

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th April, 1954.

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

Present:

His Honour, Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (Deputy Speaker), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., C.M.G., Q.C. (Premier), Hon. DR. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., (Minister of Social Services), Hon. M. E. COX (Minister of Communications, Works and Housing), Hon. R. G. MAPP, (Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour), Hon. C. E. TALMA (Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries), Mr. L. E. SMITH (Chairman of Committees), Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, and Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER.

Prayers were read.

Mr. Miller, Mr. Williams and Mr. Alder entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings which were held 1954, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Joseph a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half-year ended 31st March, 1954;

Also, from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. Joseph a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure on tenantry roads for the half year ended 31st March, 1954;

Also from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. George, a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half-year ended 31st March, 1954.

Also, from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. George, a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure on tenantry roads for the half-year ended 31st March, 1954.

INDISPOSITION OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I regret to inform honourable members that owing to medical advice, His Honour the Speaker is unable to attend today's meeting of this House.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for twelve months ended 31st March, 1954.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am commanded to lay a Statement from the Barbados General Agricultural Society regarding the appropriation of the Legislative Grant for the year 1953.

REPLY TO QUESTION

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay a reply to a question asked by the honourable junior member for St. Peter regarding shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk during 1953.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from the taxpayers of the parish of St. Joseph praying the House to recommend to the Governor-in-Executive Committee the purchase of part or all of the estates of Joes River, Limited, with the object of embarking on a large scale Land Settlement Scheme along the lines of the Seawell Pilot Schemes. 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:—

Hon'ble G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to authorise the Governor to enter into an agreement with a person to serve as Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Hon'ble Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a plot of land, part of Trents Plantation, St. James, for the site of a Parish Community Hall and for a playing field for the parish of St. James.

Hon'ble Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$2,100 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1954—55, Part I — Current, as shown in

the Supplementary Estimates 1954—55 No. 2 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution for the employment of labourers to assist in the Campaign for the eradication of the Yellow Fever Mosquito.

Hon'ble Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$1,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1954—55, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1954—55 No. 3 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution for a grant to the Amateur Weightlifting Association of Barbados.

Hon'ble Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Bill to amend the Settlement of the Poor and Bastardy Act, 1897.

Hon'ble G. H. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903.

Hon'ble G. H. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

NOTICE TO DISCUSS REPLY TO QUESTION

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker. If I am in order, I would like to give notice of my intention to move the adjournment of the House at its next meeting to discuss the reply to a question asked by me regarding the shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk. The reply has been laid earlier today by the honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour.

QUESTION

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: To enquire of the honourable Premier: Will the Government state what are the rules that govern the award of War Service Credit to members of the Public Service?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the Bill to amend the Settlement of the Poor and Bastardy Act, 1897, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill to amend the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS the Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916, was read a first time.

ORDER NO. 1 POSTPONED:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Minister of Social Services: To move the passing of a resolution relating to the report of the Hospital Planning Committee.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sorry to say that there is a little wrong arrangement of the Order Paper with respect to Items No. 1 and No. 2. Item No. 2 should be dealt with first inasmuch as it relates to moving consideration of the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee. I am therefore asking leave to postpone Item No. 1 and to take Item No. 2.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF HOSPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Minister of Social Services: To move the consideration of the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question of enlarging, removing and expanding the General Hospital has been the subject of debate of this House since 1942. In that year when the General Hospital was run by a Statutory Board, the question of over-crowding which is the same question that presents itself to-day, presented itself to that Board and the Board realising that something would have to be done about it submitted then alternative suggestions. Here and there, one or two of those suggestions have been implemented from time to time. Today, we have before us what may be termed a final report on that matter, and it has been the results of a Committee which was appointed by His Excellency the Governor on the 13th July 1953,

I will just recant a bit on the history of the General Hospital. In 1942, it was suggested that a new hospital should be built and after that the question of acquiring a suitable site was the next thing. A site at Waterford was decided by the majority of the then Board, but for various reasons it met with some resistance. One resistance came from the general public who felt that the hospital should not be put at Waterford because it would, so to speak, be out of the way. Another school of thought was that it did not matter where it was put. A new hospital was not within the reaches of the purse of the island. At that time, a new hospital would cost within the region of £600,000. Today, it would be considerably more than that, and if I may give a recent experience from the building of a new hospital in Jamaica, the cost was £1,500 a bed. As I have said, in 1942, an estimate of £600,000 was considered a big sum and it was felt that the colony could not afford to spend that amount on a new hospital. Another objection came from the Chief Medical Officer of that day who felt that while the Waterford site was a beautiful site and would be a suitable site for the erection of a new hospital, yet from the point of view that the Belle Pumping Station from which the residents of the City and thereabouts derived most of their water supply was in the neighbourhood, the arrangements for sewerage disposal might cause pollution of the water service. As a result of those schools of thought the site was abandoned. Within recent times attention was turned to the Bay Land for the erection of a new hospital, it was just about the time when the Government bought the Bay Estate. However, it was felt by a certain section of the community that a new hospital could not be so reasonably accommodated on that site. There again, like the attitude of Barbadians generally towards a change, it was felt that the Bay Estate site was so to speak, out of the way, and the question of a change came largely into the picture as well as the question of cost. While the Hospital Board was dilly-dallying with these two sites, the present Surgeon-Specialist, Mr. A. G. Leacock, who was then Superintendent of the Hospital put forward some new ideas which are more or less incorporated in the report which stands before us. One of his ideas was that the hospital could be developed on its present site and he produced an exhaustive memorandum on that and it found some support by the Architect and Town Planning Officer of that day who drew up some plans to that effect. Sir, the question of cost came into the picture again. I think the new plan called for an expenditure of

\$960,000 and that compared with the former amount of £600,000 did cause the Government to seriously consider the new plan. Along with that, the then Colonial Engineer made some borings in the compound of the General Hospital and he thought it was not suitable to develop the hospital on its present site.

Well then, Sir, in 1950 and 1951, faced with more serious over-crowding at the General Hospital than before, the Government looked around for some place in the immediate vicinity where the building could serve as an annexe for the hospital to accommodate a certain number of patients at a certain stage of convalescence and by that means would assist in alleviating the overcrowding at the hospital proper. And as a result of the Government casting its eyes around for a place of that sort, Enmore came into the picture. This House will remember that sometime last year the Government came to this House with a proposal to buy Enmore as an annexe to the General Hospital, where with a minimum of conversion, patients could be treated.

Sir, with all those schemes before Government, a Hospital Planning Committee was appointed by His Excellency the Governor, the names of which, I think, are familiar to honourable members of this House. That Committee held several meetings and as a result of those meetings and conferences, has produced the report as it stands before us today. I may say here that the question of whether Stockton was suitable for the erection of buildings was one of the things which caused some delay in the past. It was felt at that time that only a small portion of the land at Stockton was suitable for building. However, the present Colonial Engineer assured the Committee that suitable buildings could be erected at Stockton and one of the first things which is proposed to be done is to build a Nurses' Home at Stockton to accommodate 150 nurses and maisonettes for matrons and sisters. A modern laundry would also be erected there. I have here some of the plans which are produced by the Colonial Engineer and I am passing them around so that honourable members can see them.

I do not think that I should go into the details of the report. However, one of the things which I think I should mention is that as a result of this report, Enmore, which was originally bought for the extension of the General Hospital would not be used for that purpose now but will be used as a Health Centre. The reason for that is that the Committee found out that after the erection of a new Nurses Home at Stockton which, as I have said, would accommodate 150 nurses and maisonettes for matrons and sisters plus a common room for nurses and a lecture room, that the present nurses home can be easily converted into wards for patients. The Committee also took into consideration the recurrent cost which naturally would be higher if the hospital were extended to Enmore, than if the present nurses home be converted into wards for patients. The Committee was charged, as honourable members would see from the terms of reference, to immediately make provision for an additional 100 beds to the hospital and eventually, at another phase of the development for an additional hundred to bring the total to 600 beds. Well, Sir, by converting the Nurses Home into wards, it would give us a few more than a hundred beds.

Another point which I believe is worrying honourable members, and perhaps also members of the community, is the question of placing a building in the hospital compound for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis. The Director of Medical Services, the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, the Hon. Dr. Cato and myself were members of the Hospital Plan-

ning Committee and we want to take this opportunity to assure not only this House but the community as a whole, that there is no danger to the other patients of the hospital by having a tuberculosis ward within the compound of the hospital. As a matter of fact, if we go as far back as to refer to the memorandum by Mr. Leacock, it will be seen that Mr. Leacock, himself recommended that an additional story should be added to the present main building of the Hospital and on that story, provision should be made for the treatment of tuberculosis. I think there is abundant evidence to prove that there is no danger to the community in placing a tuberculosis block within the compound of the hospital. As a matter of fact, the tendency today, instead of building a T.B. sanatorium, which is costly to run, and because of the new treatment of the disease by surgery, is to have tuberculosis wards attached to a hospital so that surgery can readily be available on the spot as well as the use of X-ray for examination. In addition to that, it is believed that the present modern treatment of tuberculosis with the injection of streptomycin and a new drug which has been discovered and tried in the United States with apparent success, known as rimigon and another called P.A.S. along with the B.C.G. campaign X-raying of contacts of known cases will give such good results that the medical profession believes that within the next few years the incidence of T.B. would be reduced considerably. If we take that as a fact, we might have another white elephant if we build a T.B. Sanatorium as we have about 29 cases of leprosy and many of the buildings there are of no use and nobody knows what to do with them. I want to assure honourable members of this House and the community in general that the making of provision for the treatment of tuberculosis in a ward which would be in a separate building at the General Hospital carries with it no danger to the community.

On page two of the Report will be found the stages in which it is proposed to convert the buildings of the hospital into buildings for a modern hospital. These are as follows:—

- (1) The conversion of the present V.D. Block into a Fever Block supplying eventually 34 adult beds, but used temporarily for 40 beds, for general purposes.

The cost of this conversion with the necessary additions and alterations as appears at Annexure I is estimated to be \$51,000."

I may add that V.D. would be treated at the Health Centre so that you need have no apprehension as to the abandonment of provision of beds for V.D. cases. The next stage is—

- "(2) The conversion of the Main Building to supply a modernized Medical Block containing 1 Children's Medical Ward of 30 beds and 30 beds, 2 Male Wards with 36 beds in each, and the Ancillary Services necessary for these Wards, which will provide 174 Medical Beds for General and Private Patients. The cost of this conversion with the necessary additions and alterations as appears at Annexure II and II A is estimated to be \$132,000."

It is true, Sir that this conversion of that Main Building would be expensive but it is necessary because we are trying to gain recognition in the United Kingdom for nurses trained at the Barbados General Hospital. About two years ago, the hospitals in the West Indies were visited by a lady, a Mrs. Houghton from the United Kingdom who inspected those buildings and she made certain recommendations which we must implement in order to be given this recognition which we seek for our

nurses: Therefore, the conversion of that block is going to serve a double purpose by providing the ancillary services which Mrs. Houghton recommended.

Within the third stage are the following:—

- “(a) The conversion of the present Nurses' Home into a Surgical Block containing 1 Children's Ward of 16 beds, 4 Female Wards with 72 beds, and 4 Male Wards with 80 beds, thereby providing 168 Surgical Beds for General and Private Patients.
- (b) The construction of a new Operating Theatre Block in this building. The cost of this conversion with the necessary additions and alterations as appears at Annexures III, IIIA and IIIB, is estimated to be \$93,000.
- (c) It is proposed to obtain a lift which is available at the Waterworks Department. The sum of \$4,000 is therefore to be added for the conversion of this lift, and for its removal and installation.”

Allow me to say that this lift came here some time ago to be used at the Belle Pumping Station but it was never used. It is proposed to take that lift over to the General Hospital and convert it in the manner mentioned. The next stage is—

- “(4) The conversion of the Marie Louise-Prince Albert Block into a Tuberculosis Block with 25 Female and 25 Male Beds. The cost of this conversion with the necessary additions and alterations as appears at Annexure IV is estimated to be \$63,000.”

As can be seen from the Plan, this is going to be a lovely building and would be most suitable for the purpose. The fifth stage is comprised of the following:—

- (a) The enlargement of the Main Kitchen into part of the space now occupied by the Laundry.
- (b) The conversion of that part of the building now occupied by the Seamstresses Department into Dining Rooms for the Nursing Staff and the Departmental Sisters and Radiographers.
- (c) The use of some of the existing Laundry accommodation as Store Rooms.
- (d) The evacuation of the Offices and present Children's Wards from the Upper Floor of the Administration Block, making available added room for the treatment of Out-Patients and space for a Nurses' Sitting Room, a Board Room and Common Room for Medical Staff.

The cost of the alterations envisaged at (v), (a), (b), (c) and (d) is estimated to be \$15,000.

Sir, up to the present, Nurses have their own dining room which is in the Nurses' Home; the Sisters have their own dining room in their individual departments; but, with this conversion, there would be one large dining room in which all the staff to be fed at the Hospital would dine. It would mean some reduction in the recurrent cost. The next stage is:—

- “(6) The conversion of the present Fever Wards—which we regard as unsuitable for use as Wards—into a Physiotherapy Department on the Ground Floor, and a Nursing Administrative Block on the Top Floor. The cost of the alterations envisaged is estimated to be \$3,000.”

Sir, Physiotherapy is a recognised form of treatment at many hospitals today and it is proposed to convert part of the Fever Ward at the

Barbados General Hospital into a room for physiotherapy treatment. It is hoped in the not distant future to select somebody for training in physiotherapy so that by the time the room is ready, we will have a trained person to take charge of it and to give physiotherapy treatment. The recommendations go on to:—

- “(7) By slight structural changes in the Tercentenary Ward, the addition of two to three rooms supplying four to six beds in this Block for paying patients.
- (8) The conversion of the present Sisters' Quarters into the Hospital Administrative Offices.

The cost of the alterations envisaged is estimated to be \$1,000.

- (9) The removal of the Nursing Service Administrative Offices from their present site near the Main Gate, and the use of that site as additional accommodation for the treatment of Out-Patients.”

Now, Sir, at paragraph 6, you will see what I said earlier with regard to the erection of a Nurses' Home and a modern mechanical Laundry at Stockton.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will appeal to honourable members on my right to facilitate the reporter and themselves in hearing what the honourable junior member for St. Thomas is saying.

(A VOICE). Would you ask the honourable member to speak a little louder; we cannot hear what he is saying.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I am sorry to hear that I am inaudible to honourable members on that side of the House. There is a lot of noise outside of this Chamber, but there is also a lot inside of it, and my vocal chords are not so strong as to allow me to speak louder.

As I was saying, the estimated cost for the building of the Nurses' Home along with the maisonettes at Stockton is in the vicinity of \$392,000. The new mechanical Laundry which would also be built there would be capable of providing laundry facilities for 600 beds and 250 staff. You will remember, Sir, that I said a little while ago that the long term plan is to provide 600 beds at the General Hospital. That means that an additional 100 beds would be added in the next phase. With that in mind, the Committee thought fit to make arrangements for laundry facilities for 600 beds and 250 staff at once and that will effect a great saving in the long run. As honourable members know, the nurses at the General Hospital are paid laundry allowance but when this new building is erected, it will effect a saving in the laundry allowance which is at present given to those nurses. The cost of this building and the equipment for it is estimated at \$126,000.

We come now to Enmore. Honourable members will remember that a Message came down to this House sometime last year for the purchase of Enmore as an extension to the General Hospital. The Committee now recommends that it be used as a Health Centre and the reason for that is obvious. Since we can adequately build a Nurses' Home and erect a new mechanical laundry at Stockton which we did not think could be done when the Message came down to this House to purchase Enmore, — the present Colonial Engineer now saying that you can build on part of Stockton — and we have in the Five-Year Plan provision for a Health Centre in St. Michael, the Planning Committee has decided in view of those circumstances that Enmore can be very well used as a Health Centre. I take this opportunity to say that at the Health Centre adequate provision will be made for the carrying out of examination and treat-

ment of people who are suffering from tuberculosis. Enmore as a Health Centre would have its own X-Ray equipment and will be independent to a certain extent for the X-Raying of patients or contacts suffering from tuberculosis. As I have said before, the treatment of venereal diseases will also be carried on at Enmore. With all this to be done at Enmore there will still be left approximately four acres of land for further use and with the development of the Hospital you will need additional Medical Staff and that land would be an ideal site to build residences for such staff as well as the residences of Medical Staff now accommodated in the Hospital compound will have to be demolished and it is proposed already, although it is not in this report—it will come to the House at a later stage—that a block of eight flats will be built at Enmore to accommodate the additional Medical Staff. The cost of the conversion of Enmore with the necessary additions and alterations is estimated to be \$16,000.

I think I have dealt with this report quite exhaustively. At this stage, I may add that the total cost of the extensions and alterations is estimated to be \$1,155,000. To meet this, Government has made application to C.D. & W. for the remaining allocation of the Barbados quota to carry out this work, the remaining amount being in the vicinity of \$1,000,000. I may say that the application has not been granted yet. We have not heard the final answer, but we do know that it has been recommended by the Comptroller of C.D. & W.

