critics. I am sorry that he is not in his place because the honourable junior member for St. John might have accepted from him more than he would accept from me what I am now saying. Mr. Chairman, the Housing Board meets on Saturday mornings in the Council Chamber. The honourable member can come or send one of his friends to any of the meetings of the Board. I do not believe he would have said what he did if he had taken the trouble to make a few enquiries first. Whenever this honourable member has his facts right, I will listen to him but when he makes statements as he did just now, which goes out to the public that the Housing Board is just sitting by and marking time, I must get up and point out that the reverse is true. There is not one single word by way of criticism from him that has the slightest bit of truth. The Housing Board has experimented with more than building materials and more than what the honourable member has quoted from that book. The Housing Board has experimented with not only different types of building material but has also experimented with building a house to serve two families; a two storeyed one to serve four families other than the houses it has built to serve a family. All that the Housing Board has done and it has gone into the question to see the economics and other factors connected therewith. I have not met a single person who came to this island that did not congratulate us for what we had done in regard to housing as compared with other parts of the West Indies. A building expert

from Great Britain who was sent out by Colonial Office visited colonies in Africa and West Africa and then came to the Caribbean. When he came here, he said that he had not seen in any part of the Colonial Empire where he visited any building programmes which were carried out on broader lines than in Barbados. He went on to say that the Housing Board of this colony has in Mr. Lashley, a very energetic Manager-Secretary and he knew of nobody in the West Indies connected with housing by Government who was as good as he. I think it was Sir Frank Stockdale who made this statement. At present, Mr. Lashley is in Puerto Rico on a Housing Seminar.

The honourable junior member for St. John said that we should start a cement factory in order to cheapen the cost. Let him listen to what Professor Arthur Lewis says in respect of the tremendous initial capital cost of establishing a cement factory and that it would be more economical to have one cement factory in the whole West Indies than every island trying to establish its own. Professor Lewis has stated that a cement factory will not pay unless there was a huge export market. It may be all well and good to have one in Puerto Rico and one in British Guiana. I do not know if the honourable member read that. He has a lot of time on his hands and probably he reads plenty but it seems as if he concentrates on nothing. With regard to labour-saving machines, I am also sorry that the honourable junior member for Christ Church is not in his place because that honourable member would be able to tell him of the huge loss incurred by the bringing in of equipment to saw stones from the earth through not being able to procure the right saws to suit our limestones.

I apologise for having taken up so much time.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not propose to anticipate anything which the honourable member on my left might say in reply to the honourable member but I remember that sometime last year, during consideration of the Estimates that the honourable senior member for St. John presented the House with facts and figures which went to prove that the cost of building houses under the housing scheme in Barbados was higher than in certain other colonies.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable senior member for St. Philip will give way to me for a minute, I will add this to my address. I have been unable since application was made by the honourable member to get in touch with Mr. Lashley as to the accuracy of the figures which he quoted, then, but if they are accurate, he will probably find that the labour cost more than anything else pushed them up to that figure. It is not high because this colony is using the wrong material. As an instance, the cost of cement is no higher here than it is in St. Lucia, but labour cost there is very much cheaper than it is in this colony. I will however check it up.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have not at my finger tips the facts and figures which the honourable senior member for St. John gave at that time, but I am sure that the honourable member can present his own case on that score. What brought me to my feet is to say that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph could not be more wrong than when he spoke on the question of establishing a cement industry here. Sir, in making any industry profitable, the important thing to have is raw materials on the site. This island has the materials for making cement and if, as the honourable senior member for St. Joseph says, British Guiana can make cement but as honourable members know, that colony has no raw

materials to make it and is thinking of importing the raw materials for making it from this colony. If it will pay British Guiana to import Barbados clay and make cement, then it should pay Barbados better than British Guiana to make cement. Even if Professor Arthur Lewis said what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph repeated, the professor is no industrial engineer; he is an economist. The industrial consultant of the Caribbean Commission, Professor Gallogotti has more than on one occasion recommended the manufacture of cement in Barbados from our local raw materials. If the honourable member wants to get the facts of this let him apply to the Caribbean Commission.

Mr. ADAMS: I am well conversant with the reports of the Caribbean Commission. Up to this morning I was reading one of their recent reports.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that the honourable member had not read it. What I am saying is that Professor Gallogotti says that we should make cement here from our local materials.

On the question of the cost of putting down a cement plant, we know particularly well that the cost is high but we have the raw materials on the spot. That is the important point. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph said that megarete blocks and what not, have been used in building materials here to see whether they would cheapen the cost of houses, but there is no denying of the fact that our houses would be cheaper if we did not have to buy cement from outside. The honourable member must know that when we start to make blocks from local clay that the cost of those clay blocks would be cheaper than concrete blocks because we have the raw materials here. Therefore, if by having the raw materials for clay blocks, you are expected to get cheaper building costs, why not utilise our local clay for the manufacture of cement in this colony? When the new brick factory starts operation at Apes Hill using local clay for making blocks, these clay blocks are expected to cost half the price we are now paying for concrete blocks with imported cement.

The honourable senior member for St. Joseph seems to be appealing to the honourable junior member for St. George for an opinion on this matter. He could not have done worse than that. The honourable junior member for St. George knows as well as I that a cement plant for this colony is not an impracticable proposition. He knows that the initial capital cost is not prohibitive. I therefore repeat that if in conjunction with our local brickmaking plant, we can manufacture cement locally, we can cut our building costs by almost half. In any industry, so long as you can get raw materials on the spot, that is the most important thing. With a reasonable market like ours for cement, we are perfectly safe in embarking on that phase of industrialization.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Housing is the sore spot of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, but he has not answered or attempted to answer any of the extensive quotations which I used in my speech just now. I quoted from an authority who said that we should have a brick-producing factory here so as to cheapen the construction of houses. Have they attempted that? I spoke of the mechanisation of quarrying in order to revolutionize the cost of producing limestone; have they attempted that? I spoke of machinery for compressing bricks so as to make them suitable for producing material for the construction of houses; have they got any of these machines? (Mr. ADAMS: Yes, and we have tried them). Are they using any of these things here in order to cheapen the cost of houses? This document

I have here tells you of several possibilities of cheapening the cost of housing and the honourable member has not answered to the effect that they are attempting any of these possibilities. I can establish that our housing scheme is the dearest in the Caribbean and it is not essential or necessary that it should be the dearest.

Mr. ADAMS: Either the honourable member's hearing is not first-class or I talk such nonsense that he does not listen. There is not one thing in the Report of the Caribbean Commission which I have not mentioned; we did our utmost to start a brick-manufacturing plant in this island. Mr. Coppin went to England and got hold of Dr. Brannum and started a manufacturing concern here. If we had interfered with that, those honourable members would have asked: "Why interfere with private enterprise who has already started this concern?" Two years ago we proposed to start a brick factory and we had Dr. Brannum down here; a few months after up went Mr. Coppin and made the necessary arrangements with the same gentleman whom we had employed. As regards the compressing machine, Mr. Lashley ordered one and tried it out; if the honourable member wants to put me on the spot he can remind me of these things as soon as Mr. Lashley comes back and I will supply the figures. We have comparative costs of everything the honourable member has got there; if the price of lumber comes down by so many dollars, the price of a house will also come down. I have more than answered the honourable member; I can tell him that every accusation he has made is unfounded.

Away back in 1944 we have been considering these things; we even got advice from Italy. We have got advice from the Colonial Office that there is no machinery which you can use on all kinds of wood, and you would have to make a special saw for use on the stone of this place and the other place. We have enquired about marble quarrying—all that information I can find on my file. We have gone into the matter and we have been absolutely convinced from the evidence given that the old method of using a drill in a quarry will work out as the cheapest in the end. We will break too many saw blades if we use ordinary saws. The family of the honourable junior member for Christ Church has suffered in this way. What is done is that you send up a sample of your stone and they will make a saw to suit your stone; that is the information which we have got. If I did not refer to mechanisation just now that matter was covered by my comprehensive statement that there is nothing that the honourable member has said which we have neglected; there is nothing which we have not done by way of enquiry into these matters. We get information from all over the world as to building costs; invariably the information was passed on formerly to Mr. Crowe and to Mr. DeSyllas and now it is passed on to Mr. Lashley who passes it on to the Housing Board. We specifically got a meeting to be held in Barbados to deal with the matter of cheapening building costs; we got people to come from all about and we discussed all these matters. It may be that with the handling costs in Carlisle Bay to-day, it takes more to build a house in Barbados than in other territories; that may be true and it might be largely a question of labour or freight. I was a member of a Tribunal in St. Lucia on behalf of the workers in the matter of re-building Castries; the workers were making a noise about getting 3/- a day. A carpenter in Barbados would have to be paid 10/- or \$3.00 a day. In St. Lucia the workers were not even asking for \$1.00 a day. I again invite honourable members, as soon as Mr. Lashley returns

here, to remind me of my promise to supply the figures. The honourable junior member for St. George, even if he attacks the Government, could assist in this debate.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with the item "Removal and re-erection of Houses," I recall that some time ago the question was raised—I think it was raised by you, Mr. Chairman—as to the removal and re-erection of houses in Parris Village. It was pointed out that the unfortunate people in that district were compelled to live in places where there was no water or roads. I am wondering whether that matter is receiving any attention since you, Mr. Chairman, were kind enough to bring it to the attention of the House; I am wondering if any member of the Committee can assist us with any information as to the application of this scheme for the removal and re-erection of houses in respect of the unfortunate people who live in the back places of that district. I understand that it is proposed to remove these people from that district altogether. I must congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on having brought about this amelioration in the condition of these people; the Aided Self-Help Scheme with which we are now dealing might be applied to St. Joseph. So long as it is proposed to remove these people and they will be removed to a place where they can have water and light, I make no further comment on that point.

Mr. VAUGHAN: All that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph means is that things which work for the benefit of other places must fail in Barbados.

Mr. MILLER: This question of housing has been discussed at length. It is true that the Housing Scheme at Deacons Road failed because of the old type of houses built, but where any Government Department is handling housing, labour and material are always coupled, and you can only slash at the price of labour. I do not know if honourable members are aware of the fact that in Barbados we have limestone like Jamaica, and in most of the other islands there is stone which does not require quarrying. It is obvious that with the cost of concrete blocks, the overall costs of construction is indeed the highest in Barbados. Some day it will bring grief to the Government that we were unfortunate in respect of the clay brick scheme which was agreed to by this House but rejected by the Other Place. Clay bricks will cost about 7 cents to 9 cents apiece and you cannot produce any other stuff suitable for building, to compare with that cost. When it is a question of building, I repeat, the only thing at which you can slash is the price of labour. In Dominica to-day a workman is paid something like 34 cents a day but in Barbados you would have to pay something like \$2.40 a day. I can speak with some authority because I am constantly engaged in building.