Before I take my seat I want to make a statement. There is a certain amount of hysteria caused as a result of some article which was written in a local newspaper recently in respect to out-patients of the General Hospital paying something towards their treatment. It is true to say that about two weeks ago I noticed in that newspaper that Mr. Bruce Skeete who is a member of the Hospital Advisory Board and who is also a Member of the Vestry of St. Philip referred to the cost of medical treatment at the St. Philip's Almshouse and he also said, as far as I remember, that the Hospital Advisory Board is now examining the matter. I think it was on Wednesday that a reporter of the *Advocate* called me on the phone and asked me if the Hospital Board was considering that question was a fact and what I thought about it. I told him that the Hospital Board is examining the question but there are some people in the community—probably in this House too—who think that there is no difference between the Advisory Board and the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Once more I am appealing to honourable members on my right to be quiet. The honourable Minister is making a statement. At least he should be allowed to make it audibly so that he should not be misunderstood.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that apparently there are some people who do not know the difference between an Advisory Board and the Executive Committee. I was surprised to see—I think it was in yesterday's *Recorder*—that some Vestryman, who is supposed to be an enlightened person, and who was interviewed by that newspaper could not tell the difference between the Government and the Hospital Advisory Board. I am sure that it is not a Vestryman like the honourable senior member for the City because he would let everybody know the difference. I am sure that this honourable member could never make that mistake. However, whatever the case may be, when the Hospital Advisory Board has finished consideration of the matter and renders its report, that report would have to come to the policy making body of the Government. Allow me to stress that the Hos-

pital Advisory Board cannot decide for the Government. The Press is always making mistakes, I remember, a few months ago there was a wave of hysteria because the Education Board and Governing Bodies of Secondary Schools were actually considering the question whether school fees should be increased and it went around that Government was thinking of increasing school fees. I think it is time that the people of this community should be made to understand that an Advisory Board is only an Advisory Board.

Before I take my seat I am going to make a motion. I move that the report of the Hospital Planning Committee be accepted.

Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. VAUGHAN and Mr. BARROW entered the House and took their seats while Hon. Dr. CUMMINS was speaking.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I think we all agree that the time has come when the uncertainties and the dilly-dallyness about the extension or removal of the General Hospital should come to an end and that a firm policy for its extension be arrived at. As far back as 1951 the Labour Party put before the electorate that it intended extending the Hospital and this is now three years since that statement has been made. There is just one comment I would like to make later and in making it I want Your Honour to give me the same opportunity as you gave to the honourable Minister of Social Services when he was allowed to make his statement. I may say now that in issues when a statement of policy is made and something is said about it, the policy makers get the idea in their heads that because someone is saying something against their policy, that the person is making a malicious statement against them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to warn the honourable member that I am only in a position to deal with statements made in this House.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was making reference to statements which are made in this House. So much for that. It is a bit amusing to me to see the phraseology which the Select Committee that was appointed to consider this report worded its report in adopting the report of the Hospital Planning Committee. The honourable Minister of Social Services was the Chairman of that Select Committee. After stating that the Committee met on Tuesday 1st April 1954 and the four members that were present, it reported as follows:—“After mature consideration, the Committee beg to recommend the adoption of the report of the Hospital Planning Committee.” You will find the word ‘mature’ has crept into the phraseology of all recent reports by Select Committees. You can see it in the report by the Select Committee on the report on Fire Protection for the City of Bridgetown. It is also seen in the report by the Select Committee which considered the Bill to amend the Legislative Debates Act. But what is amusing about the report by this Committee is that it held one meeting which took place on Tuesday, 1st April. Of course, it may not have been necessary for that Committee to meet again after giving mature consideration to this most important report on that date. However, I think it is peculiar that the Committee could only have held one meeting and in the time they met give mature consideration to this report by the Hospital Planning Committee. However, that is by the way; this report by the Select Committee is only a matter of words.

I would like to say that I agree with the majority of recommendations that are contained in this report by the Hospital Planning Committee, but there is

one point on which I would like to get some clarification when the honourable Minister gives his reply. I am not at all happy about the recommendation with respect to Enmore. I was one of those honourable members who agreed to the purchase of Enmore for the expansion of the General Hospital. At the time I agreed with that proposition, the present Minister did not put the proposition which is before this House today, that is, the using of Enmore for a Health Centre for St. Michael. I doubt very much that honourable members would have been persuaded to buy Enmore to be used as a Health Centre and leave the Hospital expansion as it is now proposed if these proposals were made at the time when we were considering the question of the purchase of Enmore. I am not an expert on building but I have a measure of common sense to know that some use could be made of some part of Stockton. You cannot say when you have a place like Stockton so near to your Hospital that no use can be made of it. In the same manner, I do not see why we should have paid so much money for the purchase of the Central Foundry site and then use it only for a car park. It is the most expensive car park in the world. I have always protested against that. Now, as far as Stockton is concerned, I always felt that it could be used for expansion of the General Hospital and today we have been told that the Planning Committee has recommended its use for extension of the Hospital and that Enmore should be used for the Health Centre. The establishment of Health Centres was one of the minor schemes we agreed on when we discussed the Five-Year Plan. I was always of the opinion that the extension of the Hospital, apart from the establishment of Health Centres, was so essential that I considered it necessary to purchase Enmore when the proposal was put forward but I would never have considered it necessary to purchase Enmore for a Health Centre.

There is some land alongside the Hospital and I believe that within the next ten years the Hospital authorities will find it necessary to get more room to expand the Hospital. I think it would be wise if at any time the adjoining property is for sale that the Government should purchase it. I always believe that it is better for an institution to extend on its site and use be made of the available land around it rather than to go outside of the site to make extensions. However, the recommendation that Enmore be now used as a Health Centre instead of being used for expansion of the General Hospital is not a serious difference. It does not matter to me very much whether you put a Health Centre there; I only wanted to say that so far as the acquisition of Enmore, it was primarily for the purpose of the extension of the General Hospital; it was not thought of acquiring it for a Health Centre.

I am glad to see what is written at paragraph 15. It says:—

“For future development of the Hospital, outside of the scope of the Five Year Plan, we recommend:—

- “(i) The rehabilitation or erection of an Out-Patient Department and Dispensary along the Bay Street frontage.
- (ii) The erection, when it is needed, of an additional block for the treatment of In-Patients, bringing the number of beds of the Hospital up to 600. This can be done within the present compound in the vicinity of the Eastern boundary.
- (iii) Consideration of the advantages that might be gained by the closing down of the Maternity Hospital, and by the erection

of a Maternity Block within the Hospital compound.”

I am glad to see that the Hospital Planning Committee gave thought to the question of the erection of an Out-Patient Department and Dispensary along the Bay Street frontage. Nowadays, when you pass along Bay Street you see people who are awaiting attention at the Hospital gathered outside at the corner of the street and it is not a good sight.

Now that I am on this subject, I would be failing in my duty if I did not let the honourable Minister know that there is too much talk against the free medical service which is given at the General Hospital. There are people who regard those that go there to get the free medical service as serfs and not as human beings who are entitled to proper medical attention. There is too much of the idea that Mr. A. should be regarded better than Mr. B. because Mr. A. can pay for the medical service given him and Mr. B. cannot. No socialist can subscribe to that idea because the whole essence of socialism is that all people should receive the best medical attention whether they are able to pay for it or not, and they should receive it without any question of inferiority.

Another point which I would like to make mention of is that there are too many doctors who think that the services at hospitals should be made to suit their individual tastes. While a doctor should not work at a Hospital where the conditions are deplorable, on the other hand, I think there is too much “hush, hush” because a doctor is the professional man he is. Do not let us begin to perpetuate the idea that we should regard the actions of certain officers beyond question because they are in a certain bracket. There are too many instances now of people complaining of ill-treatment which they receive at the General Hospital. There are too many people who are saying that they went into the Casualty of the Hospital and no doctor was available to them. There should be certain hours when a doctor should be on duty at the Hospital. I feel when a doctor is on duty, he should not be on duty in a manner that is most convenient to him to serve the public; he should be on duty in a manner in which he can serve the general public readily. I do not subscribe to the idea that doctors —

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not like the honourable member to go too far in the administration of the General Hospital. We are dealing with the report of the Hospital Planning Committee.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Sir, In view of the fact that this report is to provide better services at the General Hospital by alterations and extensions there, I made that observation. I can assure Your Honour that I am not going into any details. I am speaking in a general way on this matter and I think the complaint which I have just mentioned is one that all honourable members must have been acquainted with by somebody bringing it to their notice.

I would also like to say that I am very pleased to learn from the honourable Minister of Social Services that the idea of people paying for bandages and dressings at the General Hospital has only been discussed by the Hospital Advisory Board but that no report on it has been sent to Government. I hope the Government would not countenance a suggestion like that, no matter whom it came from or whether it was done in every country of the world. I feel it would be a retrograde step if this Socialist Government adopt such a policy; it would be just like if we ever thought again of re-instating the paying of school fees in elementary schools. Again, I must say that I am glad to hear that such a re-

port has not yet reached Government. I think it is fantastic to ask the people of this colony to pay for bandages and dressings at the General Hospital.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not like the honourable member to place me in an awkward position. The honourable Minister of Social Services made a statement to counteract a rumour which had got around as a result of a statement by the Press. I think we should leave it at that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was about to finish debating that point when Your Honour interrupted me. It is true to say that this report by the Hospital Planning Committee has nothing to do with matters relating to the Hospital Advisory Board, but I am of the opinion—and I think it is a matter with which Government should concern itself—that since the Government was forced to set up this Hospital Planning Committee of personnel other than those members who at present constitute the Hospital Advisory Board apart from Dr. O'Mahony and the Minister of Social Services who are members of that Board, the time has come when the usefulness of that Board can be considered as no longer necessary. The only useful purpose that Board can serve at present is to deal with contracts. The mere fact that a Hospital Planning Committee had to be formed to deal with this proposed programme of Hospital extension and the personnel who was appointed to serve on this Committee shows that the Hospital Advisory Board is not able to deal with matters such as this. It is my view that the Hospital Advisory Board is only there as a sop to certain people because the Hospital was taken out of the hands of the old statutory board. Now that we have ministerial system, what will be the relationship between the Minister of Social Services, who is also Chairman of the Hospital Advisory Board and that Board? I see no reason with our having one central Hospital in this colony which now has a ministerial system of government that the Hospital should be administered by an Advisory Board. The honourable Minister of Social Services should have the most to say in the running of the Medical Services and I do not see the necessity for having this Advisory Board unless the honourable Minister of Social Services feels that this Advisory Board would still be useful to him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the remarks which the honourable member is now making would have been more properly made if he had made them at the time when this House was discussing the Annual Estimates.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not dealing with the whole administration of the General Hospital, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This report with which we are dealing does give the opportunity of discussing the Hospital in a different light from that in which it could be discussed while considering the Annual Estimates because you only deal with funds to be voted towards certain things when discussing the Annual Estimates.

There is the suggestion in this Report by the Planning Committee that the Maternity Hospital should be removed from Bank Hall to the General Hospital so that maternity cases could be administered in the same way as it is planned to administer for cases of tuberculosis within the compound of the Hospital. I do not know what are the proposals for the administration for maternity cases. I would like to know, for instance, what are the plans for maternity cases after extension of the General Hospital other than those which now go to the Maternity Hospital. I do know that, at present, space for the treatment of such cases is limited at the General Hospital. I do know that persons have to pay an

exorbitant fee for maternity cases treated at the General Hospital. I do not know what will be the policy in respect of such cases when the suggestion for transferring the Maternity Hospital from Bank Hall to the General Hospital is carried out.

Sir, these are some of the things which strike me as needing some clarification and I hope when the time comes for the implementation of the recommendations in this report that these things will be clarified. It is not stated precisely when these recommendations will be implemented. According to the report, they will be carried out in stages but I would like to know how soon will the plan be implemented.

Mr. BRYAN entered the House and took his seat while Mr. F. L. WALCOTT was speaking.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I endorse to some extent some of the recommendations of the Hospital Planning Committee but I certainly cannot agree with the report of the Select Committee which was appointed to consider it because I cannot see how we, as a responsible group of people, can adopt completely the report of the Planning Committee. One of the things to which I agree whole heartedly with the Planning Committee is the recommendation for the utilisation of Stockton for the construction of a Nurses' Home and a mechanical laundry. The Nurses' Home, according to the plan will be three stories and will be something like 300' x 30' which would mean that it will be occupying a space of 9,000 square feet. The buildings for the mechanical laundry would occupy a space of 5,700 square feet. All these will be massive structures. The buildings of the laundry are estimated to cost \$43,200 and the laundry equipment and its installation are estimated to cost almost \$80,000. Presumably this equipment will be heavy machinery. It therefore can be seen that within the space of three months, this same supposedly responsible Government which came in here and said that no use could be made of Stockton because you could not get proper foundations there, is now agreeing to the construction of a three-storied building there covering an area of 9,000 square feet and additional buildings covering an additional area of 5,700 square feet with heavy steel equipment being put into them to provide for the mechanical laundry. In effect, what this means is that when you wanted to waste money in acquiring another property Stockton was of no use. When you wanted to buy Avalon, Stockton was of no use; when you wanted to buy Enmore, Stockton was of no use. Only this year, this House was told by the Government Spokesman that you could not get proper foundations at Stockton, but now that the desire of the people to sell Enmore has been accomplished, it is said that you can use Stockton for the construction of a big three storied building for a Nurses' Home and other buildings to house a mechanical laundry. Similarly, when this same Government proposed to buy Enmore on the ground of extension of the Hospital, members were told in this House repeatedly that it was inconvenient to carry the hospital across the road. As a matter of fact, Your Honour will remember that the discussion went as far as to mention the necessity for constructing an elevated road from the General Hospital to Enmore because in the opinion of those honourable members who were in their right senses, they saw then the inconvenience which the medical staff would be put to in getting from the General Hospital to Enmore. But the Government wanted to buy Enmore; the members of the Government wanted Enmore unloaded on themselves because the owner of Enmore wanted to get rid of it, so the

members of Government said that you could do anything with Enmore for extension of the General Hospital. Now, this Hospital Planning Committee of which it can be said that it has achieved some useful purpose, is saying that Enmore is not convenient for extension of the General Hospital and the honourable Minister of Social Services has today attempted to justify what he pooh-pooched and what the Government ridiculed less than four months ago when they were told that they should not buy Enmore for extension of the Hospital as it was unsuitable. Now, today, Government is saying that it can use Stockton and to justify the acquisition of Enmore, it is saying that Enmore can be used as a Health Centre.

I do not think any of us would agree to the establishment simultaneously of a Health Centre in Bridgetown along with the extension of the General Hospital. In other words, if we had agreed to spend an enormous amount of money on the General Hospital, as responsible men, we would not at the same time agree to establish a Health Centre in Bridgetown. The establishment of a Health Centre at Enmore is only an afterthought by Government to justify the extravagant waste of public funds on the acquisition of it. It was proposed to establish three Health Centres of which one has already been established in Speightstown to serve the Leeward parishes. The proposals for the other two were that one should be established in Bridgetown and the other somewhere else to serve the people of the Windward parishes. If you were thinking of establishing another Health Centre at this time, when you are considering the extension of the General Hospital, you would think of establishing first the one which would serve the other rural area. As a matter of fact, I would not have been a bit surprised if Government had said that it was going to buy Enmore to make provision for ministerial offices. At the time, by its close proximity to the General Hospital, it was convenient for Government to say that it was buying it for extension of the Hospital.

So far as the purchase of Enmore is concerned, I doubt whether any member of this House knew that it had been actually purchased. We knew that Government was talking about purchasing it and we also knew that machinery had been set in motion to get a reasonable value for the property, but as far as I know, none of us knew that it was actually purchased or what is the purchase price.

The Government had the money to play with, and after it was thrown away in the purchase of this property, they considered all sorts of things to do with the property. It has to be borne in mind that it is claimed they will have some land to play with after they have established the Health Centre. "Stockton" has $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres and they will not even utilise half an acre of land there. Let us assume that they have to establish a tennis court for the nurses; they still have three acres more to play with. Allowing for the fact that some of the land at "Stockton" will be utilisable for construction purposes, they still have more land to play with there. The eight flats for the Medical Staff could not utilise more than 8,000 square feet and we could find space at "Stockton" for the Mechanical Laundry and the Nurses' Home without touching "Enmore" at all. The money which they are spending at "Enmore" is being completely wasted and the honourable Minister for Social Services knows that. I say that they can put the Health Centre at Queen's Park or somewhere else, but not in the vicinity of the Hospital; but they have to find some excuse for saying that they have bought "Enmore." Let them

purchase a property in Black Rock or at the Pine or somewhere like that and establish the Health Centre where it is more easily accessible to people in some other part of the parish than the General Hospital is. The services to be provided by the Health Centre will be, in the majority of cases, the same as those provided by the Casualty at the Hospital, and the people who now rush to the Casualty at the Hospital would go to the Health Centre if it were available. The only reason for suggesting that the Health Centre should be placed at "Enmore" is because the Government bought a "white elephant," then they found that "Stockton" could be used for building and in order to justify the acquisition of "Enmore" they propose to use it for the establishment of a Health Centre. I repeat that it was not necessary to purchase "Enmore" at all.

In its Report the Hospital Committee recommends for the future development of the Hospital the use of the Bay Street frontage. We own that frontage which comprises about 12,000 to 14,000 square feet, and if we own land we must use it; we could erect residences there for the use of the medical staff later on. When we were discussing the proposal to purchase "Enmore", I emphasized that rather than buy anybody's "white elephant" we should begin to use the property we have. The Government said that they could not build at "Stockton," they could not use the Bay Street frontage, but they can now use it. When you begin to squander money—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member referring to sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 15 of the Report?