As to the idea of having a compressing machine for block making, you will have a lot of discussion as a result of what you find in a lovely article in a pamphlet; but the question is; how will it apply to Barbados? It was rather unfortunate that the Brannum scheme was thrown to the winds because as a result of that scheme building in Barbados would be kept at minimum cost. There is little that the Government can do about the matter now. I do not think that the honourable junior member for St. John has paid enough attention to this matter. If you go to Dominica and other islands where there is limestone in small quantities you will find that there is no question of quarrying. I have seen the machinery at work and there was some waste of time which must be passed on to the cost of making a block; I am hoping that

they will not continue to work under such conditions, but that the equipment will be transferred to another site where it would be of more benefit generally.

I am very sorry that we had to lose the prospect of manufacturing blocks locally. In Trinidad almost every house is utilising the type of block which is manufactured from similar clay in Barbados. I repeat that if you are building houses in respect of any scheme, the only thing that is flexible is labour; you have to buy the material at the price and the only thing you can change is labour. I have seen outside this colony a building being constructed in respect of which the foreman was being paid something like 64 cents a day, whereas the average mason in Barbados is paid something like 10/- or 11/- a day. I am hoping that the Government will be able to test this block building scheme because that would have a tremendous effect in reducing the cost of building; I have seen an Indian build himself a house with the use of clay blocks. There is a type of block——

Mr. VAUGHAN: On a point of order. I have never mentioned the size of any clay block.

Mr. MILLER: That displays the pitiable ignorance of the honourable member, he is thinking of compressed blocks. It is easy to study any article written by anybody and make a big speech on it. The honourable member has interrupted to make himself appear stupid; we are thinking of the blocks which were used for firebricks in Barbados, the cost of the production of which was too great and for that reason the production was discontinued. I have seen houses built in other islands and I say that we are doing a good job in Barbados.

On the question of quarrying stone, the stone has always been sold so as to pay the quarry worker, and no quarry owner has been able to make a business of quarrying stones so as to extend credit to people. On the other hand, you could go to any lumber store, get some lumber and start to build your house; and if you are known as a good worker on a plantation, any plantation manager would lend you the money because it was a question of chaining you to the land. If the quarry owners could place facilities within easy reach of the small builder you would never have so many wooden houses all over the place. I am hoping that in connection with this Aided Self Help Housing Scheme we will be able to examine the facts rather than have silly arguments from people who will read an article and make speeches on it. The honourable junior member for St. John is talking about building and he does not know a block from a brick.

As regards a cement factory, it is true that we have limestone and we get something from outside; but the initial outlay for a plant of a small size would be 150 tons a day. You cannot hope to fight against the plant in Trinidad unless you know that you will be your own engineer and chemist. It is a question of the initial cost; the Government could not put down a plant for any three or four million dollars and you would be against the magnates. A small man like me might make something which approximates cement, but this Government has to enquire into the cost of putting down a plant here. We had the scheme before us for making bricks, there was no competition, but the scheme was turned down and now it is in the hands of private enterprise. If the Government were to spend three or four million dollars on a plant for manufacturing cement, they will need a wealth of technical staff to operate it and what they would

handle would not be enough to justify a 24-hour operation of the plant.

Mr. ALLDER: For some reason or other the honourable senior member for St. Joseph asked the honourable junior member for St. George to assist him in this debate, but I regret that——

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I suggested that the honourable junior member for St. George could assist in the debate even if he could attack the Government.

Mr. ALLDER: I was not able to gather any point out of the tirade which the honourable junior member for St. George made. The Government thrives on confusion and the Government has to call on the honourable member so as to spread out the confusion. I feel that the kind of construction which is carried out in Barbados is not so complex as the brainsters (A Member: Brainsters?) want to make out. The honourable member knows everything under the sun and he fails to show that he is capable of being successful in the things of which he claims to be master. My colleague was trying to show that the problem of housing is of such magnitude that he would like to see the means whereby the problem would be solved in as short a time as possible; and the only thing the Government could do, if they want to expedite the construction of houses for the masses, would be to equip themselves with the necessary materials and get equipment which would reduce the cost of housing. That would not call for any Arthur Lewis or the honourable junior member for St. George; you are carrying out a housing project to house the major portion of 200,000 people and you search for these things and you pay the price for them because the benefit will come in the saving of costs. There is a private concern which has begun to get machinery down here to produce clay blocks which, I am told, would be sold considerably cheaper than the cheapest material which we now have on the market; I am also told that a representative of that concern has gone to Trinidad to buy a plant so as to help somebody in the same industry. If a private individual with limited capital at his disposal can put himself to such expenditure and trouble, how much more is the Government capable of doing the same thing even if it means that they have to get somebody from outside with the knowledge of doing such things? But the Government is scared to commit itself to large projects; everything is too costly for us to commit ourselves to, and therefore we will sit back and hope for some private individual with the necessary guts and knowledge to come along and purchase materials and we leave it to the population to pay the special price which the private individual charges for his produce. In the same way that a private individual can set about to produce a clay block industry, the Government can do the same thing.

As regards the cement factory, the Government says that Barbados cannot do this thing but it can be done in other colonies. The Government either misses the bus or boat and it has gone on and left them; the Government is aiding other colonies to put down factories which should be put down in Barbados. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has West Indian federation in view but in any West Indian unity, because of its large population and limited land area, Barbados should be made the Hong Kong of the West Indies. The honourable member has made a mistake and he does not want to admit it now; we have sat here with thousands of unemployed people and waited until Trinidad produces things and sells them to us at a profit! If you are talking about the com-

ity of nations among the West Indies, the natural thing for you to do is to tell Trinidad that she has so many acres——

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: What is the honourable member speaking about? Has the comity of nations among the West Indies any bearing on this Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: Barbados should have found itself with more industries; we do not have sufficient land area to absorb the unemployed and we should be inclined to be more industrial than other countries. I feel that what the honourable senior member for St. Philip and my colleague, the honourable junior member for St. John have said about the question of a cement factory is based on fact and you do not have to be any scientist like the honourable junior member for St. George to know that. What is more, we have about two-thirds of our population to house now; if the honourable member knew that there are many youngsters who are still in their parents' homes at the right age for occupying their own houses and who have to keep drawing up in already overcrowded houses, he would encourage the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to see what can be done so as to ameliorate the conditions, and to do something which would bring down the cost of building material which is definitely beyond the capacity of the people who have to build or repair houses to-day.

The honourable member claims that putting down a cement factory would cost about three or four million dollars; well, the question is; do we consider the profit which is made on imported cement? If we did put down such a factory we would be doing a service to the people of this colony who are looking for employment. The Government shoulders everything which is suggested to it and which would improve the standard of living of the community, as soon as the Executive Committee think that what is suggested costs too much. Barbados can therefore be considered as a country of failure and we must continue to tolerate mismanagement as we are tolerating it. Where a businessman commits himself to expenditure he thinks day and night and tries every possible thing until he finds the one he wants; that is where the Socialist policy suggested by the present Government has met with a rebuttal. The excuse is that Government concerns always fail and therefore they leave these things to private individuals who are always interested in expanding and overcharging.

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member has said that he was interested in construction and he hoped to widen his knowledge. I do not know what I have failed about; when the honourable member bought the spot of land on which his present house stands and he told me the dimensions of the house, I told him that he could not get it on that spot. Some weeks later he told me that he had bought the adjacent spot.

Mr. ALLDER: I cannot tolerate that behaviour on the part of the honourable member.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Anyone who is concerned with the interest of this island should be concerned about how the housing scheme is going on. This Government seems to be only interested in their own happiness, not in the happiness of the masses, but the principle behind the housing scheme in this island is in relation to the happiness of the masses. A few months ago an event took place in St. Philip; there was a high wind——

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ask the honourable member to keep to the subject of this Resolution.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: A house was damaged and up to now, nothing has been done to relieve the situation; the people who are out in the cold today need some consideration. If the housing scheme is

for the happiness of the masses, then the masses are entitled to some consideration. I feel that the housing scheme should not only be in respect of St. Michael and St. Lucy; this House should have a comprehensive scheme for the whole island so as to answer to the crying needs of the masses who are actually out in the cold because of the lack of housing.

There is no control by this Government over the way in which the housing loans are distributed; I think it is time that this Government have someone to go around the various parishes and see how the money which is loaned for housing is being spent, and to what purpose and benefit it is being spent. This matter should not be left to the whim and caprice of any one person; sometimes a person only has his house half finished and he cannot get any further loan. The carpenter overcharges for his labour and this is a matter which needs to be gone into; we want to see to it that the masses are satisfied. I want to say that honourable members had better keep their ears to the ground and hear what is happening among the unemployed. I am warning this Government to wake up and take a greater interest in the people; there is a lot which needs to be rectified and it is time that the Government take an interest in the masses. Abraham Lincoln said that democracy is for the benefit of the masses and not for the classes; when you are considering housing schemes in St. Michael, there are people who are suffering in the cold in St. Philip, St. George, St. Joseph and other parts of the island. With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that the Government, in devising schemes for housing the people, will consider the island *in toto* and not any particular section of it.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member has made the point that the people for whom we build houses in St. Michael are the classes and the other people are the masses. We all love to hear the honourable member and wish that he would speak a little more often; he adds to what the honourable senior member for St. John would call, the comity of nations. I have no doubt that you could not believe anything the honourable senior member for St. Philip was saying; I know that we have considered the Italian gentleman's report carefully and we have had technical advice about the manufacture of cement. It would not pay us to have a manufacturing plant unless we were manufacturing a limited quantity of white cement. I draw to the attention of honourable members the Report of the Mission of United Kingdom Industrialists which was placed in honourable members' hands not long ago. Whatever may be said about these gentlemen, Mr. Steele is a real super-expert in the United Kingdom as a Director of Imperial Chemical Industries. As to the establishment of a cement plant, paragraph 124 of this Report says this:—

"There have been several investigations in British Guiana relating to the possible manufacture of cement there, and a special point has been made of the existence of silica sand in that country and the possibility of making so-called white cement. The demand for white cement, however, is extremely limited, the total consumption in British Guiana would be insignificant, and the complete absence of limestone in the territory is, in our opinion, a vital bar to the economic establishment of a cement plant. The export of cement from Trinidad to British Guiana, when the Trinidad plant is in operation would seem a far more sensible way of dealing with the situation than the erection of a plant in British Guiana itself."

When some honourable members want to quote Professor Arthur Lewis, he is the greatest expert in the world; but when he says anything which is against their argument, he is only an economist, not a technical man. Dr. Eric Williams with his staff in the Caribbean Research Council has gone most carefully into this matter. It is just by accident that I took up this Report on industrial development in the Caribbean; Mr. Woodhouse is constantly asked about these things because the super-problem in Barbados is the question of cheapening costs. If honourable members say that the Government should do something quickly, that is reasonable criticism; but let them not accuse us of doing nothing.

Paragraph 129 of this Report says this:—

"Clay hollow blocks are being manufactured successfully in Trinidad. In Jamaica the Government operated a clay brick, hollow block and tile making factory near Kingston for some years. We were informed that it was virtually closed down because of rather heavy losses."

We did not have to wait for them to tell us that; we knew it before. I know that years ago Mr. Hutchinson was engaged in building; I told him what I saw in British Guiana and he got similar material and tried it out in Barbados. We cannot be more socialist than we are. The honourable senior member for St. John asks whether we are going to sit back and let private enterprise do something which would be dearer than if the Government did it; we do not want people to do things and say—

Mr. ALLDER: What I am saying is that a private concern is setting up a factory to make cheap bricks; instead of the Government taking the initiative and making these cheap bricks they have dropped the scheme and private enterprise has got the idea and is carrying on with the knowledge which the Government has.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not think that the honourable member cannot speak the truth; it is that he has not got any good control of the King's English. I have just said that we did everything possible in the matter but the Other Place turned down the Brannum scheme. Mr. Brannum promised that he would come back to us and in the interval the Co-operative Bank got Mr. Coppin to go to England and get hold of Mr. Brannum first. I hope when we bring forward this scheme we will not hear that private enterprise is there already and we will not be asked why should we compete with the Co-operative Bank and Mr. Coppin? I hope that when we come down here with a scheme for refrigeration because we feel we can do it cheaper than anybody else, we will not hear from honourable members over there that we are competing with private enterprise which has to pay income tax. I say that we have not dropped one single suggestion about the Government running a refrigerating plant. That crowd over there—

Mr. VAUGHAN: I object to that.

Mr. ADAMS: I apologise, Mr. Chairman; they shout sometimes like a crowd. When the Government sells milk and pigs at the Pine Agricultural Station or when we sell cabbages we hear that we have no right to interfere with the poor peasants. It is not honest to accuse a man of not doing something when you have no real knowledge as to whether he is doing it or not. The honourable senior member for St. John has said that we have dropped a scheme when the reverse is the truth. I repeat; when we come here with a scheme in respect of refrigeration or milk or anything else, I hope honourable members over there will not say that we are trying to kill somebody. The Government is now contemplating

the raising of a huge loan for building all over the island; have those honourable members forgotten all that? But they are like gramophone records; they make speeches in 1951, 1952, 1953 and until we have a General Election they will continue to make those speeches. The only sensible thing they should say is that we should buy every quarry and fix the price at which a man with a drill—well as soon as you mention something which the Government should do, those honourable members are laughing. I only got up to put them on the spot and we have got them to say something which will tie them.

Mr. CRAWFORD: When the Government comes forward with a scheme for manufacturing bricks and tiles, when they come forward with a scheme for everything, when they carry us to Mars—I say "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." The charge which the honourable member on my left has made is perfectly justified; the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has sat as a member of the Regional Economic Committee several times and what has he done to give us a new industry? What is the use of quoting a Report which has just been published as against an argument for industrial development? We can all quote this Report; in Jamaica they have put down a cement plant and the demand for cement is so great that they have to put down another one. In Trinidad they have also put down a plant; as far as British Guiana is concerned, this Report says that the complete absence of limestone in the territory is a vital bar to the economic establishment of a cement plant. As I have said, there is no point in quoting this Report as against an argument for industrial development which should have taken place here some three or four years ago. In so far as industrial development is concerned, we have missed the bus.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BRYAN the CHAIRMAN reported progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Dr. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On re-assembling,

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

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

HEAD III—MEDICAL SERVICES

Head III—Medical Services—was called.

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

Mr. MAPP seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

HEAD IV—EDUCATION

Head IV—Education—was called.

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

Mr. MAPP: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRYAN In connection with this Head I would be glad if I could be given any information as to whether any consideration has been given to the janitors at the Elementary Schools. I remember that when we were dealing with the recommendations made for other people, the janitors were not considered, and, in my opinion, they were very poorly paid at that time. Now that this Resolution has come before us to pay increases in wages and Cost of Living Allowances, it would be heartening if these janitors could be assured that they will be considered and that the method of payment will be gone into. Complaints are now being made that while other Government employees can receive their salaries around the 25th and 26th of the month these janitors are paid at the whims and fancies of somebody. I do not see why these janitors cannot receive their money from the Treasury in the same way as anybody else, instead of having to wait for a week or two after other people have received their salaries. I would like the honourable junior member for St. Thomas to see that something is done to remedy this state of affairs.

Mr. LEWIS: I am taking the opportunity of enquiring if the Government has laid down any method by which this back pay will be paid out. As far as I know, this House intended that this back payment was to be made as from the 1st April, 1952, and it has been brought to my attention that many people who have been employed by the Government up to late in 1952 and some others who have been in the Government's employ up to February, 1953, have been told that they are not entitled to any of this back pay. I have discussed this matter with a member of the Government already and I am wondering whether any statement can be made in connection with this matter now. This House is the sole authority for laying down the conditions under which money is paid out of the Treasury; we say that this money is to be paid out as from the 1st April, 1952, and persons who were in the Government's employ on that date should be given this money. The Executive Committee have not got any power to say on what terms and conditions money should be paid out of the Treasury; we have said that this money is to be paid to people in the Government's employ as from the 1st April, 1952. I understand that the Financial Secretary, after all these instruments of Resolutions and Establishment Orders, can write a minute and send it to Heads of Departments including the Auditor General and the Accountant General to the effect that nobody who was not in the employ of the Government at the beginning of 1953 can get one brass farthing of this money. Those terms were not laid down by this House. There is no Resolution passed by this House in respect of this back-pay which had any such condition attached to it: the Resolution passed by this House was to the effect that such persons who were in the employ of the Government at the time when the Resolution was passed would be entitled to this back pay. What I have just mentioned is something which has been brought to the attention of many honourable members of this House, and while I feel that people should get their money and get it quickly, the thing which will operate with greater enthusiasm with me is that the power of this House has been destroyed by an employee of the Government. I am not saying that it is not done with the approval of the Governor, but it is laid down in the law that only this House can lay down

the terms and conditions under which money can be paid out of the Treasury. Our terms and conditions in respect of the matter before us now, were that every single person in the employ of the Government from the 1st April, 1952, is entitled to the increased wage, and I cannot see how any Government servant could take it upon himself to break the law of the constitution of this colony. That is deliberately robbing people of their money and it is altering the terms and conditions in respect of a vote of this House. What is more is that the people covered by this particular Resolution are treated entirely differently from the members of the Established Staff. I have discovered that the wages of members of the Unestablished Staff will be estimated as from the 1st April, 1952, but somebody like a policeman or a nurse who has worked for nine months of that period and resigned under law, is not entitled to this back pay. If that matter were drawn to the attention of the Government I do not believe that they would acquiesce in it; I take the liberty of asking if some member of the Government will make a statement about this matter.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I hate to break the trend of the discussion, so to speak, before the honourable junior member for the City has been answered, but I want to refer to the point raised by the honourable junior member for St. Michael about the remuneration for the janitors. It seems to me that the time has come when these janitors should be put on some proper basis. Previously these janitors were paid by the teachers at the schools, and when the Government assumed the responsibility for paying them, they actually got less than they got when they were paid by the teachers. Apparently, from the point made by the honourable junior member for St. Michael, these janitors have been omitted in the revision of salaries for Government servants and that is not good enough. If the Government has assumed the responsibility for these janitors then they are Government servants; there should be some scale by which they are paid and they should be entitled to inclusion in any revision of salaries.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I would like to draw to the attention of the Government that the drainage at the St. Matthias School is very unsatisfactory and the Headmaster himself has complained about it. I understand that the existing suck well which is supposed to take off the flood water is not in good working condition and the matter is causing any amount of headache. I draw this matter to the Government's attention so that they can see whether anything can be done about it either by raising the level of the area or otherwise so that the school will not have to be closed down as has been happening fairly regularly.

Dr. CUMMINS: As regards to the point which was raised by the honourable junior member for St. Michael, there is nothing here to say specifically that these janitors have received an increase but they are included in this vote. This is a vote for unestablished and casual workers. However, I will make enquiries and let the honourable member know what are the facts. With regard to the way in which they are paid as was pointed out by the honourable member, I do not know how it can happen as the honourable member puts it. I will also make enquiries about that.

As regards to the points made by the honourable junior member for the City, he will remember that both he and I saw the Auditor General about the matter and that officer showed us a circular which was sent to him. There and then I promised the honourable junior member for the City to make further enquiries and I have done so but the mat-

ter is not yet finalised. As regards to the St Matthias, school play ground, everybody knows very well that drainage there is a very difficult job. I know that district well and the whole of it suffers from very bad drainage. The suck well in the immediate area is filled up at times and does not draw off the water properly. I suppose some engineering reconstruction will have to be done in that district in order to not only remedy the condition at the school but to benefit the whole area as well.

The question that Head IV,—Education, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD V—AGRICULTURE

Head V—Agriculture was called.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Under Fisheries Development, I want to draw the attention of Government to the exorbitant insurance rates which are now charged to owners of fishing boats for insuring their craft. I have had very many complaints about it from fishermen and as a matter of fact, I do know that there will be many of them who will be pushing off their boats in the coming fishing season without taking out any insurance. I forget the exact rate which is being charged for insurance of these boats, but I think it is around \$50 and it does not cover the whole fishing season nor all of the risks because if a boat is hauled up and gets damaged while doing so, no benefit will be given. I do not know the reason why the insurance rates should be increased so quickly but these rates have increased tremendously since they were taken out. I do think that if this Government is interested in the industry as it says it is, that it should go into this question with a view of understanding this insurance. That is the only remedy and it should be done so as not to allow those poor hard-working fishermen to be penalised by the insurance companies. I do hope that these few remarks would stir the Government from its lethargy in this matter and would awaken its interest in the welfare of this section of the community.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on this question of insurance of fishing boats, I would like to inform the honourable member that Government does not have any insurance scheme. Any insurance which Government has to do, it does with private people in the business. Because of that, there is no point of bringing that question in here to say that the rates charged are exorbitant. This Government does not carry insurance. What I would like the honourable member to tell fishermen is that they should stop dynamiting fish.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Have I understood the honourable member correctly? Did he say that it is not a phase of Government Business to find out if insurance on fishing boats is exorbitant or not?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable member seems not to understand what I said. I said that the Government does not carry any insurance scheme. The Government advised fishermen that it would be better to take out insurance and has assisted them in doing so. This is not a question that Government is not doing its job. If Government undertook insurance, honourable members know that it would have to pay out insurance policies at the slightest happening which no private insur-

ance company would pay. The honourable junior member for St. Philip says that Government should undertake the insurance of fishing boats, but Government must see to it that certain people do not take it for a ride. What the Government has under consideration is a scheme of insurance to profit fishermen themselves if they would form some co-operative. It was made clear to fishermen that they could only get insurance for certain things. They do know that they cannot get a lower rate of insurance for the type of boat which they use for fishing. For a long time, Government has been asking these fishermen to come together and form some co-operative. If they do not want to come together as an economic unit to help themselves, Government cannot do it for them. I think the insurance on fishing boats is at an average of 15 percent of the cost. However, Government has no control over the rates that are charged for insurance of fishing boats, neither can Government take the risk itself because it would be found that Government would have to ask the community to subsidise the fishing industry.