MR. CRAWFORD: I am referring to the open "window" on Bay Street, and if they do not mean that, then the position is worse. If they have a frontage beside that to utilise, it is even more pitiable to waste public money in purchasing "Enmore." If this recommendation does not refer to the open "window" on Bay Street it means that the Government have more land to play with than I thought they had. Let us assume that the time has come when we need a Health Centre for the Bridgetown area. It will be remembered that the property for the Health Centre in St. Peter cost the Government \$14,700; its conversion cost \$22,000 so that the Speightstown Health Centre cost the Government roughly \$36,700 to establish it. That Health Centre is supposed to serve the same proportion of the population as the one proposed for Bridgetown. Let it not be believed that because the Speightstown Health Centre is in a rural area and the Bridgetown Health Centre will be in an urban area, you must establish a bigger building or spend more money on its equipment: the Speightstown Health Centre will serve roughly the same area and population as the Bridgetown Health Centre. The acquisition of "Enmore" costs \$75,000 and its conversion will cost \$16,000; so that, in order to relieve the owner of this "white elephant," we will spend \$91,000 for the Bridgetown Health Centre. That is why the Hospital Advisory Committee will have to consider making people pay for dressings and bandages and increase the charges for the Pay Wards, and so on. Instead of reducing the cost of these services, they have to increase it because when people get into power they squander the money. They will have $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land which they propose to use for erecting houses for the medical staff; but they do not want $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land for these eight flats because they can find room for them at "Stockton."

In my opinion, this \$91,000 would have given the colony three Health Centres. The Speightstown Health Centre costs \$36,000 and we could acquire a

property in the Bridgetown area and convert it for use as the Bridgetown Health Centre. At Crumpton Street, Country Road, White Park—at any of these places there are properties with the requisite amount of land and one of them could be acquired for a sum of money in the vicinity of £5,000, we could spend another £4,000 on its conversion and we could have a Health Centre for the Bridgetown area at approximately the same cost as the Speightstown Health Centre and we would still have left from the purchase of "Enmore" and its acquisition the sum of \$19,000 which would go towards the cost of the third Health Centre.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member likely to go on speaking for much longer?

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is very likely.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If that is so, I suggest that we should adjourn at this stage.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Unless it is the wish of the Government Party that we adjourn for tea, I shall continue my speech.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am expressing the desire that the House be adjourned at this stage.

Mr. CRAWFORD: In deference to Your Honour's wish, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

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

On resumption,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the adjournment the honourable senior member for St. Philip was speaking on the motion for the adoption of the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the adjournment I was endeavouring to show that for the proposed establishment of the Health Centre at "Enmore" at a cost of \$91,000 the colony could get the services of three Health Centres. I do not know where the Government proposes to put the third Health Centre, but I imagine that the Speightstown Health Centre will serve the adjacent parishes and a part of St. Joseph, and if we have one in the City area I imagine there will be another one established in an eastern parish to serve the eastern part of the island. The Government has had thrust upon them considerable property in St. Philip comprising—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member discussing the third Health Centre?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am trying to show that for the expenditure on "Enmore" we might have got a third Health Centre if we did not waste money on acquiring that property. The third Health Centre should be established either in St. Philip, St. George or St. John. I want to say in parenthesis that if the Government cared to utilise property which they already own, they might well convert some of the buildings at the Admiralty and use some of the land up there for the establishment of the third Health Centre; so that we will have three Health Centres for the cost of "Enmore" alone as one Health Centre. There is absolutely no justification for attaching a Health Centre in Bridgetown on the shoulders of the General Hospital, so to speak. It might be argued that there are services which you might be able to provide through proximity to the Hospital, but to what Hospital is the Speightstown Health Centre near? And to what Hospital will the eastern Health Centre be near? A Health Centre need not be near the Hospital; the equipment for the Speightstown Health Centre costs around \$5,000 and similar equipment for each of the other two Health Centres would cost the same. I feel that in a colony like this the Health Centre which will serve the urban area could be placed with great advantage a mile or there-

about away from the facilities provided at the General Hospital.

One other answer I expect to get is in respect of the additional land which we expect to get from the acquisition of "Enmore" and whether it will justify the acquisition of the property. If a Health Centre costs \$36,000, to spend \$91,000 so as to get 4½ acres of land means that the land cost \$10,000 per acre. That would be the most expensive land except the Central Foundry's site, which has ever been bought by the Government of Barbados. We cannot afford that luxury: in order to do that we will have to accept the suggestions of the Advisory Committee to make people pay for bandages and dressings obtained at the Hospital and the cost of the medical services of the country will be increased. My contention is that the Government was ill-advised to acquire "Enmore" since what we will get from the purchase of this property could be obtained elsewhere and at an infinitely cheaper cost. It is nonsense for the Government to believe that they could not erect any building at "Stockton" when we have, in our own time, seen a big two-storeyed building demolished there. That building was not suspended in mid-air: it was built on foundations and the Government must have wanted to be stupid when they maintained that they could not build at "Stockton." While it is true that we have expert departmental Heads, yet the question of ascertaining whether it is possible to build in certain places does not require any genius. If the proposal to build at "Stockton" was not agreed to by some people, the Government should have obtained additional advice before committing the colony to this expenditure of \$91,000 at first for the extension of the Hospital but now for the establishment of a Health Centre at Bridgetown, when they have land at "Stockton" and even at the Hospital—land which is on the Bay Street frontage.

One will wait in vain to hear any justifiable reason for putting a Health Centre on the neck of the Hospital, so to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the hon. member to pass from that point.

Mr. CRAWFORD: A further point in this Report with which I feel constrained to express some disagreement is in connection with the erection of an Isolation Ward for T.B. within the compound of the Hospital. From his expert knowledge of this matter the Minister for Social Services has told the House that there is no harm in putting a T.B. Ward at the Hospital and that any apprehensions in this direction are ill founded; he went further and claimed that the aspiration of the medical profession is that in the near future T.B. will be almost completely curable in the same manner that the cure of leprosy has been effected. If this hope is well founded there might be some justification for the decision to put a T.B. Sanatorium in the compound of the Hospital; I can well see that if this hope of eradicating T.B. is well founded it would appear to be uneconomic and unjustifiable to undergo any large-scale expenditure in erecting a T.B. Sanatorium somewhere else. However, the scourge is on the increase, and while the medical profession is endeavouring to effect a cure for it, large numbers of people may die either from inadequate facilities for curing this malady or from putting patients who are not afflicted with the malady in close proximity to the actual sanatorium. I admit that a solution to the problem may not be readily presentable.

There is one final point which I should like to make. For the reasons which I have given I cannot support the motion for the adoption of the Report of the Select Committee. I do not agree with the acquisition of "Enmore" nor do I agree with the

establishment of a Health Centre there. The views which I have expressed today are views which I intended to put before the Select Committee, which, I understand, held only one meeting, and I must admit that the information which I have today as regards the cost of the Speightstown Health Centre and the area to be used at "Stockton" and what not, was not available to me at the time when the Select Committee met. I respectfully suggest that even if the Government decide to continue their policy of establishing a Health Centre at "Enmore," it should be realised that a Health Centre for Bridgetown is not an immediate necessity if they are making provision for the extension of the Hospital; that extension will take care of the necessary demand for medical services in Bridgetown. The Government can relieve the pressure at the Hospital by establishing a rural Health Centre; so long as the Health Centre will be in an eastern parish it should be established before the Health Centre in Bridgetown because the demands for medical attention must be greater in the rural parishes than in the City after you have already extended the General Hospital.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Lucy, who seconded the motion for the adjournment, is at liberty to speak now or to defer his speech until later in the debate.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I will defer my speech until later.

Mr. ALLDER: As a member of the Select Committee which considered the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee, I shall answer the statement of the hon. junior member for St. Peter when he expressed his surprise that the Select Committee met on only one occasion to consider a Report of this magnitude. I regret that the hon. member is not in his place, but hon. members of this Chamber were presented with this Report for some reasonable time before the appointment of the Select Committee. I do not see the necessity for creating confusion in the discussion of a very important matter like this, because for some time now hon. members of this Chamber have been agitating for some attention to be paid to the extension of the services at the Hospital, and also the general public was loud in its demands for some attention to be paid to the extension of these services. I should say that the members of the Select Committee were all very proud to see that the Government had decided to make some attempt to alleviate the situation and it was our intention to do our best impartially to help the programme to be brought about. There was only one phase of the Report which worried the minds of some members of the Select Committee and that was the proposal to put a T.B. Block in the centre of the compound of the Hospital. Explanations were given and it was suggested that it was quite safe to put that Block there because in bigger countries T.B. Wards were adjacent to other Wards of the Hospitals. I am not saying that putting the T.B. Ward there does not still worry my mind, but the experts seemed to think differently and I did not want to delay the work of the Committee. However, that matter is left to the Government.

To criticize unduly the findings of the Select Committee is an attempt to do an injustice to the members of the Committee whose intention was to give assistance in the matter. While it is true that this Chamber was not apprised of the intention of the Government to purchase "Enmore," yet that property has been purchased and one cannot but offer assistance in bringing about a programme which will help in the proper utilisation of this property. If we had to decide on the purchase of the property in view of the fact that there was the general opinion that the present properties could have offered the

same facilities for extending the Hospital, that would have been a different matter. I agree with the proposal to carry out the various services which it is intended to carry out at "Enmore": I am told that the V.D. Department will be removed from the compound of the Hospital and taken to "Enmore" and there are possibilities of extending the services so as to accommodate workers who find it difficult to attend the Department during the day. I am also told that a Health Centre will be placed at "Enmore;" personally, if we did not have "Enmore" and the question of establishing a Health Centre was brought up, I would suggest putting that Health Centre somewhere else because I do not believe in the overlapping of services at the Hospital. However, this property has already been bought and the only thing which is left for us to do is to see how successfully it can be used. I am also told that a certain area at "Enmore" will accommodate the administrative staff at the Hospital which is now housed inside the compound of the Hospital and that proposal will release much space to the Hospital; besides that, accommodation will be afforded for people who are in the early stage of suffering from tuberculosis and who might be treated. It is proposed to carry on about four different services at "Enmore" and therefore I could not see any reasonable-minded member of the Select Committee objecting to those proposals.

As regards "Stockton," I must share some of the opinions expressed by previous speakers in respect of the confused statements made in connection with this property by members of the Government from time to time. I believe that the property was allowed to remain undeveloped because of the statement made in Government circles that the property is unsuitable for the extension of the Hospital; but let us appreciate the attitude of those who assisted in the furtherance of statements against the use of "Stockton" in the past but who have now decided that this property can really be used. Although these statements have been confusing and disappointing, yet we must appreciate the new stand which has been taken to make use of this property. The only thing which one would suggest is that the Government should be more careful in the future in accepting recommendations from experts who, I presume, caused members of the Government to make such statements. I am very grateful to know that an attempt is about to be made to make use of this valuable Government property. Much ink has been used in the agitation to get the Government to do something about this property; of course I have never shared the view that this property could not be utilised for building because, as a youngster, I have seen there one of the largest buildings that could be found in this island; but I presume that there has been some reason why the Government had been advised not to make use of this property. To utilise this property for the accommodation of 150 nurses along with an elaborate washing-house and machinery is to salvage a large sum of the taxpayers' money which was paid for this property several years ago—a property which was actually discarded.

I do not agree with the proposal to establish a T.B. Sanatorium which will only accommodate 50 patients: I feel that if you are going to convert the Marie Louise and Prince Albert Wards into a T.B. Sanatorium or wherever else you may decide to place that Sanatorium, the accommodation should not be so limited. I presume that as soon as the Government have finished the construction of this Sanatorium they will remove from the St. Michael's Infirmary those patients who are in the T.B. Ward—I am told that there are about 50 or 52—and they will also remove those patients from the Infirmary

of the other parishes which do not have sufficient accommodation so as to give the patients that treatment which is required if they must regain their health. I do not think it is convenient to go into details as regards the cost of construction because I presume the estimated cost is just something imaginary, but which we hope will be followed as closely as possible. Some people have said that the estimate is fairly conservative having regard to the various extensions which it is proposed to carry out: on the other hand, I can only express here what I expressed before the Select Committee, and that is that those who are concerned in the carrying out of the work will see to it that the Government get value for their money. Therefore while we may not be in agreement with the state of affairs obtaining at the General Hospital in the past, we can console ourselves in the fact that some attempt is being made to remove the difficult conditions which, it is claimed, have been in existence up there for some time.

MESSRS. BRANCKER and E. K. WALCOTT entered the House and took their seats while Mr. ALLDER was speaking.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I suppose I am regarded as one of the greatest critics of the Hospital and its administration during my time in this Chamber; for that matter not only am I one of the greatest critics of the administration of the Hospital, but of all matters pertaining to the health of the community. Therefore when I read that His Excellency the Governor was pleased to appoint a Committee to go into the question of the Hospital I was very pleased and I looked forward to the day when I would be afforded the opportunity to discuss the Report of the Committee; so that if I can offer helpful criticism in this matter, I will do so.

First of all, it is regrettable that the terms of reference of this Committee were so limited, because, in reading the Report of the Committee it is obvious that among the members of the Committee were persons of action. This Report cannot be considered as being voluminous, it is a concise Report covering what the Committee was asked to do. I listened to the Minister of Social Services who offered us explanations concerning matters which are not embodied in the Report and without taking any undue advantage of one's position, I am sure that Your Honour will also grant me similar latitude to reply.

I think it is fair to say that the Report shows that very grave and wide consideration has been given to the matter by those persons who were appointed as members of this Committee: it shows that there is a great knowledge of local conditions. I am partly in agreement with many of the recommendations made in this Report because, after all the criticism which has been offered in this House, one must appreciate that an effort is being made to do something to relieve those very horrible conditions at the Hospital. I say this: when you begin to feel that you are beginning to lose faith in imported officials in this country and in their honesty and integrity in making correct, honest and straightforward statements to the Government, this Report when studied makes you feel that you are regaining faith. You feel that sometimes we are saddled with the wrong men and apparently on nothing they put to the Government you can really place an honest construction. I say that this Report is not voluminous; I have searched for all the criticism and throughout the Report you see a really honest and sincere effort to guide the Government as to the erection of new buildings in order to relieve the situation: however, I say that this Report makes you believe that you cannot always lose faith in

human nature. Some of the advice which has been given to this country by people connected with C.D. & W. and some of the statements made in here would lead us to believe that the only way in which you can do anything to help in the relief of the situation at the Hospital would be to mortgage Barbados.

I shall not attempt to offer any criticism as to draughtsmanship and so on: I leave that to honourable members who think they know about it. It strikes me that the Committee in recommending that the Hospital be extended on its present site, has made a wise recommendation. However, the Resolution moved by the Minister of Social Services, "Resolved that this House place on record its acceptance of the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor on 13th July, 1953: and that the House pledges itself to support the Government in the implementation of the said Report," is not good enough for me. After I have expressed my views, I am bound to make other suggestions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope that the honourable member is not reading that Resolution as something which is before the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Is it not that Resolution the passing of which the Minister of Social Services moved?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: For the honourable member's information I will say that I asked leave to proceed with Order No. 2 instead of Order No. 1 so that we are really dealing with the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee. When we have finished that Order we will revert to Order No. 1.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: As I understand the position, we were dealing with this Resolution to place on record our acceptance of that Report, I asked what was being dealt with and nobody seemed to know.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot accept that: the honourable member was told what the motion before the House was. Moreover, he should not have sat there and not understood what was happening.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am prepared to criticise both the Resolution and the Report of the Select Committee. The Report of the Select Committee says this:

"After mature consideration, the Committee beg to recommend the adoption of the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee."

It strikes me that this whole procedure is wrong. This Resolution which is before the House for the adoption of the Report which has been sent down by the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no such Resolution before the House: if the honourable member ceases to look at Order No. 1 he will get himself straight in this debate. Order No. 1 has been postponed so that Order No. 2 could be dealt with. The honourable member will be at liberty to say whether Order No. 1 is in order or not when that Order is before the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I cannot accept what the Report of the Select Committee says. I happened to be a member of the Select Committee, but realising that the meeting was fixed for All Fool's Day, I did not think it would be wise for me to attend the meeting on that day because I did not think we would get a proper Report. (Laughter). This Report is not good enough for me and I hope the honourable Minister will accept some amendments which I will offer; in fact, I shall make a motion. Paragraph 3 of the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee says.

"We are of the opinion that the needs of the Island for some considerable time will be adequately served by the availability to the General Public of 600 beds in a General Hospital provided that some essential development of selected Almshouses into Cottage Hospitals takes place...."

This entire Report makes recommendations with a proviso. I take it that the Select Committee went into this Report very carefully; if these recommendations are to be carried out, you are bound, as is set out in the Report, to make your selections of Almshouses for Cottage Hospitals. The whole matter hinges on the limit of the funds which you have to spend. I will move an amendment when we come to deal with the Resolution.