Mr. BARROW: I think the honourable member who has just sat down has made a grave admission as regards to fishermen because in the time of disaster the Government is called upon to grant money out of the Treasury to aid fishermen for the rehabilitation of the fishing industry. The honourable junior member for St. Peter said that the average insurance on a fishing boat is 15 percent but the figures which I have seen are considerably higher than that. It is a fact that the fishing boats which are engaged in fishing here have no decks, therefore the risk on them by having pig iron in the bottom would be a lot greater than on fishing boats in other parts of the world. However, since Government is called upon to rehabilitate fishermen, I think the insurance scheme for the fishermen should be done by the Government because it would save Government a lot of expense.

As regards to markets, I would like to say that I noticed that the sum of \$2,233 is being voted towards paying increased wages to the people who worked on them. Now, it is rather remarkable to me living in the district where the statement is made that we have saved so much money on the erection of the Eagle Hall District Market, to find that it is not made available to the members of the public ever since that statement was made. As a matter of fact, I have recently heard that a date has been fixed for the opening of the Speights-town Market on which erection began much later. I do not know if because His Honour the Speaker lives in close proximity to the Speights-town Market and by his great influence on the people who live in close proximity to the Speights-town Market and also by his great influence on the people in that parish that he has been able to bring that influence to bear on the workers in the construction of that market and has persuaded them to work more quickly on it; however, the alacrity at which the Speights-town Market has been completed as compared with the dilatoriness of the persons responsible for the erection of the market at Eagle Hall is something approaching a scandal. The last time I passed by the Eagle Hall Market, I saw one or two members of the Vestry of St. Michael surveying the place and by the expression on their faces it seemed as if the \$6,000 which was said to be saved on the construction but which I think was due to a subtraction in the original plan would probably be whittled away to nothing. I do not wish to infer that I am against the money spent on

that market. I do not mind whether this amount is spent so long as facilities are obtained there for the public to shop in comfort.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I think that this resolution before the Committee—and according to the addendum—is for the purpose of paying out money to unestablished staff and casual workers according to a key scale passed by this House. It has nothing to do with insurance, the making of cement blocks, or anything of that sort. It is purely for wages. I do not see why anything else should be discussed.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, If I may proceed, I do not see the point in saving \$6,000 on an erection if you have to come back in about two weeks' time and ask for \$2,233 to pay retrospective pay to workers on the same building. As I have said, if the Eagle Hall District Market had been erected at the same speed as the Speightstown Fish Market, you certainly would have made a saving and perhaps a production bonus could have been given to the carpenters, masons and other workers on that building. If the workmen had been pressed in that manner, perhaps, by now, the Eagle Hall Market would have been opened to the public. But it is not yet completed, and no date has been fixed for the opening of it.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get an explanation on the item,—Markets, aside of which it is stated that \$31,920 has been voted and \$2,233 is to be voted. Now, the honourable senior member for St. Michael said in here a few weeks ago that the sum voted for the erection of the Eagle Hall District Market was \$36,000 and that \$9,000 was saved by the Public Works Department which did the construction. That is how I understood it on the last occasion when that honourable member tried to bandy words with me. I told him that I did not know if he took a '6' for a '9' when I said that the Colonial Secretary and the Director of Public Works said that the amount saved was \$6,000. At any rate, what I am worried about and what I would like explained to me by the honourable member in charge of this resolution is, having said that there was a saving of \$9,000 on the building of the Eagle Hall Market by its being done departmentally how can you come now, according to the vote under this resolution for \$2,233 to pay for a revision of wages to the unestablished and casual workers of that department that worked on the erection of the building? I can quite appreciate that you do need this \$2,233 to pay back pay to the people who worked on the building, I can quite appreciate that. If say a worker was getting 27 cents per hour and there has been an increase of three cents per hour by the recent key scale for workers, you will have to pay that worker at 30 cents per hour instead of the 27 cents at which you paid him. The question is that \$36,000 was voted to be spent on the erection of that market; the honourable senior member for St. Michael said that \$9,000 was saved on it; how can you come now for \$2,233 to pay the workers on that building? That is the point I would like made clear.

As to the Eagle Hall District Market, I will not say more than that I am no architect or builder but the plan of it was sent in by an architect. As is known, people differ very much as to their taste for a plan. Some people think because they read a book and see some particular architectural design for a market, probably designed to suit living conditions near the North Pole, that that type of design would be suitable for this country, I feel that our design for a market should be something different from that

which would be suitable for England. I do not think that it is necessary to have here for a market a design like those monstrosities which we see designed for cold countries. The honourable senior member for St. George said that the work on the Speightstown Fish Market has progressed to such an extent that its opening day has been announced but the date of the opening of the Eagle Hall District Market has not yet been announced. I believe I can safely say that the Vestry of St. Michael are trying their best to open the Eagle Hall Market as early as possible in November. What I would like the honourable senior member for St. George to bear in mind is that the Speightstown Market is merely a fish market and although it was intimated in this Chamber when the money was being voted for the erection that as it was the only market in the area it should be built and equipped for the selling of things other than fish that has not been done. I am taking the liberty to say in spite of what the honourable junior member for St. Peter may say contrariwise as regards to the design of the Speightstown market that it is not what it should be because it is built without any shelter for the shoppers who will go there. It is designed merely to accommodate the fishermen. Before I sit down, I would like to remind the honourable junior member for St. Peter that I would welcome an explanation to the point I raised with regard to the asking for this amount of \$2,233 for work on markets when a saving of \$9,000 has been declared on the building of the Eagle Hall Market.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: When the honourable senior member for St. Michael spoke on the saving of \$9,000 on the erection of the Eagle Hall District Market, he was not speaking as a Minister for Agriculture, he was speaking as a Minister for Communications and Works and on this matter of figures, he is more competent to speak than I. It was pointed out that the market was estimated to cost \$36,000, but when it was finished—I refer to the erection only—it did not cost that much and I think the honourable member would bear me out on this statement. There was a saving, though I cannot say what was the amount. However, the honourable member would also remember that when the honourable senior member for St. Michael told of the saving on the Eagle Hall Market that it was not under discussion at all. The honourable member was dealing with another matter but merely brought that in to show the House that the Public Works Department had done the work more expeditiously and probably cheaper than if it had been done outside of Government. What was under discussion at the time was not markets but buildings. So far as the saving of \$9,000 on the Eagle Hall Market, although I think some explanation was given by the honourable senior member for St. Michael, I cannot speak on that matter as it has nothing to do with the files which I have here. What this Committee is dealing with is purely a matter of voting money to pay what has been described as backpay to the unestablished staff and casual workers who worked on buildings during the time that it was proposed to give them an increase and the amounts set out in this resolution under the various Heads of Capital Expenditure are to cover the cost of the revision of the wages of those workers employed on Capital Works during the financial years 1952-53 and 1953-54 according to the recommendation of Sir Errol Dos Santos as was passed by this House. Under the circumstances, the people entitled to this backpay should get it. Again I must say that I cannot answer anything about the \$9,000 saving.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I thank the honourable member for the explanation he has given but it has not clarified the point which I raised and I do feel that it should be clarified. We are dealing with a resolution for \$112,055 to cover the cost of revision of wages of workers employed on Capital Works during the financial years 1952-53 and 1953-54. We are dealing with wages of people who put up certain buildings and as the Eagle Hall District Market was one of those buildings, the question which I asked should be clarified.

Another question I would like to ask is this: What decision has Government arrived at in the paying out of this back-pay to those workers who were employed on capital works during that period? Is Government going to pay all those who worked on capital works during that period? Is this amount applicable to all who worked during that period whether they worked for a month, a week or a day? It has not been stated. I remember that on the last occasion when there was such backpay that only some of the workers were picked out as eligible for it and some did not get any.

(A VOICE): Everybody is included.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: One honourable member has said *sotto voce*: "Everybody is included." If it goes in the Press that everybody is included, it will be taken to mean that the statement came from the Government and therefore it is so. I am wondering if that statement is really correct. I think it a little too wide to say: "Everybody is included," because if as an instance, someone came in temporarily and worked on a school in St. Lucy during that period, that person might not be included. That is too sweeping a statement. It is a serious matter. I do want the Government to explain if someone put in three weeks at various intervals, or three months at various works, if arrangement has been made to give retrospective pay to that type of worker. Surely, the honourable introducer of this resolution must have seen the point I am making by now.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable senior member who spoke *sotto voce* was making reference on a wide basis when he said that everybody is included. What I can tell the honourable senior member for the City is that so far as this resolution is concerned with respect to the persons entitled to backpay that there is a continuous type of person who is employed by the Public Works Department. That department keeps a sort of staff of these workers though a member of it may not be employed continually. However, this resolution is for the purpose of increasing the rates paid to these workers and I take it that every person who is entitled to retrospective pay according to the new rate would receive it. So far as the honourable member is trying to make out that there is a qualifying period, that has not arisen as far as I am aware, but if the honourable member wants that point cleared up, I will be happy to give him on another occasion.

Mr. BARROW: Judging from what the honourable member who has just sat down said, there seems to be a rather anomalous situation with respect to the paying out of retrospective pay. It appears as if every mason or casual worker who worked on capital works of Government during the period stated in this resolution is qualifying for backpay and yet we have the specific cases of a policeman who is a member of the established staff as well as a nurse at the General Hospital not qualifying because the Financial Secretary had the temerity to make a ruling that unless a member of

the established staff worked in April 1953—he does not care how long the person might work before—that person was not qualified for backpay. I would like to know if a member of the administration is entitled to make a ruling on any point which may arise in the daily performance of his duties. I do not think that it is the job of any Financial Secretary of this island to make a ruling which is to use a mild expression, obnoxious to commonsense and repugnant to the wishes of this House of Assembly which passes the legislation. If this House says in a Bill that this money is voted for members of the Government Service and members of the Unestablished Staff as from April 1951 or 1952, it is not for the Financial Secretary to add a further qualification that in order to draw back-pay the servant of Government must be working on the 1st April 1953. It seems to me that higher officers of the Government think that because high officers in British Guiana now run the B.G. Government, they too can do the same thing in Barbados. I think this House should make it clear to these officers that though they might come from a metropolitan country that they cannot revise any legislation which is passed by this House.

I cannot describe it as anything else but temerity and audacity on the part of the Financial Secretary to make legislation which in the first instance, he should not take upon himself to do, and in the second instance, which is capable of legal ambiguity. I am glad for the assurance of the honourable junior member for St. Peter that as far as the unestablished staff and casual workers are concerned, they are not going to suffer the same indignity in the receiving of their backpay as have some of the members of the established staff. I am glad to learn that the members of the unestablished staff and the casual workers will get their backpay no matter for what period they were employed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: With regard to the point raised about nurses by the honourable senior member for St. George, I am sure the matter will be taken up by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, but I would like the honourable senior member for St. George to bear in mind that he, as a lawyer must be careful of repeating things which he may hear from others without checking on it. I would like the honourable member to know that the Financial Secretary is not one of those officers who will rush and do things madly or without instruction. That officer normally carries out administrative instruction. I would like to assure the honourable member that from the Head of the Administration right down the ladder to the most junior member of the Service, there is the policy of giving members of the House the greatest hearing on any matter concerning the administration, but the honourable member must bear in mind that there really are some people who come to you and make a statement which is not a full statement. I am sure that if anything arises having to do with the Financial Secretary that that officer would not be against discussing the matter with the honourable member.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the honourable junior member for St. Peter that no one has come to me and told me anything halfway. As a matter of fact, I never rely on hearsay or gossip. In this Chamber at the moment is a letter from the Financial Secretary stating precisely the same thing which I mentioned. I can get it from the custody of the honourable member who has it in his possession if the honourable junior member for St. Peter doubts my statement. So far as the Financial Secretary or any

other officer of Government granting me an audience to discuss any matter, I appreciate the statement of the honourable member but I would like him to know that I have an office just as any officer of Government and they will have to come to me for an audience. I do not think that any representative of the people should be at the beck and call of the members of the Administration and I think that it is time that they realise what is their position. They are the servants of the people. Let me say that I would not have the time to visit the officers of the different departments of Government for information. I would assure the honourable member that I will not waste his or my time with any matter unless I have the required information on it.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago, the honourable junior member for the City raised the same point with regard to a nurse at the General Hospital as was just raised by the honourable senior member for St. George. I answered it but when I did so both of those honourable members were having a tête-à-tête.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think the qualifying period should have been specifically set out in the addendum of the resolution. Had it been done, it would surely have saved all honourable members here of any embarrassment. We know from previous experience that when any resolution like this which deals with increase in wages, or back pay comes before the House, each and every honourable member likes to have full knowledge of these things because they are intrinsic and touch to the very point of why we work. As a result of the qualifying period being left out of this resolution, we are left in a very embarrassing position. I would therefore suggest to Government that in future the qualifying period should be stated in a resolution of this nature. It should not be left to the whims and caprices of any Government servant to say what he thinks it should be. If it is done in the future, it will save a lot of embarrassment.

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.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head VI, Communications, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRYAN: Under this Head, Communications, is the item 'Tenantry Roads.' First of all, I would like to get the assurance of Government that the casual workers who are employed by Department of Highways and Transport on these roads would be dealt with more expeditiously as regards to their back-pay than on the last occasion. It will be remembered that these workers had to wait a very long time before their back pay was computed. I would like to get the assurance that these workers have been considered just as anyone else.

Now that this Committee is dealing with these increases which are to be paid to workers who were engaged on tenantry roads, it brings to one's mind the deplorable condition of some tenantry roads. We all do know that this is a burning question to-day; it is discussed almost daily in the Press and also by all and sundry, especially the deplorable condition of the Carrington Village tenantry roads. I would like, as I have done on several occasions previously, to draw the attention of Government to this particular area and the difficulties which the people living

there are confronted with in order to get to and from their homes when the rain falls. The people of that area are contributing considerably to the taxes of this country to-day owing to conditions having changed as regards to the properties. There was a time when most of the people there were holding mortgages on their properties but to-day the situation is changed entirely owing to a great proportion having been paid up. The time has come when this Government should stop paying a deaf ear to the appeals made on behalf of the residents of that area and start reconstruction of proper roads for them.

I noticed in the Press recently a statement made by the Director of Highways and Transport to the effect that the Carrington Village tenantry roads were not included in the list which was handed over to the Department of Highways and Transport and that the repairs to the tenantry roads were done by some priority scheme. If that is so, something went wrong because the land at Carrington's Village has been sold out over 20 years. I cannot believe that the tenantry roads in that area are not given priority owing to the deplorable condition which they are in. So too are the tenantry roads at Station Hill. Since 1949, I have been appealing on behalf of the residents of Ashdene Village—a district which has been sold out for more than 30 years—for repairs to the roads there and yet priority has not been given to that village yet. When it comes to the tenantry roads of Carrington Village, I understand that an excuse has been given for not effecting the repairs already but I would like to get in touch with the Director of Highways and Transport and the Executive Engineer, or whoever is responsible for this system of priority, and take them up on the matter. I would also like to show them around the village to let them see what the residents there suffer.

Mr. Chairman, I have advocated ever since that the Highways Department should scrap the out-moded list which it has on tenantry roads and get one which will contain the recently built-up areas where, perhaps, there is a change of ownership also. I am sure if a new list is made out and priority is given to the worst roads that the work done by the Department of Highways and Transport on the tenantry roads would meet with greater satisfaction to the people. I again bring this matter to the House because it is discussed on all sides by the people who are interested. They feel that this is time that something should be done, especially the people of the Carrington Village area. I would like to say at this stage that I welcome the work which has been done by this Department, especially since the new Director has taken up his duties. I must stress however that to my way of thinking, the question of priorities in regard to the roads to be done leaves a lot to be desired. On the last occasion when I spoke on this matter, I appealed to the Government with the hope that my appeal would not fall on deaf ears. To-day, I make a similar appeal and ask that some directive be given to the Director of Highways and Transport so that some serious consideration would be given to the roads in Carrington Village.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I rise to give the honourable junior member for St. Michael some support on this question. Some time ago, I think it was in February, I paid a visit to a friend who lives in the Carrington Village District, and the rain fell shortly afterwards and my friend drew my attention to the appalling condition of the streets there. He raised the question with me as recently as last Saturday night. Sir, the condition of the Carrington Village Roads is so deplorable that they want something done to them as early as possible. I think that it is this morning

that some twenty residents of that district came to me to draw up a petition for them on those roads. I am sincerely hoping that within a short space of time, as the honourable junior member for St. Michael has said, his words of appeal would not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, I think every honourable member knows my feelings on tenantry roads, especially those in St. George. However, while I would like to see something done more quickly to them, I feel that the attempt to criticise the new Director of Highways and Transport on them is too early. Personally, I think that officer is doing a good job and that he is doing his best.

(A VOICE): But nobody is criticising that officer.

Mr. MILLER: I still think that the people of this colony are more fortunate in respect of roads than those in Jamaica. When I was there a few months ago, I discovered that the people were asked to carry stone to a road which they wanted to get repaired. At any rate, I think the Director of Highways and Transport is doing a good job and I think the attempt to criticise him at the moment is inopportune. I do not think it is altogether fair.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. Michael but I cannot understand the reason for the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. George, I hope he is not trying to defend the Director of Highways and Transport without that officer doing anything amiss to be defended. I will however, tell the honourable junior member for St. George that any time that officer needs my criticism, he will get it. He is not worthy of that criticism now.

In supporting the honourable junior member for St. Michael, I shall say that I read a statement in the Press by the Director of Highways and Transport and I am going to make this strong statement of what I read. It is not true to say that tenantry roads are done by priority. I believe that priority—

Mr. ADAMS: Is the honourable member addressing the Chair with his hands in his trousers' pockets?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The honourable member is trying to interrupt my line of thought. As I was saying, Sir, I was one of those members of the St. Michael Highway Commissioners who at that time prepared the list of tenantry roads that was handed over to the Department of Highways and Transport. Having knowledge of that list, I do know that the statement made by the Director of Highways and Transport in the Press is not altogether true. It is not altogether true to say that these tenantry roads are done by priority either by the date of application for the particular road to be done or priority of the time the tenancies were sold out. I make this statement with the fullest sense of my responsibility and I am prepared to back it up if I am called on to do so. I am stating further that those roads are not done by priority of condition either. I can say something very strong on this but I am not prepared to say anything more at the moment. Let me repeat again that this is no accusation against the Director of Highways and Transport. That officer has come here recently and is doing an excellent job.

I will say this—I have no axe to grind—there is no reason why you should go ahead and do a stretch of road which runs alongside a half mile of canes merely because a particular somebody with an area of land and a single house lives on that road. You should not go ahead and repair that road as against roads like what the honourable junior mem-

ber for St. Michael mentioned where there are seven or eight hundred houses situated. It is better to do a road where there are two or three houses situated on it.

Sir, there is a list of tenantry roads in the Department of Highways and Transport. It was sent there by the Commissioners of Highways, St. Michael. The tenantry roads to be repaired are set down on that list in order of the dates that application to repair them was received by the Commissioners of Highways. I have never agreed, and I do not think any honourable member of the House would agree, that priority for repairs of these roads should only be taken on the date that application for repairs were received. You must also take into consideration the condition of the road and along with that what I said just now, that is, the type of road where there are only two or three houses and which runs alongside lands of two or three plantations as against one where two or three hundred houses are situated. The Minister for Roads is not in his place but I am throwing out this warning. There is a sacred responsibility placed on ministers. Where a minister is responsible for roads, he will at times come across one to be done in the constituency of a member of the opposition. Since that minister holds a sacred responsibility, he must be big enough to push petty things aside and carry out his responsibility without prejudice. I will end on this serious note. Since it is said that these roads are to be done in order of priority, let us know the order of priority. I challenge anyone to say that these roads are given priority according to the time that they were sent in or the condition of them, because some which have been put into repair were not on the list that was sent in by the St. Michael Vestry as far as I am aware. I strongly agree with the hon. junior member for St. Michael that these tenantry roads should be given priority for repair according to the condition of the road and the density of the population which inhabits the area.