In paragraph 4 of the Report the Committee deals with the provision of "Good accommodation for the treatment of 50 in-patients suffering from Tuberculosis, in a separate block adjacent to all essential services." While I appreciate the fact that the Government is all powerful in this matter, while I appreciate the fact that they have taken steps to acquaint of the matter the various parochial authorities whose duty it is to provide the necessary accommodation for T.B. patients, I am wondering whether they have had any report from the local governments in connection with this subject. I know that the local governments have been asked to express their opinion in this matter because the Government feels that the matter is one of great importance. I have listened very carefully to the hon. Minister of Social Services and I am sure that when he is replying he will be able to tell us the number of T.B. cases which have been reported annually within the last three years. In arriving at this number of 50 patients for whom they are providing, they must have had figures on which to go, and on the other hand, the hon. Minister must have the necessary statistics as to those persons who are housed in the Wards of the various Almshouses. In making my own observation, I would say that when it is considered that in St. Michael's Ward alone there are nearly 50 cases of T.B. housed and there are outside quite a number of people who cannot get accommodation in the Ward, it does strike me that to provide accommodation for 50 patients seems to be really inadequate. On the other hand, I listened carefully to the hon. Minister in dealing with this part of the Report; he said that he was now coming to a matter which was worrying the minds of members of this House and the minds of a great majority of the public, and he went on to say that with modern scientific treatment there would not be any danger in housing T.B. cases at the Hospital. I would like to say this; it might be alright from the scientific point of view, but looking around this House I say that no honourable member would want a T.B. Ward placed next to him with the patients spitting down on him.

The hon. Minister has said that with modern treatment there is no danger of placing this T.B. Ward at the Hospital, that being the case in big cities. But can the honourable member say that even in big cities it is not considered better to have these patients in a place where they can occupy their minds and take their minds off the idea that they are suffering from the disease? Is the method not still adopted in big cities where patients suffering from tuberculosis are given the opportunity of walking around and mixing freely among themselves? For the past several years I have been raising the question of providing some place for the erection of a T.B. Sanatorium; even if modern science has discovered modern treatment for tuberculosis, the idea is to provide a proper place for isolation—a place where peo-

ple can really have sunshine—and I have been asking that such a place be provided. The hon. Minister belongs to a Party which professes to maintain that it is the people that matter and therefore I am sure he will agree with me that anything which is worrying the minds of the majority of the people should not be thrust upon them in the way in which this matter has been thrust upon them. It is absolutely necessary that the Government should provide some proper place for the isolation of T.B. cases; if you were to take a plebiscite to-morrow, you would not get more than 2% of the people saying that a Tuberculosis Ward should be placed in the compound of the General Hospital. However high the regard I have for the personnel of this Committee and the speed with which it has produced this Report, I must differ from the hon. Minister and I am in a position to say here and now that I know that members of this Committee have differed from this idea of putting a T.B. Ward within the compound of the General Hospital.

There is no point in elaborating on how fearful and dreaded this disease is and how people regard it. It is true that with modern treatment, which is not clinical cure, this disease has been arrested in many cases; it is not only a question of the isolation of a few people; it is a question of preventing the spread of the disease and it strikes me that better arrangements could be made in this matter. I will mention that it is just recently in the Estimates that we made provision for the purchase of new X-ray equipment at the Hospital; I do not know who condemned the old equipment, but the equipment which has been condemned is still in operation and it was considered to be modern. I believe it is still good enough and I will watch and see who will use it. I am sure that even with this modern treatment, the Minister of Social Services is bound to agree with me that the process of this modern treatment stretches over a year or two years. I should like to ask whether it will be conducive to modern standards of health to keep patients in this Ward, which it is suggested will be put within the compound of the General Hospital, for 18 months to 2 years with this treatment? Would it not be infinitely better if arrangements could be made for this T.B. Ward to be placed outside the Hospital? I want to say that the Minister of Social Services knows well that you cannot enact legislation, as in the case of leprosy, to compel persons who are suffering from tuberculosis to remain in any Institution. You may attempt to enact some legislation in this connection here, but I am sure that it cannot be put into force. In the absence of that provision, unless you provide some place where people can be at home away from home, where they can be in an atmosphere where they can take their minds away from the fact that they are suffering from tuberculosis, you are wasting money, so to speak. You are just perpetuating a system where you have people together in a big Ward carrying in their minds that they are suffering from T.B. their time is just around the corner and therefore there is no sense in worrying over the matter.

I am sure the honourable Minister of Social Services will take me seriously, because he is aware that in large countries, up to this day, with all their modern treatments for diseases, they have not abandoned the idea of having T.B. patients kept at isolated places where those patients can walk around freely and mix, so to speak, among themselves. That cannot be done if they are treated at the General Hospital according to the recommendation of this report. I was at pains before I came inside here.

to discuss this question with whom I might call a very good medical authority on this subject, and he pointed out to me that even with the most modern treatment, it was also a question of time, and a person so afflicted would have to spend from one to two years in the institution. Without having a good wide area of land around the T.B. Ward so that the patients could go out and enjoy the sunshine, we are really doing nothing to prevent the spread of this disease. If T.B. patients are to be kept under the conditions as are set out in this report, they would be better provided for if they were home.

Sir, while we disagree with that recommendation in the report, it will never pay honourable members who desire to see something done for the hospitalisation of sick persons to allow that to destroy the report. The question of having a T.B. Block in the Hospital is a criticism of mine and I consider it constructive criticism. I am sure the honourable Minister of Social Services who is responsible for policy in regard to health will take this criticism very seriously. He has been a medical practitioner for quite a number of years and he has plenty experience of human nature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, dealing with the question of the acquisition of Enmore, I was not in the island when this House dealt with the question nor was I in this Chamber when the Government bought Stockton. I have never seen anything before the House with respect to the buying of Stockton but I read in the Press that this House discussed the advisability of acquiring Enmore. I do not think we have any grouse so far as the acquisition of Enmore. I am also glad to see from this report that somebody from outside has been able to confirm the opinion of honourable members in this House that use can be made of Stockton. I agree with the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip when he said that there seems to be a lot more land at Stockton which will be available for use when the time comes. Honourable members on this side of the table merely smiled when we were told by Government members that proper foundations could not be found at the General Hospital. We smiled because we knew that the Government was ill-advised at that time; however, it is heartening to see that far from that being so, we can add to some of the buildings in the Hospital compound.

In my looking through the report, there are one or two things which are absent. I observe that no arrangement has been made for visitors. When people are sick in bed, especially when they are treated at a hospital, their family are usually sick in mind, and I do think that proper arrangements should be made for visitors to the Hospital to see their sick relatives or friends. It has been mentioned that visitors to the General Hospital can be seen waiting outside in the streets and as I see no arrangement is made for them, I hope the honourable Minister will take a note of this matter with a view to getting something done. I too think that conditions in this respect are very shocking at present.

I said, Sir, that I think it is unfortunate that the terms of reference of this Hospital Planning Committee have been so limited. We find that the Hospital Planning Committee in its plan has recommended in the overall scheme for a 600-bed hospital. I am throwing it out that although it was not in the terms of reference to make provision for more than 100 additional beds at present, therefore, no suggestion can be made for more, we should yet try to bring the accommodation up to 600 beds as soon as possible because in our offering more accommodation for the sick, we will be reducing to a minimum the congestion and remedying what in my opinion,

and what I consider is the opinion of many honourable members of this House and the general public, is the great bugbear and burden to patients who have to be treated under such conditions.

I am sure the honourable Minister of Social Services will agree with me when I say that it is not necessary for the General Hospital to be administered by a medical practitioner. It does not happen in big countries. I therefore throw it out as a suggestion, that just as you are sending nurses overseas for further training, that somebody should be sent overseas, now that you are about to embark on the extension of the Hospital, for training in hospital administration. I think it would be a wonderful experience for some of our employees, whose experience is only limited to the running of our local hospital, to be able to spend a year or two in England or some other big country to see how hospitals are administered. His views would be more widened as a result and this colony would stand to benefit. It is my view that you will always continue to have grave dissatisfaction at the Hospital unless you are prepared to have someone trained to administer the affairs of it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the honourable member will not push that point too far.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: As usual, Sir, I do not push things too far. (Laughter). I, therefore, suggest that in our plan of re-organisation of the General Hospital—and this can be called our plan—steps should be taken to train some person in the art of administration of hospitals.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the honourable member has said sufficient on that point.

Mr. F. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I appreciate that. When the honourable Minister of Social Services made his speech on the adoption of this report, he concluded by making a statement denying a statement which appeared in the Press as to the Government charging out-patients of the General Hospital for part of their medicines, and so on. The honourable Minister rightly said that the matter was the concern not only of members of this House but also the general public. I believe it was the topic of conversation among every group of people who met together within the past week. I listened carefully to what the honourable Minister had to say about it and I am sure Your Honour will allow me the right to say something in reply to that statement. The honourable Minister in his explanation did not really deny what appeared in the Press. If I am correct, the honourable Minister said that the matter was not finalised and that the report of the Hospital Advisory Board on the matter had not yet reached the Government. I hope rumour on this occasion—not what appeared in the Press because the honourable Minister has not denied that—would be a lying jade. I hope rumour will be incorrect on this occasion. As far as I have heard, this matter has been finalised by the Hospital Advisory Board, and the unfortunate thing about it is that if they want to do it, all that would happen is that when it is brought to this House, honourable members will talk against it, but in the end it will be put into effect. The honourable Minister said that the Hospital Advisory Board is still examining the matter and I counsel him as Chairman of that Board to go on examining the matter until he is finished with politics. I will offer no more criticisms on the matter at this stage. I have found the honourable Minister always willing to discuss anything with me and should he discuss this question with me, I am willing to show him the stupidity of putting it into effect. While I am speaking upon this matter—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought the honourable member was leaving that point.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I observed that other honourable members touched on that point and Your Honour was rather considerate with them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think I am quite considerate to the honourable member's suggestions.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am not prepared to argue with Your Honour. There are other matters which I want to speak about in dealing with this report of the Hospital Planning Committee. On the whole, Sir, this report is one which we, on this side of the table, readily agree to, but there are in it some anomalies which I am sure after it has been implemented will be adjusted. We are hoping that when the recommendations of the report are carried out, the Hospital will be relieved of its present congestion. The one omission which I observe could have been implemented, especially now that young doctors will be taken on at the Hospital, is the question of holding post mortem examinations at the Hospital. I think that a proper mortuary should have been provided at the Hospital. I see nothing in this report about it but I do not think it is too late to make some such provision. I am sure the honourable Minister of Social Services will agree that the proper place today for the mortuary for the parish of St. Michael should be at the General Hospital.

Sir, you are aware that whether it is the Hospital Advisory Board or whether it is the Minister of Social Services to deal with things pertaining to the Hospital, there are persons who are not willing to say anything to any proper authority about matters affecting the people there. The honourable junior member for St. Peter in his speech made it clear that there is a feeling in this country that the Hospital should be run for the benefit of doctors and not the patients but I do not think that is altogether true. It is partly true because there are some doctors, especially those who come here from abroad, who feel that no one should speak to them when they do anything wrong. Quite recently, Mr. Deputy Speaker —

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to ask the honourable member to be as brief as possible on that point. The Estimates for the year have just been produced and when these were considered, honourable members had the opportunity of discussing the entire administration of the colony.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am fully aware of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I just want to say that there were cases at the General Hospital in which complaints have been made against doctors and there is a common feeling not only among medical practitioners but also among nurses and many patients that you cannot even get any enquiry held into the action of certain doctors, far more to get satisfaction, as long as those doctors are friendly with the Director of Medical Services. Sometime ago, some person got some artery severed as a result of treading on glass bottle and on going to the Hospital with the wound, a doctor ordered that it be dressed with a piece of elastoplast. The person was treated as an out-patient and on going to a private doctor, it was discovered that the wound was full of dirt and ash, and the doctor looking at the certificate which the person received from the Hospital discovered who the doctor was that treated the person at the Hospital and he said that there was no point in making any row about it because no satisfaction would be given so far as that doctor was concerned. Things like that are wrong and need remedying. I therefore throw out the warning to the honourable Minister of Social

Services to be wide awake in matters of that sort and in remedying them not to be afraid of putting his feet down upon some of the medical practitioners. In short, let them know that they are wrong.

On the whole, we, of the party to which I belong, are supporting the acceptance of this report by the Planning Committee, but when it comes for us to deal with Order No. 1, of the Order Paper which is to agree to this report in its entirety, I am sure Your Honour will allow us to make some amendment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will warn the honourable member before he sits that the Select Committee which was appointed by this House to go into this report which was made by the Hospital Planning Committee which was appointed by His Excellency the Governor met and recommended to this House the adoption of this Report and the motion which is before the House is that this House agree with the Hospital Planning Committee's Report. The honourable member is at liberty to move an amendment to that motion. The honourable member can make an amendment to reject certain of the proposals in the Committee's Report.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Subject to Your Honour's suggestion, I beg to move an amendment to the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider this Report. My motion is that this House agree with the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee subject to other arrangements being made for the isolation of T.B., patients outside of the General Hospital compound.

I am sure the honourable Minister of Health has observed from the criticism which I offered in that respect that I tried to help and that it was constructive. The honourable member knows that I have always differed not only with him but with other persons who feel that the isolation of T.B., patients should be in the compound of the General Hospital. I have always felt that the isolation of such people should not be in a place where people who are suffering with less infectious diseases are treated. We must view this matter from the personal element. The honourable Minister of Social Services rightly said that this recommendation for a T.B. Block in the General Hospital was one which would engage the minds not only of members of this House but every member of this community. Sir, I have much pleasure in associating myself with the report of the Hospital Planning Committee but subject to other arrangements being made for the isolation of T.B., patients outside of the General Hospital. By that, I mean that provision can be made for a T.B. Block on any of the adjacent grounds.

I am going to make one last point on this matter, Mr. Deputy Speaker. According to the honourable Minister of Health and his advisers, there is no danger in putting this T.B. Block in the Hospital compound. I wonder if the honourable Minister or his advisers will agree to the putting of this T.B. Block outside of the Hospital on part of that three or four acres at Enmore where it is proposed to build residences for the doctors. If there is no danger at all in having it in the compound of the Hospital, certainly there is less danger to any member of the public if it is put on part of that land at Enmore. Sir, the only way that we can impress the people of Barbados that there is no danger in having this T.B. Block in the proximity of the General Hospital is if we build it near to the area where we plan to build residences for doctors. Of course, I know the argument will be that those officers would have their families living there and their children will be running around the area and might come in contact with patients at the T.B. Ward. Sir I am

willing to wager a bet that you will get the biggest howl if you attempt to suggest to build a T.B. Block at Enmore.

(A VOICE: Why must you do it?)

Sir, you must not do that, but you must build it in a place where sick persons, whose vitalities are down to the minimum, whose resistances are at the lowest point, are to be treated. The honourable Minister of Social Services knows that this recommendation is unpopular. We have argued it out already. While it might meet with agreement from the point of view of medical practitioners, from the point of view of laymen there is danger in putting it in such close proximity to places where you have for the treatment of less infectious diseases. I know other honourable members will express a similar point of view. Sir, subject to other arrangements being made for the isolation of T.B. patients, outside of the present Hospital compound, I agree with the report of the Hospital Planning Committee. I have already moved that as an amendment.

Mr. VAUGHAN: As a member of the Select Committee I had the privilege, contrary to the opinion expressed earlier, of giving mature study to this report by the Hospital Planning Committee and it is a pity that all honourable members in this House who were members of that Select Committee failed to attend the meeting and bring the maturity of their judgment to bear on that report. Instead, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have heard the most adverse criticisms from the very two members of the Select Committee who never attended the meeting. My colleague and myself were seconded on the Select Committee and I do not know if it is because the Hospital is an institution which is subject to public criticism that the Government thought it wise to appoint my colleague and myself in order that if the plan adopted came in for any severe criticisms that we also would have to share in the condemnation which Government would be subjected to, but if that were so it was a wise provision on the part of the Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Barbados for the past several years has been woefully in need of improved medical institutions and, therefore, I considered it my duty and a pleasure to sit in on a Select Committee which was to give consideration to the improvements of this very necessary institution, the General Hospital.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we who sat in on the Committee went into the Hospital Planning report thoroughly and made many suggestions, I personally brought to the notice of the Committee that there was lack of accommodation for visitors in the recommendations of the Planning Committee and that is a suggestion which has been accepted by the Select Committee.

(A VOICE: But it is not contained in your report.)

The report which we considered is a document of a Committee appointed by the Governor. The Select Committee appointed by this House considered that Report and here and there made suggestions which were acceptable to the Select Committee.

(A VOICE: It is rather strange that suggestions were made and accepted by the Select Committee and nothing of them has been written in their report.)

Mr. VAUGHAN: The Select Committee made many suggestions which were accepted. Members of the Select Committee gave consideration to accommodation for visitors and the honourable Minister of Social Services assured us that such accommodation will be provided. I want to inform this House that this report of the Hospital Planning Committee

was thoroughly considered by the Select Committee. Purely as a matter of constructive criticism, I will say that this report of the Planning Committee is one of great architectural foresight. Those who have criticised this report had not the opportunity of studying the plans. We of the Select Committee who met studied the plans. We had the intelligence to read them because they are quite plain to the intelligent mind. There is only one fault that I can find, and that is, I blame the honourable introducer of this report for the timidity with which he handled it. We are aware that we have an institution which is entirely inadequate to handle the necessities of the medical ills of this country, but if this report by the Planning Committee is put into effect, we will have an institution which would be able to serve our needs adequately for some time. We now have a plan which provides for twenty additional surgical beds, seventy-seven additional beds for medical cases, accommodation for fifty-two children instead of thirty-six, accommodation for fifty additional nurses to attend to these additional patients which we are providing for by the increase of one hundred and thirty-four beds with an eventual increase to two hundred and twenty-eight beds thereby making the Hospital being able to accommodate six hundred patients.