Mr. ADAMS: I would like the honourable senior member for the City to tell this Government the roads which he thinks have been done unduly and should have waived until later. In his address he suggests that some particular road where some particular person lives alongside a plantation has been done which should not have been done. Is it a road alongside one of his properties? It is not fair to leave this Government to guess which road he means. I would like him to tell us, so that we can investigate the matter.

Mr. ALLDER: Since the new Director of Highways and Transport has come to this island, I hardly think that he has reached the stage where even the slightest suggestion that he is not trying his best can come from any section of the public. I am always very critical as regards to the services which Government officers give to the community, but so far as this officer is concerned, I can say, as well as I have heard very many other people say, that he has measured up to a high standard. Because of that there should be a definite refrain from even hinting that he deserves criticism of any sort.

(A VOICE): Has anybody criticised that officer?

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, — Any honourable member with a knowledge of things as they are would know that there is some slight attempt to criticise that officer. It should not be done when we all consider that he is an efficient officer.

Sir, I would like the honourable senior member for the City to know that the order of priority for doing tenantry roads by some Commissioners of High-

ways might not necessarily mean the order of priority that will be given to them by the Director of Highways and Transport. There are some Commissioners of Highways who feel that they should walk in the office of the Director of Highways and Transport and demand that a particular road should be done and the Director to accede to their demand. That should not be so. Again, it is not always easy for the Department of Highways and Transport to give a road priority for repair just because hundreds of houses are situated there. Very often, where there are many residents, you are always up against the difficulty of getting permission to use up land which might belong to some of them. As a matter of course, I believe that one of the means of decentralization or encouraging people to get away from already congested areas is for the Government to go in the suburbs where there are not many houses and put a road in proper state of repair, and encourage householders to move to that vicinity. Again, I would say that it is unkind to make even the slightest criticism of the new Director of Highways and Transport at present. Any undue criticism of that officer who has started off to do his job so well might cause him to become callous and fed up and ultimately, for this colony to lose his good service.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am not trying to defend either the junior member for St. Michael or the senior member for the City but I think it is not the right thing for some honourable members to decry other hon. members when there has not been even the slightest suggestion for their doing so. In all sense of decency, I think the honourable junior member for St. Michael raised the point that the deplorable condition of the Carrington Village tenantry roads was a heart-burning question of the day and the honourable member was quite right in bringing the matter to the notice of this House at this time because he is a representative for that constituency. I live not far from the district which the honourable member pointed out and I can back him up on what he said. Not only that, but many people have written in the *Advocate* drawing attention to the deplorable condition of the roads of that district.

I do not think that any honourable member who spoke drawing attention to the extremely bad condition of the tenantry roads of that area attempted to attack the new Director of Highways and Transport because judging from their speeches, that officer is doing a good job and everybody hopes that he will have a pleasant stay in Barbados. It is a pity that some people because of the gingleism of their minds try to distort what everybody else tries to get common agreement on. Sir, none of us who focussed attention on this matter did so to attack the Director of Department of Highways and Transport.

Mr. BRYAN: Sir, I am always at pains when I get up to speak in this Assembly to use the most elementary words of the English Language with the hope that what I say would be understood by everybody. This is one of the occasions when I took great pains to make myself clear. At no time have I attempted to criticise the Director. I made one reference to him and that was when I said that he made the statement that these roads were repaired by priority. Sir, if you remember, I ended on the note that I welcomed the work which had been done by the Department, especially since the new Director had taken up his duties. How can the honourable senior member for St. John have the thought that we are attempting to criticise that officer?

Mr. BARROW: Sir, this debate is a sidetrack on the issue, whether certain tenantry roads in the parish of St. Michael should have been repaired

already, and the honourable junior member for St. Michael has launched an appeal to Government as to the urgent repairs which are necessary to the Carrington Village Tenantry Roads. What I wish to draw attention to is that under the Public Health Act, it is stated that owners of land if they are letting or selling it out, have to submit plans to the General Board of Health showing how it is to be sold, and if it is to be divided in lots, the plans must show proper roads and adequate water supply. It seems to me that the General Board of Health has been rather timorous in enforcing the provisions of the Act. So much responsibility is put on this Board that it puts the burden on the members to visit a site which is submitted to be sold out from month to month to see that proper roads are put down.

I understand that the General Board of Health has been advised by an officer of Government that on any new sub-division of land, it is not necessary to put down a decent road or to submit a plan showing that there are the necessary sanitary arrangements. I do not see how this can be so because in the United Kingdom, if you take land and sub-divide it, you not only have to put down proper roads, water, electricity and other utilities but you have to pay a development charge to Government which is something as high as 70 or 80 per cent. of the increment of the value of the land which is due to the new utilisation of which it is put. Let me put that in more simple language. Suppose that land which is to be sub-divided was used as a kitchen garden and it was decided to put ten houses on it instead, you not only have to put in water and a sewerage as well as to have the other utilities running alongside, but if you wanted £2,000 an acre for that land which would give you an increase of £1,800 from the change in the nature of the utilisation, you will have to pay something between £1,600 and £1,700 of the profit over to the Government.

I will give you an instance of what is happening in this island in this respect. A certain company or individual has made between £100,000 and £150,000 profit out of dividing up a village or villages. I do not see the reason why within the space of a year of making that profit out of the division by that single combine that the Government should be called on as has been done to put down proper roads and put in water. That is what happens in this island all along. And above all that, we have people in the administration who are not prepared to write out an honest legal opinion for the General Board of Health. I think it can only be a dishonest opinion if any legally trained Government officer has advised that under circumstances such as these which I have set out that the General Board of Health has no power to demand that these roads be put in proper repair by the people who sold out the land. Do you mean to say that the taxpayers of the island should enhance the value of land by paying for the putting down of proper roads on private property?

In the specific instance of Carrington's Village land, I will say that the legacy of improper tenantry roads has been handed down from the time of its being made into a tenantry by the Carrington family. That family and then some other concern which bought over that land has been able to sub-divide or sub-let and/or let has never put down a proper road in that village. Now, the Government has been called upon to go and put down proper roads on what can be termed as private lands, Sir, if I chose to establish a tenantry in my backyard, must I run to the Government and tell them that they must come and put proper roads in my backyard? That is literally what is happening here in Barbados. It

is true that you are called upon to submit plans to the General Board of Health but it is also true to say that no member of the Board of Health, not even the honourable member on my right who is an active member of that Board would have any interest in going and inspecting the site to see whether proper roads have been laid down. The New Orleans and the Carrington Village tenancies are two of the most glaring examples in the parish of St. Michael where there is a lack of proper roads. These two large conglomerations are in a deplorable condition and we are informed now, on the grounds of sympathy, to go and spend money on putting them into proper condition despite the fact that all the profits from them have gone into the pockets of private people.

Sir, the whole of my accusation is that where land is rented out as a tenantry, as soon as that land changes hands for the purpose of sub-division that the General Board of Health should have the right to make the owners put in proper roads. Any person who says anything different to that is wrong; I am saying it is wrong to advise differently and I do not care how many attorney generals say that it is right. I cannot blame the people who own land or the people who sell it out, if the Government is so lethargic, indifferent and disinterested in the politics of this island and in the dissipation of the Treasury resources as to allow that state of affairs to go on, and on top of that to allow officers to give convenient rulings. I am saying that it is wrong to do so. We should not be made to spend £3,000 on roads when it could have been avoided. Sir, the very people who are sitting down and smiling are the very people who would not have quarrelled at all if the Government had insisted that the provisions of the Public Health Act be carried out in its proper sphere.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to keep honourable members waiting much longer without dinner, therefore, what I propose to do is to move an adjournment, I would like to say that everyone of us admires the honourable senior member for St. George for his courageous speech just now. So far as this issue is concerned, I am glad to hear the honourable member, though he is not a member of the Cabinet has spoken in the way he has because when this Government's policy on tenantry roads is examined, it will be found that in the last six or seven years this Government has spent between six and seven million dollars on those roads. Where I heartily join issue with him is when he said that it is outrageous when you look at the number of tenancies which existed in the past and which on being sold out within recent years with great profits that none of that profit is given to Government for developing the area. Without any reflection on the appeal which the honourable junior member for St. Michael made on behalf of the people in the Carrington Village area, it is a fact that all voices were silent when these roads needed repairing and were in the hands of private people. I have not heard one voice say: "What about the tenantry roads of Hanschell land? That is still a tenantry owned by a private person."

(A VOICE: I will like to add that tenantry).

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Sir, I would like to point out that we who are socialists are perpetrating a policy that is wrong to the core as regards to our repairing of tenantry roads. We should have made a survey of the tenantry roads that are in St. Michael and from the survey, we should allot a period of years to put them in proper repair. We should have been able to say that it would take—giving this as an instance,—eight years doing at the

rate of 18 miles per year, to put into proper repair the tenantry roads in St. Michael.

I do hear as a fact that the sum of £19,000 was made on one of the recent transfers of lands by an intermediary before the money was paid out by the party buying it and the party also made a handsome profit out of it by distributing it in lots. Of course, in the final analysis it was the people who bought it in lots that paid the price. Those people got no better roads than what were there before and now they are asking the Government for everything,—probably because the members of Government are of a different complexion to what it was formerly. I am glad of this talk about roads. An amount of \$480,000 has been put in the Five Year Plan to be spent on tenantry roads of which sum, \$128,000 appears in this year's Estimates. By this, honourable members can see that Government intends to do something about these tenantry roads. I will however say that even in our private lives, we cannot do all that we wish to accomplish in our time. So too it might be with this Government. As honourable members know, roads are not the only thing which this Government has to do. I am sure that within the next few weeks, the Deputy Leader of this House will be informing us what it is going to cost the island to provide more hospital, and when honourable members hear the figure, we are going to realise that although there is the saying that a lot of money is in the Treasury that the money is not what it appears to be when these things come up for consideration. I will not say anything more now although I am just beginning to get warmed up on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, at this stage, I beg that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that. Mr. Chairman, I want you to take note that I have seconded the motion. I am doing so for a wise purpose. Miracles do happen. A miracle did happen when the honourable senior member for St. John attempted to defend some officer who needs no defending. I have risen not to criticise that officer because I do not think that he is worthy of any criticism, but I am going to say this: let no officer come to this country and think, however big he might be, that he will escape justifiable criticism so long as I am in this House.