There has been some harsh criticism over the Health Centre for Bridgetown being sited at Enmore. Personally, I think it is one of the best localities for the Health Centre particularly when you take into consideration that it will have to serve the parishes of St. George and St. Michael and part of Christ Church which are the most populous parishes of the country. I will counsel the Government to do one thing about it. The Government must not omit advertising this Health Centre when it is instituted. The people must be made to understand what a Health Centre is and the purpose of its establishment. They must be made to understand that it is not a casualty ward as an honourable member who spoke earlier suggested. The people must be made to understand that the Health Centre is primarily concerned with the public health of the community and if propaganda—I use the word propaganda purposely—is properly directed by the Government, Health Centres will be of invaluable service in the prevention of medicine in this country, and as I have said, I feel Enmore is the most suitable site for the Health Centre of Bridgetown. When you are considering the site of a Health Centre you must bear in mind the psychology of the people to be attended to at that institution. If it is sited in a secluded spot many more people would go to it than if it were centrally situated. I am of the opinion that more people would go to Enmore because it is, so to speak, out of the way.

As far as the construction of a Tuberculosis Block within the compound of the General Hospital, I accepted that recommendation by the Planning Committee. We have the opinion here in that respect of four medical practitioners who have stated that in their opinion from the point of view of health within the compound of the Hospital there is no danger of having this T.B. Block there. I am not an authority on this matter but I am satisfied that this terrifying fear of contact and contagion and infection by having this T.B. ward in the compound of the General Hospital only exists in the public mind. I am of the opinion that if tuberculosis were contracted as easily as the public would have us to believe, half of the population would be infected. Tuberculosis is dangerous from infection but only at a certain stage. Another thing which has to be borne in

mind is that rest is the essence of treatment for people suffering from tuberculosis and tuberculosis patients are not allowed to walk about with the freedom one envisages. As I have said, the fear of infection of tuberculosis is out of all proportion to the reality of it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, with all that I have said I will put up no objection to the removal of the T.B. Block to Enmore or to a more isolated spot as has been suggested by an honourable member if that is the majority opinion, but that will only be from the point of view of satisfaction to the general public.

There is one thing which I would like to see the Government adopt as its policy in respect to the recommendations of this Planning Committee and that is that Government hasten the completion of these recommendations. The quicker these recommendations can be put into effect, the better it would be for the colony. An honourable member made mention of the fact that the Hospital Planning Committee was of the opinion that the needs of the island for some considerable time would be adequately served by the availability to the general public of 600 beds at the General Hospital because of the proposal for Cottage Hospitals to take the place of present Almshouses. I will say that Cottage Hospitals will be an inevitability because in time to come, only serious medical cases will be treated at the new General Hospital. I repeat, Sir, that the plan provides for additional beds for one hundred and thirty-four patients immediately and eventually for two hundred and twenty-eight patients. We have heard month after month and year after year for many years of the inadequacy of the present hospital and now an acceptable plan has been presented, we are having all sorts of criticisms which are unfounded from the point of view of further knowledge in medicine. I think most of this criticism is unjustified, particularly as it has come from members who were appointed to the Select Committee but who failed to give the Select Committee the benefit of their wise judgment. The honourable senior member for the City who spoke before me, if a review of his speech were considered, one would not know whether he is for or against this report of the Planning Committee, but that is the customary method of his speeches. The honourable member gave all points of view and it is a mystery to know after he sat what was his point of view. I cannot appreciate that sort of criticism. The honourable member laboured to find criticism of the report of the Planning Committee and in order to do so he went all around the clock. What did he find? Nothing. You could see in his heart of hearts by reading his speech where he said there is not much fault-finding, that he found no fault with the report; but according to his view he had to find fault. That was the tenor of his speech. As I have said, the honourable member made a criticism of the area for the tuberculosis block which although I do not think his criticism is entirely valid, yet I would not oppose it if that is the view of the majority, but I would never speak against it with the dogmatism which the honourable member submitted in regard to its being a danger to have that ward in the compound of the Hospital. As I have said, we have had four medical practitioners on the Hospital Planning Committee one of whom was the Director of Medical Services. I think we can accept the recommendation of these four medical men. If there were this great danger existing I am quite satisfied that it would not be put in this plan. I am sorry I cannot agree with all the honourable senior member for St. Philip said. As I have said, there is misconception of what

is a Health Centre and it is the duty of the Government to issue propaganda on what is a Health Centre. I happened to be in a northern parish spending a holiday recently and I have heard the approbation given in respect of the Speightstown Health Centre. What I would like to see Mr. Deputy Speaker is that this new Hospital be completed as soon as possible with whatever other recommendations this House may accept. Before I sit down I would just like to say that I think a tunnel or some overhead approach should be constructed to link up Enmore and Stockton with the General Hospital in order that medical staff would not have to cross the street.

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

Mr. BARROW seconded the motion.

The question was put and agreed to and Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

ON RESUMPTION

On re-assembling,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned the honourable junior member for St. John was addressing the House.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall conclude my remarks by saying that certain honourable members want to shelve this report, but I think it is one that the Government can go to the country with if it is properly presented to the people.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must apologise to the honourable junior member for St. John for speaking after him because I have no idea of replying on behalf of the Government as the honourable member was trying to do. As a matter of fact, I know it is against established parliamentary procedure that a floor member should reply on behalf of the Government. However, I think the honourable member has done the Government's case more disservice than good service by the criticism he made of the speeches of other honourable members. In the first place, in order to clear the atmosphere, I would like to state now that I am supporting the resolution for the adoption of the Hospital Planning Committee's Report, but for reasons different from those put forward by the honourable junior member for St. John. I am supporting the resolution primarily because of the fact that for a number of years the long-suffering public of this Island has had to put up with the most discreditable situation at the General Hospital of having two and three persons sleeping in one bed and very often other patients sleeping on the floor. For a great number of years criticisms have been made in this House and outside as to the inadequacy of the accommodation at the General Hospital and for that reason chiefly I am inclined to support the proposals to make certain extensions and alterations to the General Hospital at the cost which has been set out in this report by the Planning Committee. However, I think it is only fair that members of the public should face realities now and realise that these present arrangements with which we are confronted today can only be looked at as make-shift arrangements and at some time within the next ten years the Government of this Colony would inevitably have to make provision for a new Hospital and I do not mean new in the sense which the honourable junior member for St. John used that word. These proposals are not for the erection of a new Hospital; they are just to alleviate the hard-pressed situation which exists at the General Hospital.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I rise on a point of correction, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I never in my speech suggested that Government was building a new Hospital. I spoke of the reconstruction of the General Hospital.

Mr. BARROW: I will counsel the honourable junior member for St. John to read the report which has taken place on this matter and he will find that on three occasions he made mention of the erection of a new hospital. I think it is a lapse on his part, I do not think he wants to mislead members of the public in thinking that they are getting a new hospital on these make-shift arrangements. However, Sir, one hundred and thirty-four additional beds are better than none at all and that is my attitude to this report. I am sure that the members of the Planning Committee who drafted this report were limited in their recommendations owing to the fact that the Government did not have the necessary funds to spend on a new Hospital in view of its other commitments. The Committee was aware of the fact that for sundry reasons, like the implementation of a deep water harbour scheme and other such commitments in the Five-Year-Plan, the construction of a new hospital would be out of reach of this Government. We have had the example of the almost prohibitive cost of building a new hospital at San Fernando. The sooner we reconcile ourselves with this fact, the better it will be for us, but I think the honourable Minister of Social Services would agree that what is really desirable in this country is a completely new Hospital.

Having cleared that atmosphere I will now proceed to make one or two observations on the resolution. In the first place, I do not like the wording of the resolution which is before the House. The report by the Select Committee appointed to report and consider the report of the Hospital Planning Committee which was appointed by His Excellency the Governor states that the Committee held one meeting and made a motion that after mature consideration the Committee beg to recommend the adoption of the report of the Hospital Planning Committee. The resolution which is before the House is that this House place on record its acceptance of the report of the Hospital Planning Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor on 13th July 1953 and that the House pledges itself to support the Government in the implementation of the terms of the said report.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the motion which is before the House.

Mr. BARROW: Has there been another resolution put forward? The resolution which I read out is one which I have before me. I do know that at some stage of the honourable introducer's speech he made some motion but it was very difficult to hear what it was owing to the noises outside and inside of this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That resolution was Order No. 1 which has been postponed; we are dealing with Order No 2 which is to move the consideration of the report of the Hospital Planning Committee to which this House has appointed a Select Committee which gave consideration to that report and the motion which is before the House is that the report of the Select Committee be adopted.

Mr. BARROW: I am in entire agreement with the motion which Your Honour has just stated. I did not know that that was the motion which was before the House. I could never accept the resolution which I read out and which seems to be the original intention of the Government. Since the Select Committee's report is the motion which is

before this House I will pass on to the actual report by the Planning Committee. The first thing which strikes me about that report is that at some future time we are going to have to make votes in order to implement the subject matter of the report. That is inevitable as soon as we approve of this report. Government must come to this House from time to time for money to carry out the extensions as are recommended in that report because there was no specific appropriation to be spent on the General Hospital. In like manner, there was an Estimate for \$1,067,000 in the Five-Year Plan to be spent on medical services, but there was no specific appropriation as honourable members know to come out of Available Funds or the General Revenue balance to be spent on the General Hospital. I understand that this plan for the extension of the Hospital is expected to be financed largely from the \$1,000,000 which stands to our credit from C.D. & W. Government hopes that its application for the loan to be used for such a purpose would be approved by C. D. & W. If we get the amount it would be a substantial contribution towards the cost of the extensions and improvements; as a matter of fact, the amount would almost entirely provide for what is to be done providing there is no unexpected rise in the price of labour. Though I do not wish to embarrass the Government, I would like to draw to its attention that sometime ago — I believe it was in 1942—Sir Rupert Brierecliffe turned down a plan similar to the one we have before us because it was his considered opinion that no useful purpose would be served by hotch-spotch arrangement of extending the existing facilities of the General Hospital on the existing site. I hope, realising the urgency of our present situation that C. D. & W. will reconsider that decision in the light of recent developments and I take it that the Government has already had some undertaking that its application would be favourably considered. I was a bit worried over the finances to carry out these new extensions but if what we have been told comes true, I think it would be the best money that C. D. & W. will spend in the Island of Barbados and it would be a living monument to the organisation if it is disbanded, or demobilised or immobilised.

The other tribute which I think is deserving should be given to the administrative officer of the Government who was able to persuade the Government that it could use the land which it had at Stockton and which he states is not beyond the bounds of engineering ingenuity to erect the substantial building which has been mentioned would be erected thereon. I always viewed with a certain amount of scepticism the statement made by members of the Government that there was lack of proper foundations at Stockton or at the General Hospital. I always viewed that statement sceptically because in this Island of Barbados we do not have the engineering problems which are attendant in construction work as in colonies like British Guiana and other places which are more mountainous or more swampy. I will almost go as far as to say that you can construct some kind of building over the Constitution Swamp if you so desire. It is only a question of having the imagination and the technical experience which I am sorry to say have been lacking in most of the departments of Government where we most need them. It is not because we were not paying proper salaries; I think we were paying salaries which should have commanded and brought forth such experience and imagination. I think the general feeling in the island is that fortunately for the Government, now that it is embarking on the Five-

Year Plan it has the technical officers who are not bogged down to the traditional methods of construction and who have a certain amount of imagination and technical skill at their disposal.

There is one point which puzzles me in this debate. We had been informed by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, who was the then mover of a Resolution in this House, that the Enmore site was desired for the immediate allocation of fifty beds to extend the General Hospital. As far as I can remember, the total figure, both for the purchase of the site and for the rearrangement and purchase of beds, was something in the vicinity of £25,000. If we are going to get 134 beds — let us call it 150 — under this new arrangement, which is also a hotch-potch arrangement, for £250,000; if we view that £25,000 as opposed to this £250,000 which we are contemplating to spend on this extension to give us 150 beds more, by a simple arithmetical calculation, I cannot see the magnificent scheme this is as has been said by the honourable junior member for St. John. I am not for one moment saying that Government would be able to build a new hospital of 134 beds for approximately this cost, but to go as far as to completely shut your eyes to the difference there is between a new hospital and this hotch-potch arrangement and say this is a wonderful scheme and that we will not have to look any further is not the best thing for us in the running of the affairs of this country. We will have to face the inevitability of getting a new hospital. The argument by the honourable junior member for St. John reminded me of the box-car arrangement in France with the eight horses and forty men. The Imperial General whose task it was to transport troops and equipment thought it was the best method of transporting men from one place on the map to another place by putting them in box-cars drawn by eight horses. The present scheme which we are contemplating is a box-car arrangement; it can accommodate eight horses and forty men but it does not mean in this streamlined age that we should want to transport humanity in box-cars. It does not mean that this arrangement for an additional 134 beds at the General Hospital is the "by all" and "in all" so far as the Hospital is concerned. As long as we realise that we are making the best of a bad job and that we are spending \$1,000,000 to alleviate the dreadful conditions which exist at the General Hospital and that this is only a comprehensive stop-gap measure, then I do not think that we will be misguided in our deliberation.

As regard to the actual recommendations I do not want to deal with them in detail but there are one or two omissions which I want to draw to the attention of the Government. I have already unofficially drawn them to the attention of the honourable Minister of Social Services. First of all, if this Government is going to be committed to any expense as a result of the recommendations of the Planning Committee of the Hospital, I think all these commitments should be studied in their true light. When Government finishes the construction of the Nurses Home and Mechanical Laundry over at Stockton it would mean that two main blocks will be across River Road. It is obvious that there is going to be a considerable volume of traffic passing and repassing across River Road in both directions from the General Hospital.

I feel that the Government should have embodied in these proposals a plan for placing a tunnel in River Road with suitable arrangements for the movement of trolleys from one side to the other so that there could not be any interference with the normal traffic which goes along Collymore Rock and River Road. I pre-

sume that they will use a sub-way tunnel and therefore I feel that every commitment which will arise out of these extensions in this Plan should have been embodied in the Report itself. If the Government did not contemplate either the use of a "fly over" or underground tunnel, it is time that they consider the matter carefully; they cannot have nurses going from one part to the other with all the traffic taking place on the highway. I do not know that a tunnel from "Enmore" to "Stockton" is necessary, but if the services became so interlocked, that would probably be a better solution to the problem.

With regard to the question of the T.B. Ward, I would certainly approve of any plan which proposes a different site for tuberculosis cases from that which has been proposed, and in some suitable locality away from a built-up area. There again, we will have to face this expenditure at some time. The incidence of T.B. is on the increase and it is obvious from the experience of our sister colonies, that the Government will have to undertake the erection of a separate Sanatorium at some future date. There again, we should not disapprove of the proposals which are before us to-day, but I hope that the Government will not regard this Report as any finality in this matter, because if they went back to the medical men and other experts on the Committee, these experts would tell the Government that they were limited in their recommendations by the financial commitments of the Government and that a new hospital is an absolute necessity at some future time. I hope that the incidence of sickness and disease does not go on so rapidly that by the time the Government get to the end of the construction work they will find that the accommodation is still inadequate; I also hope that they will not come back to us with this matter at any time within the next five years except in a case of extreme necessity, because it would be a question of monstrous ineptitude on the part of the Committee which has sent us this Report today.

I hope that the Government will implement these proposals as soon as possible so that they will not find that the cost of implementing them has risen out of all proportion to what it is now, as in the case of the Deep Water Harbour, and they will have to come back to the House for a considerable sum of money in excess of what they anticipate to-day. A little done at the right time is better than a lot done at another time. You will be scandalized to see people lying on the floor of the Hospital and two lying in one bed in a Hospital in a civilised community. There is a standing joke that at the Hospital you cannot go to the bathroom because when you return somebody will have moved up into your bed. I did not believe that until I saw it myself: no member of the medical staff has ever contested the truth of that allegation. I believe that the matter which is before us is a salutary one having for its object the amelioration of the suffering condition of the people of this country.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I am not a doctor trained in hospital administration; I am just an ordinary layman, but I shall endeavour at least to apply a little logic in adding my small contribution to this rather important matter. It is now almost common knowledge that the General Hospital has reached a rather precarious position, as the honourable senior member for St. George has said. It is common knowledge that two people are occupying one bed and perhaps somebody would say that the same thing applies in the United Kingdom.

The Resolution is couched in rather unusual phraseology. It says: "Resolved that this House"

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will say again that that Resolution is not before the House. That Resolution is Order No. 1 on the Order Paper and that Order has been postponed.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I beg to apologize; I have now been reliably informed of this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member has been reliably informed of it ever since.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I again beg to apologize for my lapse. The Report of the Select Committee is couched in rather unusual phraseology and I see that the members of the Committee did not find it necessary to meet more than once. I think it is true to say that the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee is, in a way, a good one although it has always been my contention that the sooner we face the possibility of getting a new Hospital, the better it will be for us. I think that this piecemeal approach to the matter can only take us on a decade more but we will have to face the possibility of making provision for another 500 beds and the estimated cost will be something over \$6 million. You can just envisage what we will have to face.

I do not think that this Report is intended to be a Report for all time; it is just a phase of development and if the Government would view it in that way, it would be a very good thing for them. Paragraph 3 of the Report states this:

"We are of the opinion that the needs of the Island for some considerable time will be adequately served by the availability to the General Public of 600 Beds in a General Hospital provided that some essential development of selected Almshouses into Cottage Hospitals takes place. We recommend that this development of the Almshouses be given urgent consideration and that the accommodation for the isolation of Tuberculosis in Almshouses be retained."

When the "Maude" Bill was being considered, I heard it stated that the Almshouses should be turned into Cottage Hospitals; so that some pronouncement has been made as to that matter.

As to the question of making provision for Tuberculosis cases, Sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph 4 of the Report states:

"Good accommodation for the treatment of 50 in-patients suffering from Tuberculosis, in a separate block adjacent to all essential services."

It strikes me that that consideration is based on the fact that it may be possible in the development of Cottage Hospitals to get through with that Isolation Ward within the framework of the General Hospital.

Among the commitments will be an Out-Patients' Department: I would like to point out that there is no consistent reasoning where the Out-Patients' Department is concerned. You should decide there and then what should be the unit to accommodate Out-Patients and give them the ideal service that it will be necessary to give. If you look at Sub-paragraph (v) (d) of Paragraph 5 of the Report, you will see that it states this:

"The evacuation of the Offices and present Children's Wards from the Upper Floor of the Administration Block, making available added room for the treatment of Out-Patients and space for a Nurses' Sitting Room, a Board Room and Common Room for Medical Staff."

Sub-paragraph (ix) says:

"The removal of the Nursing Service Administrative Offices from their present site near the Main Gate, and the use of that site as additional accommodation for the treatment of Out-Patients."

If you turn to page 4 of the Report you will see that paragraph 15 says this:

"For future development of the Hospital, outside the scope of the Five Year Plan, we recommend:—

- (i) The rehabilitation or erection of an Out-Patient Department and Dispensary along the Bay Street frontage"

It seems to me that the whole attitude towards the Out-Patients' Department is confused because there are three statements as to the manner in which that Department will be dealt with.

What is most confusing about the whole picture of the Hospital is that sometime in September, 1953, when the Government was purchasing "Enmore", we were told that the Government did not consider developing the Hospital on its present site. Apparently, at that time, the Government had been given wrong advice, because it was the opinion of the House that the Hospital should be developed on its present site whereas the administrative block for ancillary services should be developed outside. As late as September last year the Government was still under a haze of opinion as to what conclusions they should arrive at as regards developing the Hospital block. I am glad to see, judging from the tenor of the Plan which has been given us, that the general development will be done on the site of the old Hospital, and the site at "Enmore" will be used for ancillary buildings. As regards the purchase of "Enmore", judging from the tenor of the honourable introducer's speech, that property was never bought with any realisation at all that it would be turned into Nurses' Quarters: the whole tenor of the introducer's speech in respect of this Report was that "Enmore" was bought on the advice of Mr. Woodhouse, and the whole attitude of the House was that they were thinking in terms of extending the Hospital there. That only shows the muddled thinking which has been taking place and I do not blame the Government because it was a question of the advice which had been given.

With the purchase of "Enmore" the Government seemed to have it at the back of their mind that they would develop the Hospital at "Enmore", but now they are developing the Hospital on its present site. I will ask: what is going to happen with the remaining 4½ acres of land?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the honourable junior member for St. Thomas said what would be done with this land.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I am trying to find out whether it will take 4½ acres of land to erect a block of flats. There is only one strong objection which I have in this respect. I would like the Reporter to get what I am saying correctly because if I happen to vote against this matter I would not like the public to get the wrong impression where my reasons are concerned. I am giving my wholehearted support to this Report; I regard it as only a phase which will probably carry us up to the next 10 or 15 years, but I do not agree that we should put a Tuberculosis Ward within the framework of the Hospital. As early as May 26, 1953 an Address which I introduced was passed in this House in respect of the erection of a T.B. Sanatorium and I refer honourable members to that Address which reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency The Governor

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

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

In view of that Address, in view of the opinion which I held then and which I still hold now and in view of the fact that I have taken the trouble to write to authorities in England in connection with the matter and knowing what the honourable senior member for the City has so carefully pointed out, I cannot vote for the Committee's Report as it stands. I am in favour of the Report, but I am objecting strongly to having a Tuberculosis Ward placed within the framework of the General Hospital. To have an Isolation Ward within the compound of the Hospital is not the best thing, to my way of thinking, having regard to the psychological effect on the mind of the people who are suffering from tuberculosis. I happen to know a young man who attended school with me and there were occasions when I saw his reaction when I was taking a drink with him. I am really concerned about the existing state of affairs: it is not possible for us to build a new Hospital right now and it is not practicable for us to build a new T.B. Sanatorium right now. When I introduced my Address I was informed that the erection of a T.B. Sanatorium would cost quite a lot of money. As I specifically said, I did not want to see an Isolation Ward placed within the compound of the Hospital and today, with more information on the matter, I have stated my objections to that course being adopted; otherwise, the Report has my blessing. I advise the Minister of Social Services that he should keep in his mind the problems which arise in respect of the Hospital from day to day and I sincerely hope that the money Resolution relative to this Report will be brought down to the House as soon as possible. I beg to second the amendment of the honourable senior member for the City.

Mr. GODDARD: Quite a lot has been said as to the various aspects of this Report. Honourable members have praised this Report for its presentation and the comprehensive manner in which it has been written; it is seldom that we are honoured with such a detailed Report setting out clearly what has to be done and the cost of the proposals in detail. For that, we thank the members of the Committee and we hope that this Report will be an example to other Committees who are reporting to this House to try and do likewise. When we have a Report like this, it lightens the work of the introducer and again I thank the members of the Committee for this Report.

The big question before the House is that of the proposed establishment of a T.B. Ward in the precincts of the General Hospital. We, in Barbados, and the people of the West Indies have come to regard the disease of tuberculosis with fear; I have heard medical authorities say that they would rather come into contact with cases of leprosy than with cases of tuberculosis because the disease of tuberculosis is very contagious. The public at large knows that, and I know that if this T.B. Ward is established within the compound of the Hospital, the Administration will have headaches galore. At St. Michael's Infirmary I think that there are 43 cases of tuberculosis in residence and any member of the Board of Guardians will tell you the difficulties with which the Administration is confronted. It is difficult to find Nursing Staff and in these new proposals whereby there will be one general kitchen and there will be a modern steam laundry, what provision will be made for washing the clothing of patients who are suffering from tuberculosis, for the feeding of those patients and for the nursing generally? I predict that the same problems which exist today at the St. Michael's Infirmary in that respect will confront the Administration.

Last year, which was Coronation Year, the Ves-

try of every parish was asked its opinion as to the celebrations for the Coronation and I think that without any exception they suggested that the erection in that year of a Sanatorium for the accommodation of T.B. cases would be a most commendable monument to the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. Addresses have been passed in this House asking for the establishment of such a Sanatorium and now we are talking about setting up a T.B. Sanatorium right in the middle of the compound of the Hospital! I feel, and I think the general public feel, that something better than that could be done.

Mention has been made of the development of some Almshouses into Cottage Hospitals. I agree with that, but I would like to have a little more details as to this matter and perhaps the honourable Minister for Social Services will say what it is proposed to do with these Cottage Hospitals. It has been felt that if two Hospitals were built, one to the North and the other to the South, they would take care of convalescent cases and would relieve considerably the congestion at the General Hospital. I know that there are cases which occupy beds at the Hospital for over 12 months; these cases had to remain at the hospital because there was no where to send them and they prevented other people from getting beds. Whether these Cottage Hospitals will be so equipped as to take care of these convalescent cases, I do not know. The honourable Minister will be able to enlighten us as to this matter.

One honourable member mentioned the question as to the arrangements which would be made for the accommodation of visitors to the Hospital. Some of us had been hoping that the space which is now a "window" in Bay Street would be prepared for the accommodation of visitors; if there is anything better than that we would be glad to hear about it, but some provision should be made for the accommodation of visitors to the Hospital.

We are now embarking upon a comprehensive plan for the improvement of the Hospital and I suggest that some local person be sent to England to be attached to some big hospital and be trained in hospital administration. There is medical superintendence but there is also the question of other superintendence: You have a Secretary-Manager there—a young man—and I submit that if somebody is given a course in England in order to take charge of the administration of the Hospital, that would produce a lot of good.

There is the question of the provision of a new laundry at the Hospital; there will be one large kitchen to cater to the nurses and patients and, surely, those are things about which we would like to hear; there is a dietician who could be sent abroad. Included in this scheme should be the necessity for the running of a modern Hospital. I again thank the members of this Committee for this full Report and I do hope that when other Committees are being appointed, some members of this House will be included among them so as to assist in presenting the Reports to the House. Members of both Parties in this House should be included on these Committees; members of the Opposition should not be excluded.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: There is really very little for me to answer, but there are one or two points to which I want to reply. I will answer the last speaker first on the question of placing the T.B. Ward in the compound of the Hospital; he made the point that there is provision made in the compound of the St. Michael's Infirmary for tuberculosis cases (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Not for treatment) for the isolation of these cases, but they are there anyhow. I helped in the administration there for three years and I did not have any problem. The honourable member ask-

ed: what will happen with the dishes and the clothing from the T.B. Ward if that Ward is placed within the compound of the Hospital? Well, the same thing will happen if the T.B. Ward were to be placed elsewhere: the dishes and the clothing will be washed separately. I want to tell honourable members that tuberculosis in Barbados will be tackled in a different manner from hitherto; we have to get our B.C.G. Campaign going. One of the conditions of the World Health Organisation as regards the B.C.G. Campaign is that we have to provide accommodation for the treatment of these cases, and when we can tell them that we have provided this accommodation, then we will have this Campaign going. When we have this campaign going we will not want all this space; when the Local Government Bill and the Public Health Bill have been passed, certain Almshouses will be kept as Cottage Hospitals so as to relieve the pressure on the General Hospital and certain other Almshouses will be retained as Infirmaries. The T.B. Wards at the Almshouses will not only be used for the isolation but also for the treatment of cases; all that awaits the passage of the Local Government Bill.

With the accommodation at the St. Michael's Infirmary for T.B. cases and the accommodation at the General Hospital plus the new attack against T.B., we feel sure that the accommodation envisaged will be quite adequate. I will promise honourable members that I will try to review the provision made in respect of tuberculosis; we have to keep in mind that it costs money to build a T.B. Hospital and we have to place this Ward at the General Hospital where there is the X-ray Department. If we build a T.B. Sanitorium we will have to get separate equipment for dealing with these cases. I know that there is a sentiment against the accommodation of T.B. patients in the compound of the Hospital, but I think the community ought to accept the assurance of the Director of Medical Services (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Who?) who is a qualified man holding a degree the Superintendent of the General Hospital, Hon. Dr. Cato and myself in this matter. I want honourable members to bear in mind the cost of building a T.B. Sanitorium, plus the provision of equipment plus administration.

I am sorry that the honourable senior member for St. Philip is not here; I will not say anything more than make this statement. A few weeks ago, when the Estimates were being considered, the honourable member stated that a few weeks before then a woman died in childbed at the General Hospital; when the nurse called for the doctor, the woman had died. My Ministry asked the honourable member to give us the facts and we have not had them yet. I will not say anything more than that now. I will tell this House that if any honourable member is prepared to give the facts I am prepared to investigate the matter. It is of no use making complaints unless you can give the facts.

In reply to the honourable senior member for the City who also criticised the proposal to place the T.B. Ward in the compound of the General Hospital, I will explain that the whole point about tuberculosis is the spitting. In well-known hospitals patients are told to control their spitting and if you can control the spitting you will go a long way towards controlling the incidence of tuberculosis.

A few honourable members made a point about the accommodation of visitors at the Hospital; that point was raised by the Select Committee. A lot was made about the Select Committee using the words "after mature consideration"

in their Report and it was suggested that there could not be mature consideration given at one meeting. I should like to say that the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee was in the hands of honourable members long before the Select Committee was summoned for the meeting and if they studied the Report they would have had their minds made up as to what they wanted. We had the Architect present and he answered all the criticisms and especially the question of providing accommodation for visitors; he pointed out on the Plan where accommodation would be provided for visitors. It is unfortunate that that matter was not incorporated in the Report.

The honourable junior member for Christ Church and the honourable senior member for the City spoke about the question of administration, but the Government has already considered that matter; so that those honourable members are quite late. As regards the question of the Mortuary, honourable members are also late; provision will be made for the removal of the Mortuary when the change is taking place.

One or two honourable members have already argued about "Enmore" being used for a Health Centre when it was bought with the idea of extending the Hospital, but with the information before the Government, any reasonable person will see that "Enmore" should be used for a Health Centre. For the benefit of honourable members who think that a Health Centre is a place for handling casualties, I will say that the position is quite different from that; a Health Centre makes provision for preventive treatment whereas a Hospital makes provision for curative treatment. I hope honourable members will not get mixed in this matter; it is a natural affinity to have a Health Centre and a Hospital in close proximity.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A motion has been made that the Report of the Select Committee be adopted. An amendment has been moved that there be added thereto, the following words: "Subject to arrangements being made for the provision of T.B. patients outside the present General Hospital compound." I will therefore put the amendment first. The question is that the words proposed to be added stand part of the motion. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Noes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. BARROW, WILLIAMS, VAUGHAN, E. D. MOTTLEY and GODDARD—5.

Noes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Messrs. HOLDER, BRYAN, MILLER, F. L. WALCOTT, BRANCKER and ALLDER—12.

The question that the Report of the Select Committee be adopted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—What is the position as regards Order No. 1?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that that Order should be withdrawn on the fixing of the Order Paper.

Mr. BARROW: I beg to move that the previous question be not now put.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the next Order the honourable member is taking?

Mr. BARROW: The Government does not seem to know what is to be done with Order No. 1 which is a Resolution relating to the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee and I have made the

motion that the previous question be not now put. Let them read Rule 79: I am trying to relieve the Government out of an embarrassing position, that is all. If they do not now the Rules of debate I am very sorry for them.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I have been granted leave to postpone the consideration of that Order, and I am asking leave to proceed with Order No. 4 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable member was not sure about the position he should adopt as regards Order No. 1 or Order No. 2 and he said that he would prefer to deal with Order No. 2 and then come back to Order No. 1. The honourable member did not have any intention of postponing the consideration of Order No. 1; he wanted to discuss Order No. 2 so that when an expression of opinion was made on the Report he could revert to the Resolution in that connection. If the honourable member has no intention of discussing the Resolution, that is saying that he is withdrawing it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member can accept my assurance that—

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable Minister asked leave to postpone the consideration of Order No. 1 and that was granted; the honourable member enquired whether the Resolution or the Report should be dealt with first and he decided to deal with the Report first. The Resolution is here and if the honourable member is saying that he will withdraw it, that is another matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the honourable member has shown his intention to withdraw the Order.

Mr. BARROW: I understood the honourable member to say that he had postponed the Resolution: if you postpone a Resolution it remains on the Order Paper. I was trying to help the honourable member by moving that the previous question be not now put.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member intends to withdraw the Order on the fixing of the Order Paper.

Mr. BARROW: It is a matter of supreme indifference to me; the Rules of debate are very flexible in this Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are being adhered to very strictly. An Order which has been postponed with the leave of the House does not lose its position on the Order Paper. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas is asking leave to take Order No. 4 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. ALLDER: I object. As a member of the Select Committee which considered this question of Fire Protection for the City of Bridgetown, I am willing to compromise with the Government; but we are certainly not in a mood to handle the Select Committee's Report in connection with this matter now. I appeal to the honourable member to deal with another item instead.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I agree with the honourable senior member for St. John because Order No. 4 deals with a very controversial matter; the honourable Leader of the House knows that because different views were expressed on this matter. I should like to say that any criticism which we offer is not merely for the sake of opposition but in order to render help if we can. Is this the hour at which we should deal with such a controversial matter? We have a lot of suggestions to make in respect of this matter and I suggest that we deal with it at an earlier hour so that we can deal with it properly and not rush through with it.

Mr. BARROW: The position is that I am a member of the Select Committee but there are other members of the Committee who are not present now and there is a considerable amount of money involved in this matter—something in the vicinity of £3,000. My information is that the most unanimous recommendations of the Select Committee are going to be ignored by the members of the Government. If that is the case, if the advice of an administrative Officer who has left the colony is going to be accepted to the dereliction of our own recommendations, then this is far too controversial a matter to be debated at this time of the night.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This is a question of using commonsense and reason. This Select Committee has reported and if the honourable Leader of the House was forced to submit a Minority Report, he ought to know that the issue is one which will involve some argument. I will agree with the Minority Report, but you cannot get in your head that you want to do something and nobody should be against you; if this matter is not discussed tonight it does not mean that it cannot be dealt with next week. Some honourable members seem to think that if you cannot discuss a matter on a particular Tuesday the whole world will be at an end. We have a Minority Report in respect of this matter and it is therefore a matter which should be easily postponed.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to proceed with Order No. 4 as the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the negative, a division being taken as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Messrs HOLDER and BRYAN—8.

Noes: Messrs. BARROW, MILLER, WILLIAMS, F. L. WALCOTT, BRANCKER, ALLDER, CRAWFORD, E. D. MOTTLEY and GODDARD—9.

LEAVE TO MAKE A PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, — May I be permitted to make a personal explanation relative to a statement which was made in the House not long ago? I understand that a short while ago the honourable Minister of Social Services said that he had written me a letter in connection with a statement which I made in this House during the consideration of the Estimates about the failure of a doctor, who was on duty at the General Hospital, to attend to a patient when he was called by a nurse, and that I had refused to co-operate by answering the letter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member did not say that you refused to co-operate; he said that you refused to reply to the letter.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It is merely five days ago that I got a letter from the honourable member's Ministry asking for information with reference to the matter. It took them two months to send me that letter; as I said, I got it just five days ago and I have not had the time to attend to the matter yet. I have other duties to which to pay attention other than political duties.