The honourable member has referred to the Carrington's Village area being in such a condition for all these years, and he has also referred to the fact that people make a lot of money out of it. When you talk about a tenantry like Carrington's Village it must be realised that from the morning after the tenantry was sold out householders have been paying highway taxes. If you have been collecting highway taxes year after year from the particular owners what is the sense of going back to all these centuries when somebody else did not contribute any taxation? Today people pay taxes and they are justified in asking that the roads be repaired. The parish of St. Michael is entitled to have more money spent on its tenantry roads than any other parish because the highway taxes collected in this parish double the amount collected in the other parishes of the island; therefore if you ask for more money to be spent on the tenantry roads in St. Michael that is something reasonable. There are private tenantry roads and village roads. I have no peculiar interest in Carrington's Village, but let me ask this: because somebody has made money out of Carrington's Village now that the present Government has come into power, are you to say that—

Mr. LEWIS: On a point of order. You cannot debate any other question on a motion for the adjournment of the debate. The honourable member has actually seconded the motion for the adjournment of the debate and he is debating the substantive motion.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: In connection with a place like Carrington's Village where the roads have been stopped from the public and now they are roads in common and people are asked to pay Highway tax and Police tax—now that the roads are open to vehicular traffic, a situation has arisen which demands immediate attention. As far as the honourable senior member for St. George is concerned, when he refers to the correctness or incorrectness of the Attorney General's opinion—

Mr. BARROW: On a point of order. I did not refer to any office holder at present holding office. I stated any office holder for the time being.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I think the honourable member should have raised the question of the Board of Health doing the right thing in 1928 when they made Rules and Regulations. I offer my strongest support to the honourable junior member for St. Michael in respect of the Carrington's Village roads and more especially those roads at New Orleans.

The question that the Chairman do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly.

Dr. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On re-assembling,

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

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not intend to detain this Committee much longer, but I think it is fair that the Government's side should be stated. As a matter of policy the Government has stated that it intends to repair tenantry roads and the Government has put a sum of money in the Estimates for that purpose. Honourable members should not allow an editorial or pictures in a newspaper to focus their attention on matters which the Government has under consideration. You cannot repair all the roads in one year; even if you go to Carrington's Village and repair some of the roads there, you will still have other roads to look after. The Government cannot take all this money and repair all the roads in one year; the Government is repairing tenantry roads all over the island—something which has been left undone all this time. We know that some of these tenancies have been sold out. Kensington New Road was in a bad state of repair and now it has been made into a good road.

As to the point made by the honourable senior member for the City in respect of the payment of Highway taxes, it should be borne in mind that when people pay these taxes it does not always mean that there are good roads leading up to their doors. People

pay taxes in England, but there is no nice road leading to everybody's premises: it depends upon where you live. Even in Brooklyn I have seen roads which are in an appalling condition. Generally speaking, it must be borne in mind that even although the people in Carrington's Village are suffering from bad roads leading to their residences, they cannot claim that they have not been served with roads in the vicinity: they cannot claim that they are living in a remote area away from any of the services. The Government still has to keep in order the main roads for which people have to pay taxes. I should like to say that, from what is printed in the newspaper, it would appear as if the Government has not been repairing tenantry roads; however, I think everyone will agree that we have done all that is humanly possible within the finances we have, and the day that things look brighter we will do more. When we come down to the House with the proposal in respect of the General Hospital, it will be asked whether it is desirable to spend more money on tenantry roads rather than on the Hospital.

Mr. LEWIS: I hate to fall into the error of debating policy on a Resolution of this kind, but I want to reply to the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. George. The honourable member read from the Public Health Act and he knows that that Act does not say that proper roads should be made. We have asked for the assistance of the Director of Highways and Transport and in one instance it was denied us; we have only got co-operation from the Department since the new Head came in. There were tenancies in Barbados for many years; where the land was not sold out it was divided and let in lots and there is a conflict of opinion in the interpretation of the law as to the position of the Board of Health in relation to the division and sale of these lots. We have got a working principle and there are some Regulations which will deal with these matters. The honourable member talked about England but the position in England is different from what it is here.

Mr. TALMA: The speeches of most honourable members seem to be confined to the tenantry roads in St. Michael, but from this Resolution the sum of \$19.167 is to be paid out by way of increased wages to workers on tenantry roads island wide. As to the question of priority lists in so far as the various parishes are concerned, I would like to say now that the Central Government is making grants for the repairs of tenantry roads, that honourable members of this Chamber have no opportunity whatever of making any suggestion as to what roads should be done or what roads should not be done. The Chairman of the Highway Commissioners in each parish will repair whatever roads he thinks should be repaired and yet honourable members of this Chamber are called upon to assume the blame or responsibility for whatever takes place. That is hardly fair to any honourable member of this House; we have no hand in the preparation of the lists; that is left to the local Government. The Chairman of the Highway Commissioners in each parish will repair and submit these lists to the Department of Highways and Transport. At one time the tenantry roads were regarded as the affair of the Vestry and at any time any honourable member attempted to talk about these roads he would be stopped by the Speaker. Today the tenantry roads are repaired as a result of a central grant made in this Chamber and allocated to the various parishes and so we can speak on this matter. Now that we actually

make grants to the various parishes for the repairs of these roads, I think the time has come when honourable members representing the various constituencies should be co-opted to deal with the repairs of these roads. We make the grants and we should have some say as to what roads are to be repaired; today a road leading to hundreds of houses is not repaired but one which leads to some prominent man's house will be repaired. I would certainly like to see the day arrive when those who are blamed for the non-repair of tenantry roads will be in a position to assume responsibility and have some say in these matters.

Mr. HOLDER: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few remarks on this question. I speak about the condition of the tenantry roads in St. James. As far as I know the condition of the roads in various parishes always lies at the door of the Highway Commissioners. Where giving priority is concerned, it is the Highway Commissioners who have to give that priority, and in the parish of St. James it is clearly seen how things are done. When this money is allocated to the parishes for repairing tenantry roads especially in the parish of St. James, there should be some direct supervision to see how the money is utilised. This money is granted year after year and within a short time the roads are in the same condition as before; I therefore feel that the spending of this money should be supervised. In St. James there are districts like Rock Dundo, Westmoreland and Sion Hill and when those lands were sold out, it was a blessing in disguise to the parish; but I wonder if the Board of Health was in existence then. There are some of these districts in which there are no proper roads; I know that a young man, an organist, in Rock Dundo bought a car and he had to leave it by the side of the main road. Nothing is done by way of repairing the roads in these districts, but year after year certain roads are done. If this money is voted I hope that the workers will all get their back pay; I hope we will actually have centralisation. I also hope that with all this talk about priority, the Government's policy will be clearly understood when the Highway Commissioners have to take charge of the roads.

Mr. BRANCKER: This state of affairs is the result of people of a certain party being returned to the Vestry every year. For instance, in Gilkes Village where there are supporters of the minority party in the Vestry of St. James, the roads there will be neglected; likewise in one part of Holders Hill where the majority in the Vestry have true adherents they will never do anything for the other part of Holders Hill. I commend to the honourable senior member for St. James that he get certain people in the majority in the Vestry, otherwise the roads in certain districts will always be left out. In St. Lucy the Vestry is approached by people who live in certain districts and they request the Vestry to recommend that their tenantry roads be repaired by the Central Government. With our Vestry it invariably happens that whoever asks to have a road repaired, once we are satisfied that the road caters to a reasonable number of persons, we submit that road to the Department of Highways and Transport. Perhaps you will permit me, Mr. Chairman, to say that as from the beginning of this year, for the first time in many years, this colony has, as Director of Highways and Transport, a person who has no favours to show to any particular section or group or class or family in the community. In the past number of years we suffered under the Skinner dispensation and we had to put up with the roads which served

the families of the Skinners being done. These roads obtained priority and others were left undone; we had the most perfect misfit that one could ever conceive. If there could be some improvement in the Vestry of St. James we might have street lamps installed on the important highways in the parish, just as street lamps are installed in St. Michael and St. Peter. I would counsel the honourable senior member for St. James to have a Press reporter present at meetings of the Vestry of St. James when he is "raising cam" about certain roads which are always left undone by the dictates of the dominant party in that Vestry. I do emphasize that if the local government will pull their weight they no longer have any reason to fear the Head of the Department of Highways and Transport because if there has ever been an unbiassed officer who has come to this island, it is the present Director of Highways and Transport. He is the ideal successor to the gentleman in respect of whom all of us send our sympathy to Trinidad in that he has been transferred to that colony.

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

HEAD VII—MISCELLANEOUS

Head VII—Miscellaneous—was called.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the Resolution to place the sum of \$112,055 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. 15 which form the Schedule to the Resolution, was passed.

BARBADOS' REPRESENTATION ON HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO JAMAICA

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$1,640 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. 16 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Honourable members are well acquainted with this Resolution; it is not so long ago that this House passed an Address asking the Governor to send down the necessary Resolution to cover the expenses of the delegates to Jamaica as representatives of this Island on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: This subsistence allowance of \$15 per day looks very small to me. I am not satisfied about this allowance but if they are satisfied about it—

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Jamaican Government is paying other expenses.

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

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OF EXTRA OFFICIAL REPORTER

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is a Resolution to place the sum of \$480 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. 18, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

This amount is required for the payment of an extra Reporter so that the debates of this House can be brought up to date. For a couple of years there has been delay in the printing and indexing of the debates of this House and the work cannot be done by the present staff of Reporters. The Debates Committee has therefore requested the Executive Committee to send down this Resolution so that the debates can be brought up to date. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: This House has been taken to task from high up and low down about the debates, but it does not seem ever to occur to some people that they should do a little research when they want to abuse the members of the present House. This House has made recommendations for altering this state of affairs, but nothing has been done about it. I am going to be very mild in my criticism now because I understand that some notice is being taken of recommendations made to the Government unknown to people outside.

Mr. BRANCKER: And let me add this; unless and until we secure a Government Printery in this country, our debates will never be published in time and be fully up to date because the Company publishing our debates are also publishing a daily and an afternoon newspaper. They have a considerable volume of private work to do and preference is given to the private work because it is felt that if they have a contract the money is there. The Reporters who are paid by this private Company never sit down and write one single thing when we are speaking about the omission, neglect and default of the private Company.