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

Mr. ALLDER: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until this day week at 3 o'clock in the afternoon was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BRANCKER, Mr. AILDER, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. GODDARD—7.

Noes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. F. L. WALCOTT.—10.

LEAVE TO TAKE ORDER NO. 3

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 3 as the next Order of the Day.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Minister of Social Services: To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

On motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This resolution for the sum of \$2,267 is to authorise the supplementary Estimates, 1954-55, No. 1. As honourable members can see, the expenditure is to make provision for three new items, one under Head VI—Customs, Duty; *Ex-gratia* gratuity refund of Customs Duty; one under Head XXVI—Pensions, *Ex-gratia* gratuity to Charles Batson, an employee of the Department of Highways and Transport, in respect of his seven years' service in that Department; and one under Head XXX—Income Tax and Death Duties, Refund of Income Tax to Mme. Quachee. Under Head XXXII—Highways and Transport, Item 67, Plant, tools, spares and equipment, the sum of \$1,400 which is requested, is the unexpended balance of a sum which was provided in the 1953-54 Estimates for repairing and reconditioning the D. 6 Caterpillar Tractor of the Department of Highways and Transport. The repairs were not completed to that tractor before the end of the last financial year and the money is needed to complete the repairs. I do not think honourable members would need any more explanation as the notes to the items are quite full of detail. I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Chairman, in respect to the *Ex-gratia* gratuity to be given to Mr. Charles Batson for his seven years' service in the Department of Highways and Transport, it has been stated that this employee elected to remain under the provisions of the Pensions Act, 1925-2, but owing to ill health he was compelled to retire before he had completed ten years' service. He was therefore not eligible for the grant of a gratuity under the Pensions Act, 1925. If he had elected to come under the provisions of the Pensions Act, 1947-20, he would have been eligible for a gratuity amounting to \$269.35 in respect of his five years' service up to 27th July, 1951, when he attained the age of 60 years. On that score, Government has sent down this vote of \$270. What I want to say is that there is a long list of other cases similar to that of Mr. Batson and I would like to know if they will get the same aid if their cases are sent to Government.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Where there are instances of two cases on all fours, how can you do something for one and not for the other? I have already said so in this House. If another case

similar to that of Mr. Charles Batson come before the the Government, certainly the person would be treated in similar circumstances. Mr. Batson, himself, is not the first person who was treated in this manner. He follows a precedent and if another person comes along like Mr. Batson, that person will get the same treatment.

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

On motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of the resolution in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

LEAVE TO TAKE ORDER NO. 7

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 7 as the next order of the day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Minister of Agriculture: Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Trustees of the Will of the late Henry Ulick, Earl of Harewood, to sell and convey certain parcels of land (parts of the Belle Plantation) to the Executive Committee of this Island.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think this Bill can be proceeded with tonight owing to the fact that no petition has been presented to this House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The petition is here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will have to be given notice of in the regular manner.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking for leave to present it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unless it is absolutely necessary to proceed with this Bill tonight, will the honourable Minister give me the opportunity to discuss it with Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I will not worry to proceed with it.

BILL TO AUTHORISE GRATUITY AND PENSION TO AUBREY CARRINGTON

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I am asking leave to take Order No. 11 as the next order of the day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable Premier: Second reading of a Bill to authorise the payment of a gratuity and pension to Aubrey Carrington.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as honourable members will see from the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, from August 1935 to March 1946, Mr. Aubrey Carrington was employed as a gardener on a part-time basis by three authorities—namely, The Central Road Board (a semi-Government the Trustees of the Public Library. I think most honourable members will remember this short old gentleman by seeing him attending to the Public Library gardens, but in truth and fact, he was really employed by three different masters; and it is a fact, that although he was employed by three differ-

ent masters, he was always employed by the Government because he was paid in each case out of Government funds, therefore, it is considered that he should rank as a Government servant.

As I have said, the Objects and Reasons set out very clearly the purpose of the Bill. Paragraph 2 states:—

As soon as it was discovered that Mr. Carrington's services did not count for pension, it was arranged for him to be placed on the Unestablished Staff of the Public Works Department with effect from the 1st of April, 1946. He retired on the 8th May, 1953, on attaining the age of 65 years but, as he had not completed ten years pensionable service, he was awarded a gratuity of \$408.57 calculated in accordance with the provision of the Pensions Act, 1947-20, that is in respect of service from April 1946 to 8th May, 1948, the date on which he attained the age of 60 years, with service between 1935 and 1946 counting as to one-half for pension purposes.

In view of the fact, however, that Mr. Carrington worked solely for the Government and performed a full day's work during the period 1935 to 1946, it is considered equitable that his period from 1935 to 1946 with the Central Road Board, the Public Works Department and the Public Library and his service with the Public Works Department from April, 1946 to the date of his retirement on 8th May, 1953, should count for pension as would have been the case had the provisions of the Pensions Act, 1925, been applicable. Reduced pension and gratuity calculated on this basis would amount to \$117.06 per annum and \$390.20 respectively.

I may state that the original award of \$408.57 would be cancelled if the Legislature approves of the grant of the pension in respect to Mr. Carrington's service from 1st August 1935 to 8th May, 1953.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion.

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

On motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

The three clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 4 ORDER, 1954

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 12 as the next order of the day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Premier: To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 4 Order, 1954.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This resolution is to give legislative effect to the Order which provides for

the establishment of the post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman in the Department of Highways and Transport.

The addendum states:—

"The services of a temporary Draughtsman have been made available to the Department of Highways and Transport since August, 1950, and it is considered desirable that the post should now be established. The proposal will involve no additional expenditure to the Government except in the matter of pensionable liability."

I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more than what is contained in the addendum; I will be only repeating it. I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Sir, this addendum states that the services of a temporary Draughtsman have been made available to the Department of Highways and Transport since August, 1950, and it is considered desirable that the post should now be established. Can the honourable Premier tell me if the holder of the office is a qualified surveyor, registered under the local Act?

Hon. M. E. COX: I would just like to say that this resolution is not for the appointment of an individual; this is only creating a permanent post after which the Public Service Commission will be asked to recommend somebody for the particular post. The person who holds the position temporarily is not really a registered surveyor.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, from the addendum, I understand that there has been since 1950 an individual who has been acting as Surveyor-Draughtsman in the Department of Highways and Transport. I believe that it is now the accepted policy of Government where an individual has been acting in a post competently for any length of time and the post eventually becomes an established post that the person who is acting is usually confirmed in the appointment. However, due to the past history of the Department of Highways and Transport being rather lamentable with respect to its surveyors, I think the question put by the honourable senior member for the City is most appropriate at this junction. I think what members of this House want is an undertaking that in technical or semi-technical posts, the people with the necessary ability and qualifications will be appointed to them. There is no point in having an established post for a technical officer if you are going to take the "morish" or the "parish" to fill the post. For the benefit of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, there is no such thing as an unregistered surveyor. There is such a thing as sworn surveyor or the person is not a surveyor. Those persons who are so qualified are those who were in practice when the Act was passed or those who since the passing of the Act have qualified and come up to the necessary standard by the passing of the necessary examination. What the honourable Minister of Communications said just now reminded me of an old shoemaker who carried on business in Church Village not far from where I lived when I was a youngster. The shoemaker had a sign-board posted up marked: "Practical Shoemaker," and I overheard another old shoemaker passing along by the business premises of the other shoemaker and making the rather derogatory statement that the old shoemaker who worked there was not a whole shoemaker but a practical shoemaker. I presume that what the honourable Minister of Communications means to say is that the person who is now acting in the post is not a sworn surveyor but is a practical sur-

veyor. If that is so, the person is no surveyor at all.

I need not remind this House that the Department of Highways and Transport came in for a lot of ridicule some time ago due to the fact that the Government employed a man in that Department who had no qualifications for the job he undertook. I do not want to be personal, therefore, I would not mention names. I would only say that I too am in favour of exchanging Government servants from the various Government Departments to the Departments where those persons are more adaptable; and I am not against the appointment of people from outside into our Service, but let us be careful when we get a man from outside to see that we are entirely satisfied with his background and his qualifications are suitable for the post we want him to fill. This is only a word of warning to the Government and it is merely given because we have had a lot of unfortunate experiences in the past. We have had such experiences at Harrison College, at Combermere School, at the Department of Highways and Transport, and even in the General Hospital we have had the experience of appointing a lunatic to administer anaesthetics. If there is a man who is acting in a job and is doing it well, you can appoint him to some subordinate job and let him go on learning and doing the job until he is qualified to fill it. In the neighbouring colonies, it is the custom of Government to train their own surveyors and we can adopt such a system. If the person who is acting in this job is not qualified to fill it when it becomes a permanent post, of course, he should not be appointed. I am not saying that you should get rid of a man who has been acting with some success in a post for three years. I feel Government should train its own surveyors or send suitable persons away for training.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Sir, I do not like "wet blanket" statements to be made. I regard the statement which has just been made by the honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing as a "wet blanket" statement. I did not intend to say anything at all on this resolution until the honourable Minister made that statement. The addendum to the resolution reads as follows:—

"This resolution is to give legislative effect to the Order which provides for the establishment of the post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman in the Department of Highways and Transport."

"The services of a temporary Draughtsman have been made available to the Department of Highways and Transport since August, 1950, and it is considered desirable that this post should now be established. The proposal will involve no additional expenditure to the Government except in the matter of pensionable liability." The Schedule to the Order is stated as follows:—

XXIV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

After Item 21

Add—

"22. Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman.
\$600. 600. 660. 840 x
72— 1,128 (E.B.) 1,296
x 96— 2,160 x 120 —
2,280. 1"

Now, the last paragraph of the addendum to this resolution states that the services of a temporary draughtsman have been made available to the department since August 1950 and it is con-

sidered desirable that this post should now be established. This means that this resolution is only for the purpose of establishing a post; it is not for the purpose of appointing any person to the post. If it only means that this resolution is for the purpose of establishing the post, then this addendum does not convey accurately what the honourable mover of it wants to convey. What I want to point out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that they have now the services of a temporary draughtsman and what they are asking now for, according to this order, is a Surveyor-Draughtsman. A draughtsman is a different thing to a surveyor-draughtsman. Now that the order says "Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman" we are creating a post because there is not such a post in that department. Now you cannot get a Junior Surveyor Draughtsman at a beginning salary of \$50 per month and, moreover, since you are saying the salary is to rise according to what is set out in the schedule, you will have to regard this post in the category of a Long-Grade Clerk. Is that the category to which you want to relate this post? In that department you have two Assistant Engineers who are in the brackets \$1,920; 1,920 x 120 — 2,880 x 144 — 3,456; you have one Superintendent Mechanical Engineer at \$3,240; two Senior Road Overseers within the bracket of \$1,680 x 96—2,280 and ten Road Overseers, Grade I, in the brackets of \$1,320 x 72—1,752. You also have nine Grade II Road Overseers and two Foremen Mechanics. When the honourable member says that it does not mean that the person who is now draughtsman will be appointed to the post, what does he mean? We know a Minister has no authority to appoint anyone; it is a matter for the Public Service Committee. But we must bear in mind that we are creating a post to suit the type of person we now have acting in the appointment and according to the addendum has been acting since August 1950. Mark you, it says that person is only a draughtsman. According to the addendum you are saying the proposal will involve no additional expenditure to the Government except in the matter of pensionable liability, which means that you are relating this post to the present post of draughtsman. Why then say Junior Surveyor Draughtsman? Members of the Government are well aware that at this Department of Highways and Transport we already had some bogus surveyor and he put the Government and other people in a lot of trouble.

The honourable introducer of this resolution said that it was quite a simple matter; he saw nothing that really would involve any more information than what was contained in the addendum. You can clearly see from the addendum that the person who is holding the post is a draughtsman only and a draughtsman is a different thing from a surveyor-draughtsman which is being created by this order. If the honourable member is willing to amend the order to Junior Draughtsman I think all honourable members would be in agreement because you are creating a post to suit some person who has been acting as draughtsman since 1950. As you have said, all that you want to do is to establish the post that someone is holding at present. The person is a draughtsman; you are saying Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman by this order; what do you mean? I do not think we should pass this resolution to approve the order as it is; it would not be correct.

Mr. GODDARD: I presume the person who has been acting as temporary draughtsman at the Department of Highways and Transport since August 1950 and for whom it is considered by this order that the post should be established has some qualification; but according to the salary structure as seen in the

schedule to the order there are two efficiency bars in it. Where does this Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman start in that salary structure? The honourable junior member for St. Peter said that you would not get a Surveyor-Draughtsman at \$50 a month. As I see it, if you want a Surveyor-Draughtsman the salary structure seems to be very low indeed. Will the person who is to be appointed to this post come in at the first or the second efficiency bar? If the honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing is unable to make a statement now, I would move that this resolution be postponed. It would give the honourable Minister the opportunity of coming back with something more concrete to this House. I now beg to move that this resolution be postponed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second the motion.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can only say that if it is postponed I am coming back with the same thing. What more explanation does this need? The honourable senior member for the City has asked the question if the person who is acting in this post is a trained man or not and the House has been told by the honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing that appointments to posts are of necessity in the hands of the Public Service Commission. What more can this Government say? The Public Service Commission may, in the exercise of its judgment, say that this is a junior post and that the person who should be appointed to it needs not to be qualified; or it can say the reverse, that is, that the person should be qualified. I am endeavouring to find out what was in the back of honourable members' minds when they made their addresses on this matter. All that I have heard expressed is that this is the sort of post for which a man who is holding it has to be qualified. Then came the question: "Is the person who is acting in the appointment qualified? There was a suggestion that the Government could send that person on training to be qualified. I have not the foggiest idea of the person who is acting as draughtsman at the Department of Highways and Transport or whether the Public Service Commission has one or ten names put before it for this post. The Public Service Commission may have a suggestion from the Head of the Department of the type of person that should be appointed to the post but that is all I can say so far as that matter is concerned. We of the Government can pass on at the next meeting of the Executive the feelings of this House which are that in view of the nature of this job, the salary scale is not what we like and that the person should be qualified. I say that although I have not heard it stated specifically. We can pass that on at a meeting of the Executive when Sir John Saint who is Chairman of the Public Service Commission would be sitting in Committee to hear the views expressed by this House. But that is all that we can do. Why should we postpone this matter? If it is postponed it will be brought back in the same way. The honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing has said nothing more than what is a fact. He said that the temporary post of Surveyor-Draughtsman has been in existence for some time and the work has been done by a particular person and it is the view now that the nature of the work is such that the post be an established post. What more can we of the Government say?

(A VOICE: The temporary post is Draughtsman not Surveyor-Draughtsman.)

I do ask this House to see that postponement of this matter would make no difference. It does seem to be the only answer to what honourable members have been querying that you need not have for this junior course a man who is already

a sworn surveyor or has some special academic qualifications. As far as I know the work which is being done by the person who is acting as draughtsman — and there is a similar post at the Housing Board — is that these persons sometimes do surveying work, like at Pine Estate making surveys, and sometimes they are in the office drafting plans; therefore, does it matter if you call them "Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman" or "Draughtsman?" I have carefully read the files before me on this matter to refresh my memory and I can only tell honourable members that this is purely a case on which there has been agreement. Does it matter what name you put? As I have said, the person who is filling the temporary post at the Department of Highways and Transport and the person who is engaged at the Housing Board in a similar capacity have had to do surveying work and the honourable senior member for the City should know the work that is done by these two people.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do know something of the work they do because I know that the Housing Board had to pay a fee to a sworn land surveyor so as to get him to authorise some work which was done by the person in such a position at the Housing Board.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Whether that is so or not, call him whatsoever you like, he has to do both things. Sir, all we are doing is to make this temporary post permanent. You can say, if you like, that the person who is to be appointed to the post should be a sworn surveyor, but that is besides the question with which we are dealing; all that we are doing is to make this temporary post a permanent one.

Mr. ALLDER: If the honourable member persist in forcing this resolution through this House, he is doing nothing else than conniving with individuals who have not the necessary qualifications for the job they have to perform in the Public Service. This is just like a boy who is hired to wash the honourable member's car in his backyard. In his doing so, he learns to drive it bit by bit until he can drive it around the garden path. But, inasmuch as you have seen him drive your car around your garden path, would you allow him to drive it into town? In truth and in fact, he can drive your car; but he cannot drive it into town because he has not the appropriate driving licence and he cannot get that until he has passed the necessary tests and paid the fee for such licence. I wonder whether the honourable Premier wants to open the door to people robbing the Treasury. We know that during the tenure of the last Town and Country Planning Officer of Government, Mr. Ralph Crowe, who in order to foster his desire for patronage or corruption, took a few youngsters and taught them draughtsmanship in his office. When his department was closed, a few of those youngsters were eventually attached to the Housing Board or to some of the departments of Government. I presume that the holder of this temporary post is one of those youngsters. If that is so, he may ably fill the post of draughtsman, but he is not a surveyor. I presume that the authorities have got accustomed to him and because of that, they have got this Civil Establishment Order sent down so as to make his post a permanent one. Whatever may be the position, Government should not forget that not long ago, we had some false officials with false papers or none at all, in the service of Government and who were drawing a lot of money by their positions. It was only after a long period in each case that Government discovered that their documents were false. It does appear as if Government is

courting the same false position for its servants in this case. When it comes to the Department of Highways and Transport, Government should always remember that it had an official attached there who although he did part of his work very well,—I may say to the praise of almost every honourable member—yet did not possess any theoretical papers. It came a time when he either left or the Government got rid of him.