Mr. TALMA: As a member of the Debates Committee I think it is only fair to say this: As long ago as last year an Address was passed by this House asking the Government to increase the number of Reporters and to re-organize the staff of Reporters. It was suggested that two typists and an additional Reporter should be appointed and that Address has never been implemented. There was a suggestion made in another form and up to now nothing has been done. I want to say that unless and until such time as a new system of reporting is adopted,—unless and until we have an additional Reporter and two typists with the necessary qualifications—in my view the debates will continue to be in arrears. It must also be borne in mind that we lost one of our Reporters only last year and another one died just a little time before then. All these special circumstances are well known to the powers that be but who, in a speech, attempted to criticise the Debates Committee. You cannot criticize the Debates Committee when the same Committee on the floor of this House moved the passing of an Address asking that the staff of Reporters be increased, that two typists be appointed and that the whole system be changed whereby debates taken in one night could be made available to the public on the next morning. With that system in operation the debates could not be in arrears.

Although I am in favour of a Government Printery I still feel that the whole system of reporting debates should be changed and with a little more money being spent in that direction, the debates would not appear late. Two Reporters functioned here eleven years ago and took debates which lasted for about two or three hours and now the same two Reporters are required to take down debates which last for about eight or ten hours: The

volume of work has increased to such an extent that it is unreasonable to expect two Reporters to carry through with it; the volume of work has increased at least by about 200%, the Staff remains static having never been increased and we are expecting the same old Staff comprised of two Reporters to cope with the increased volume of work in this Chamber. This House sits on the identical day on which the Other Place sits with the result that only two Reporters are assigned to take the debates in this Chamber. When you bear in mind the volume of work that has to be done as a result of the present-day debates as compared with the small volume of work which was done 10 or 11 years ago, you can well understand what great strain is being placed on the Reporters so much so that within the last year or two years, two Reporters went to an early grave. (Dr. CUMMINS: You cannot prove that) and there is no knowing if a third Reporter might follow. It is our duty to see that the Reporters are properly compensated. The time has come when an Address passed by this Chamber by an overwhelming majority should not be just pigeon-holed and neglected whereby an opportunity is granted to an Acting Head of the Administration to pass slanderous remarks or aspersions against the Debates Committee, knowing fully well what the position was. I am hoping that the members of the Executive Committee will see that the Staff of Reporters is increased and there will be a system whereby typists and typewriters will be provided so that the debates can be made readily available to the public.

Dr. CUMMINS: I should have said something about that matter in my opening remarks, but it slipped me; the matter to which the honourable senior member for Christ Church has referred is receiving the attention of the Government. I am hoping that within a week or two recommendations will be brought down to this House especially where the Other Place is concerned, which might involve changing the day of its meetings. That is a matter which cannot be dealt with lightly: the whole matter has been under consideration for some time but, as I say, I feel quite sure that in two weeks' time the necessary recommendations will be brought before the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Many years ago the type of members elected to this House were those who just sat and voted quietly, but to-day there are a number of us who will make our contribution to any matter under debate. More than five years ago I sounded a note that there was the necessity for the appointment of another Reporter for this House. Although you are granting this time to the Senior Reporter so as to get these debates up to date, unless by the time the Reporter comes back to his substantive post, the Government sends down the Resolution for the employment of another Reporter, we will find ourselves back in the same old rut. I am not suggesting however that the Reporters take it easy.

I must say that I, for one, do not object to criticism in the Press. The Press must be free in this country and if this Chamber is not to be criticised who else should be criticised? I say that this Chamber should be subject to criticism by every section and all sections of the Press. You cannot get dishonest criticism all the time, and I do not see that any honourable member of this House should take objection to any criticism by the Press. Since I have been in public life I find that you must be attacked and if you do not like criticism then you must get out of public life. The honourable senior member for St. Lucy likes to create the impression that the debates of this House are held up through the Printers; you know, Mr. Chairman, and the honourable senior men-

ber for St. Lucy also knows that that is not correct. It is not true to say that the debates are held up through the printers because the addendum to this Resolution says:—

“These arrears have accumulated owing to the Senior Reporter having to devote much of his time to transcribing the notes, representing about five months’ debates from November 1950 onwards, which were left behind by another of the Reporters of the House who died after a long illness.”

Mr. Maynard was taken ill and died. As regards the other Reporter, Mr. Brathwaite, he had his trouble and before he passed to the Great Beyond he was unable to transcribe his notes. He lost his wife and anyone who has any sympathy would know how he would feel, and he died six months after his wife. That left the other Reporter, Mr. Callender, with a tremendous burden. It is therefore not correct to say that the Printers hold up these debates, and Mr. Chairman, the honourable member knows that that is not correct at all. On the other hand, when the Press criticize us about the debates being behind hand, that is normal criticism. There is one editorial which appeared in the Press which is true and apparently it was not a criticism of the House. During the three months which I spent in America I found that the reports in the Press of debates in the Other Place seemed to be the only medium through which the public could be kept informed of the happenings in the Government. That was not the fault of this House, but the criticism was a true one. During my stay in America I was kept posted with the debates and it was surprising to find that in the debates of the Other Place, speeches made by the Hon’ble the Colonial Secretary, the Hon’ble Mr. Cuke, the Hon’ble Dr. Cato—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is straying too far away from this Resolution.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Too far east or west? Any criticism which says that the Other Place was the means of keeping the public informed of what was going on is correct. If you take up your newspaper you will find extensive reports of debates in the Other Place on any given matter whether it is the “Maude” Bill or the Public Health Bill. Sometimes you take up your newspaper to see what a “Minister” in the House said on a matter and you see nothing. The argument was that because the House sits late at night—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member stick to the Resolution.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The criticism to the effect that due to late meetings of the House—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member stick to this Resolution for \$480 for the employment of an extra Reporter. I am not allowing any debate on any other matter.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on this Resolution and I am within my right to make the point I am making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not entertaining that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on this Resolution; that is all I am speaking about. The hon. senior member for St. Lucy has said that the debates of this Chamber are being held up by the “Advocate” and I am just making a point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given the hon. member some latitude.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: As regards the criticisms which we saw in the Press about reports of these debates, some of these criticisms were justifiable and others were not justifiable. I go on to make the point that when it is said that debates do not appear in the “Official Gazette” until 18 months or a year after they

take place in the House, that criticism is quite justifiable, but the House had the answer to it. It was not that the House wilfully prevented these debates from being published, but two Reporters passed away and therefore the debates could not be published. On the other hand I read the other criticism about the public not being kept informed of what was happening; the public could not be kept informed of what was happening through the “Official Gazette” because the “Official Gazette” gets into the hands of only a few people. The criticism was that reports of debates in the House did not appear in the Press directly because of meetings being held late at night. I am just trying to point out that these criticisms were not all justifiable; it is not accurate to say that reports of debates were not brought to the public because of late meetings of the House, but it is because of circumstances over which we have not had any control. However, what is the justifiable reason for having a matter of paramount importance affecting constitutional changes in this island being discussed after 10 or 11 o’clock at night when hon. members are not fresh enough to do it justice and when one-half of the Press Reporters are at home? After all, a Reporter is only another human being and if a Reporter has worked during the day and he goes off at 10 or 10.30 o’clock at night, no justice can be done to the debates. I hear *sotto voce* that arrangements have been made by the Press not to publish anything except they cannot possibly help it, but nobody would instruct the Press to report anything like the hon. member who made the *sotto voce* remark has said because sometimes he says so little and such nonsense that nobody worries with it. I am a great critic when I have to criticize. I want to say that hon. members cannot expect Press Reporters to report two or three meetings somewhere else and then come here at 12.30 o’clock p.m. and do justice to a debate. I also want to say that if honourable members were reported just as they spoke, they would never make another speech, especially the honourable senior member for St. Philip—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I object to that; anybody who can understand English should be able to report me properly.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I thank you for your latitude, Mr. Chairman. While I am on this Resolution let me say that hon. members make speeches which their constituents should read, but when you embark on a matter affecting constitutional changes in this island or on Resolutions of much importance at midnight you cannot get justice done to the debates. I am sure that the hon. senior member for St. Lucy is mistaken when he says that it is the “Advocate” which holds up these reports of debates: I am sure that nobody would instruct the Reporters not to report anything he says. When the hon. member makes a sensible speech for the good of the island it will be reported.

Mr. BRANCKER: No one would accuse the hon. member of ingratitude when it comes to the Press; there is nobody who is ever reported at such extremely great length in the columns of the daily newspaper like the honourable member. When the honourable member started off half an hour ago to talk, during which he said very little, there were two Reporters taking notes, and the one who now remains is the best one they have. One must compliment the honourable member on his gratitude. If our reports have not been held up by the Government Printers, by whom have they been held up? Who is given the duty of publishing our reports other than the persons who are the Government Printers?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The "Advocate" can only publish reports when they are given those reports from this House. The Senior Reporter has to go back for five months so as to get out his reports.

Mr. BRANCKER: Is there a single document from the private Company complaining about the time they receive reports?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Yes, three of them are in here.

Mr. BRANCKER: This is not the St. Michael's Vestry where every member speaks at once, including the Chairman. If the Government Printers were conscientious and they found that they could not do the work, they would renounce the contract and let it be given to somebody else who can carry it out properly; but we find that every year they have the contract renewed. I have no doubt that they will be applying next June for the renewal of the contract to do the Government's printing. They cannot get the work done in time, yet they apply for it; they are getting so much out of the taxpayers that their shareholders are growing fat out of the taxpayers of this island. They report at length the speeches of one or two hon. members of this House, which speeches are handed to the Reporters afterwards with corrections by the pet children of the capitalist Press. One finds that certain speeches are reported as the speakers would have liked to have made them.

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

COST OF THE REVISION OF WAGES OF WORKERS EMPLOYED ON CAPITAL WORKS

Dr. CUMMINS: Earlier in the day, Mr. Chairman, we postponed a Resolution for \$2,750—the first Resolution—because certain information required was not available. I think that the hon. junior member for St. Peter is in a position to supply that information now.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The hon. junior member for the City is always taking these points. In the Five Year Development Plan the sum of six million

dollars was earmarked for loan funds and the Government agreed to make a loan of two million dollars pending advances. This amount of \$2,750 will be credited to the sum of six million dollars and therefore it will be used from that amount. I know the hon. member's opinion is that this \$2,750 should not be credited to the sum of six million dollars, which is earmarked for loan funds, but that is how this \$2,750 will be accounted for.

Mr. LEWIS: I thank the hon. member for the information. I do not think the hon. member is correct when he says that I do not think this \$2,750 should come out of the six million dollars; I wanted to know if this money was something to do with the two million dollars or the six million dollars. I am sorry that the hon. junior member for Christ Church is not in his place; there is no authority for raising the six million dollars yet and after four of five years you may only raise three million dollars. However, that would not be my method of dealing with this matter; I cannot quarrel with that method because, after all, it is a method.

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

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of four Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee of Supply were read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Dr. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT seconded the motion, which was agreed to, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.