I feel, that this change in title is definitely wrong. If the authorities feel that they cannot relieve themselves of the person who is acting in the temporary post of draughtsman, well then, keep him, but on the same conditions at which he started. Do not change the title of the post; do not add 'surveyor' to the title because should this person leave the employment of the Barbados Government, he will leave holding false credentials which he could say was given him by the Barbados Government.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Speaking on the motion for the postponement and on a point of explanation to the honourable Premier, it is obvious that this resolution should be postponed. The honourable Premier is really somewhat confused over it. Now, it is a fact that you have a Surveyor-Draughtsman at the Waterworks Department, and it will be remembered that after duly advertising in Barbados for someone to fill that post, you had to get a man from British Guiana. You wanted a Draughtsman for the Public Works Department and you had to get a man from McGill University. Both of these officers are highly qualified. I am suggesting postponement of this resolution because if the title of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman is allowed to remain, the person who fills the post will have to do both jobs. We must bear in mind that we have had already here persons attached to Government Departments holding titles which would qualify them to do certain jobs, and when the occasion arose that one of them had to make surveys of roads belonging to the Government but which were between lands owned by private persons, Government had to go outside and get a Sworn Surveyor to sign behind the person for the surveys which were carried out. The person who is appointed to this post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman must reach a certain level in both jobs. The honourable Premier said that the filling of the post would be a matter for the Public Service Commission but he must bear in mind that the creation of the post must come from the policy of the Government. If the honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing say that this post is to be filled by a qualified surveyor, no Public Service Commission can appoint somebody who is a draughtsman. A surveyor is not a surveyor until he is sworn. If you have someone acting in this post and he is not yet qualified as a surveyor, give him chance to qualify before you create the post. Do not appoint somebody because the person is affiliated with some school; it will cause dissatisfaction. In truth and in fact, the person who is acting in this capacity at the Department of Highways and Transport is not a surveyor-draughtsman. The honourable Premier knows that the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board had to go outside of his office and pay a sworn surveyor to furnish plans of some building scheme so that the Board of Health could accept them. The same thing may arise if we agree to this title of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman for this post. I am therefore suggesting to honourable members to vote for the postponement of this resolution. I am sure that the honourable Premier will agree with the postponement. As I have said, no one is saying that the honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing is going to make the appointment to this

post. It will be a matter for the Public Service Commission; but the policy is that of the honourable Minister. I think honourable members should agree to the postponement of this resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when this House was dealing with the Head, Department of Highways and Transport, when considering the Annual Estimates, the honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing asked leave to insert this item and said that the Order would come down to this House later. This post has been inserted in the Annual Estimates as Item No. 5 (a) and I have just checked with the Deputy Clerk of this House and found that it is inserted in his own handwriting. The honourable Minister in asking for leave to insert the item did say that the order would come down later. It has been inserted with the title "Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman." Honourable members agreed to its insertion when this House was considering the Estimates, now, they are objecting to the title. Honourable members could have said then that they did not approve to it being inserted then; bring down the order first. What I want to point out is that this Order has not been brought to this House by accident; it was deliberately brought to the attention of this House when consideration was given to the Estimates.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I feel I should say something at this stage. What I am worrying about is that it appears to me that this House would be agreeing to the creation of a post at the Department of Highways and Transport other than that which somebody is filling now at that Department. What is lamentable about this matter is that it appears as if the Government is satisfied with the work done by the person who has been acting as draughtsman at that department for the last three years, but who for some reason or other has been unable to get himself the necessary certificate which would qualify him to be a surveyor. It is lamentable and to some extent it is disgraceful that the Government has not provided this man with the opportunity of qualifying for the post. I feel this man could be given a one or two-year course at some place where he could get qualified for the post. Why not send him up to Jamaica to get qualified? I am sorry about this matter but if we lay down a principle, we must observe it. Before persons can be appointed to certain positions, they must subject themselves to the training which would enable them to get the necessary qualifications for the position. It would be unfair to those individuals who are prepared to sacrifice themselves to get qualified for certain positions and then to find that some individual who is not qualified is appointed to such positions.

I am sorry to hear what the honourable senior member for the City said with respect to this lad having his work checked and signed by a sworn surveyor. It is obvious that he is a capable chap, but only wishes the opportunity to qualify and I feel if he is serving the Government satisfactorily, Government should give him the opportunity to qualify. Sir, I am sorry that this matter has been discussed in this manner because it must expose the person who is filling the temporary position at the Department to embarrassment, and not only that, but if we agree to this Order, it must force him to accept a secondary role and I do not believe that is the intention of the Government. What I feel about this matter is that Government is convinced of this man's ability and service to the Government and because of that, should be paid a better wage. With that in view, Government has brought down this resolution to approve the Order

as set out in the Schedule; but by so doing, Government may be adorning him with peacock feathers when he might only be a jackdaw. This is something to be sorry about. As I have said, any person who has reached the standard where Government is sympathetic with that person's ability and service, but who may be lacking of the necessary qualifications, Government should give that person the opportunity to get qualified. Government should assist that person to get qualified. It is a fact that we have hundreds of persons who are knocking around in the gutter starving for an opportunity to become eminent and it is the duty of the Government to make sacrifices when it finds any such person. That is what a Government owes to a community. It is obvious that the Government in creating this post has changed the title of the temporary post which is held by this draughtsman so as to give him a better salary, but in doing so, Government has forgotten that at the Waterworks Department, it has an equivalent post which is held by an officer who is highly qualified. I do not think that Government wants to create any anomaly.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I be permitted to reply to the last remarks which were made. Soon after the present Director of Highways and Transport came to this island, he carried out a complete survey of the Department under his charge and one of the first recommendations he made was that the post of temporary draughtsman should be made permanent. That recommendation was passed on to Government about two months after the Director took office. He explained that the post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman should be an established post and not a temporary post. The matter was put to Government and the Government realising that the Director is a qualified technical man and one who knows what he is doing, agreed to the Director's request in order that the Department may work as smoothly and efficiently as possible. I think it was the last meeting at which the House considered the 1954 Estimates that I asked leave of the Committee to insert the post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman under Head XXXII. It met with no objection and I am absolutely sure that both the honourable senior and the honourable junior member for St. George were present when the item was inserted under the Head.

Mr. BARROW: I have no recollection.

Mr. MILLER: It is possible that I was present, but this Committee was not told that the insertion of the item of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman was to establish the post of temporary draughtsman.

Hon. M. E. COX: During the discussion of the Estimates I asked and was granted permission to insert the item as 5A under the Head XXXII, because the Government did not want to come after the Estimates were passed and ask for insertion of this item. When I asked for leave to make the insertion, I told the Committee that Government would be coming in the near future with the order to establish the post. All that Government is asking this House tonight is to agree to the Order. I will again emphasise that members of the Government have no authority to appoint anybody. The honourable junior member for St. Peter knows very well that the Public Service Commission will examine the applicants for the post and submit its recommendations to the Governor who will make the appointment. The Public Service Commission is the body which advises on the person to fill the post.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I never suggested that Government appointed or could appoint persons to fill any particular post. I said that it was a matter of policy for the Government to say what this particular post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman really means to the Department of Highways and Transport.

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, This order for the creation of the post of Junior Surveyor-Draughtsman at the Department of Highways and Transport is nothing which the Government is concocting with others to create. The suggestion that the post be established came from the Director of the Department.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Look at the addendum; read it again.

Hon. M. E. COX: As I have said, Sir, it is the Public Service Commission that interviews candidates and makes recommendations to the Governor. This resolution has nothing to do with the appointment of an individual to a post; it is purely a question sanctioning an order for the establishment of a post to which this House has already agreed on the 11th March last.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the honourable Minister would agree that the wording of the addendum to the resolution conveys a different meaning to what you are saying.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am not very much concerned with what the addendum says, what I have said is in accordance with the information which I have before me.

The question that the Resolution be postponed for further consideration was put and resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of Mr. Deputy Speaker, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. MILLER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. BARROW, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. AILDER, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. GODDARD—8.

Noes: Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. SMITH—8.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has resolved in a tie, eight honourable members voting 'Aye' and eight voting 'No.' I conceive it to be my duty since the House has not made up its mind that I should give my vote with the "Ayes." I therefore declare the "Ayes" have it.

FIXING THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to delete Item No. 1 from the Order Paper.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: In fixing the Order Paper for the next meeting, the first order should be to move the House in Committee of Supply to consider the money resolutions of which notice was given earlier today. The rest of the orders on today's Order Paper will follow and then the other resolutions and bills of which notice was given today.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 4th May, 1954, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Before you put the question, may I ask your information with respect to the time when I can ask for the adjournment of the House at its next meeting to deal with the reply to the question which I asked concerning the shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask that the notice be put on the Order Paper and I shall discuss the matter with Mr. SPEAKER.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 4th May, 1954, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon was put and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th May, 1954.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., C.M.G. Q.C., (*Premier*), Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*), Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*), Messrs L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), F. L. WALCOTT, Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*), Messrs F. C. GODDARD, F. E. MILLER, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., J. C. MORTLEY, E. St. A. HOLDER, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), Mrs. E. E. BOURNE and Mr. L. A. WILLIAMS, LL.B.

Prayers were read.

ILLNESS OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I regret to inform honourable members that through illness His Honour the Speaker is unable to be present at the meeting of the House today.

Mr. VAUGHAN entered the House and took his seat.

ILLNESS OF THE CLERK

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Clerk of the House applying for a week's leave on account of illness.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the Clerk be granted a week's leave.

Hon. M. E. COX seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Mr. D. A. Banfield be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk for today's sitting of the House.

Hon. M. E. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. BARROW entered the House and took his seat.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following documents:—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways of St. Thomas for the half year ended the 31st March, 1954.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways of St. Thomas for the half year ended the 31st March, 1954, with regard to Tenantry Roads.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 9th March, 1954, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. ALDER entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I am commanded to lay the following Papers:—

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the period ended on the 31st December, 1953, in respect of the several schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) Regulations, 1954.

PETITION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Trustees of the late Henry Ulick, Earl of Harewood, praying the House to pass a Bill authorising them to sell and convey to the Executive Committee two parcels of land comprising 13 acres 25 perches, part of the Belle Plantation, for the further development of the Waterworks in this Island. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition was taken as read.

ORDER WITHDRAWN

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I ask leave to withdraw Order No. 5 from the Order Paper in order to give notice of a Bill in the same connection.

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

NOTICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Trustees of the Will of the late Henry Ulick, Earl of Harewood, to sell and convey certain parcels of land (parts of the Belle Plantation) to the Executive Committee of this Island.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT entered the House and took his seat.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the Honourable Minister for Medical Services at the next meeting of this House:—

Whether he is aware of the inconvenience suffered by visitors to non-paying patients at the General Hospital as a result of the brief and the few opportunities afforded such visitors to see friends or relatives who are patients at this Institution?

2. Will the Honourable Minister take the necessary action to provide greater and more frequent facilities for visitors to such non-paying patients, ensuring that poor patients be allowed no less facilities so far as Visitors are concerned, than those who can afford to pay?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the Bill to authorise the Trustees of the Will of the late Henry Ulick, Earl of Harewood, to sell and convey certain parcels of land (parts of the Belle Plantation) to the Executive Committee of this Island, was read a first time.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 4 ORDER, 1954"

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I ask leave to take Order No. 9 as the first Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day therefore is to resume debate on the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 4 Order, 1954. The honourable junior member for Christ Church, who moved the postponement on the last occasion, is entitled to continue to speak at this stage or later in the debate.

The honourable member did not rise to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Philip, who seconded the motion for the postponement, is not in his place.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative, a division being taken as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. Cox, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mrs. BOURNE, Messrs. HOLDER, MILLER, J. C. MOTTLEY, VAUGHAN, ALLDER, E. K. WALCOTT, J. A. HAYNES and GODDARD—15.

Noes: Messrs WILLIAMS, F. L. WALCOTT and BARROW—3.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas:—To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the

grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

ERADICATION OF YELLOW FEVER MOSQUITO

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one to place the sum of \$2,100 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1954-55, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1954-55 No. 2 which form the Schedule to the Resolution for the employment of labourers to assist in the Campaign for the eradication of the Yellow Fever Mosquito.

As honourable members are aware, the Campaign against the Yellow Fever Mosquito *Aedes Egypti* is now under way in Barbados. It was first thought that the Campaign could be carried out with a limited expenditure, but we find that we have to employ additional staff by way of labourers to remove the cans, bottles, etc., from people's premises so as assist the Sanitary Inspector who is carrying out the spraying. At present, the Sanitary Inspectors are doing this work of removing debris and that is holding up the Campaign; every tin and bottle found under people's cellars must be taken away and the result is that the Campaign is being held up. This Resolution is to provide funds for the purpose of paying four labourers at Key Scale rates to assist in the removal of this debris.

I want to take this opportunity to warn members of the public that this Resolution is only for the purpose of carrying out this Campaign according to plan, but householders will still be expected in the future to see that the empty bottles, cans, etc., are removed from their premises. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY came into the Committee and took his seat.

Mr. GODDARD: This Resolution is in furtherance of the scheme for the eradication of this Mosquito, with which we all heartily agree, but I would like to know if this money is sufficient to cover the entire island. Some honourable members are enquiring whether this money is only in respect of St. Michael and Christ Church and the amount looks to me to be rather inadequate. It is unfortunate that before this Campaign got under way, the Central Authorities did not advocate the observance of a Health Week in respect of the whole island; that would have brought forth the necessary co-operation on the part of householders and the Sanitary Authorities could have used their lorries in the removal of the debris. That must have been an oversight on the part of the local authorities; it has been found that this cleaning up has to be done as a preliminary. I want to say that anything which will further the success of this Campaign we will be prepared to vote for.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I was not present when the Minister of Social Services spoke on this Resolution, but I am sure he will bear me out that I actually had to approach him after fighting for practically two weeks to put some sense into the heads of those who are responsible for administering the health of this colony. I had to approach the Minister and point out to him that the Sanitary Inspectors were really the skilled people who were handling the matter and it was a question of paying people to remove the debris as against having the Inspectors

to do it: it is as a result of that that they have come down with this Resolution now. The cost of the Campaign is being borne by the local Sanitary Authorities; I find no fault with that, but while I am glad to see that this Resolution has been brought down to assist in the Campaign, I want to say that it seems to me that as soon as some people occupy positions of responsibility and authority, they seem to lose their sense of reasoning with members of any local Board at all. I hope that this will be the last occasion on which I will have to speak in this tone; I want to say that if it had not been for the Minister of Social Services I do not think that this Resolution would have been here yet. I can truly say that as a result of my approaching him and putting the facts before him, he went out of the way and visited the area in which this Campaign is being carried out. While the hon. Minister did not want it to appear that my suggestions were against those of the Health Department, he readily agreed that my suggestions were right and those of the Board of Health did not have any sense in them at all. It was only stubbornness which caused them to hold out and not listen to other people.

I attended one of the lectures given by one of the Officers of the World Health Organisation and I think that this Officer was given rather shabby treatment by the Department of Medical Services. It is known that this Officer had been lent to us and I suggest that sufficient publicity had not been given to the Campaign. I hope that in the future when any campaign in respect of health is being launched, the doctors responsible will take it that it is not only their duty to sit in wheeled chairs but also to go out into the villages and speak at meetings and also over Rediffusion Service in connection with the campaign. Mr. Chairman, you will recall reading in the Press that Sanitary Inspectors were to tell people that the putting of this white stuff into their water barrels was nothing detrimental to health. I had to preach to the Minister and tell him that the average housewife would not let any Inspector spray this white stuff in her water barrel unless she had some assurance from the medical officers generally that the spraying of this stuff in the water barrel would not do any harm. I am voting for this Resolution which is rather parsimonious but I hope that a real effort is being made to carry out this campaign. I hope that on the next occasion on which assistance is given us by the World Health Organisation, every effort will be made to offer more co-operation in the matter, despite the personal feelings of officials who hold high positions in the Health Department in this country. I want to remind the Ministers that the matter of dictating policy in respect of Departments is theirs and if they fail to direct and dictate policy in respect of Departments, it is for us to criticise them for their failure in that direction.

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

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: I would like to offer my support to this Resolution, but I would like to know from the honourable Minister what will be the state of affairs in the parish of St. Philip with regard to this Campaign. I am not in touch with the Parochial Authorities of St. Philip and I would like to know if these labourers will be conveyed from parish to parish and if it is only these labourers who will be engaged in this Campaign. I see it is estimated that these labourers will be employed for a year at least and if they are to be employed from parish to parish, this work might take longer than a year. I would like to know if the honourable Minister can

give any information as to the position as regards the parish of St. Philip.

Mr. HAYNES: It is a pity that there should be such a muddle over this matter. The World Health Organisation sent down here a proposal to eradicate this Yellow Fever Mosquito and the various Sanitary Commissioners were happy about it and they were informed that all that would be needed would be the depositing of concentrated D.D.T., in every parish. Now they are told that there is a general clean-up and there is this residual treatment in the spraying of premises; that was entirely sprung upon the Sanitary Commissioners but I think they realise the magnanimity of the World Health Organisation which is spending a lot of money. They have sent down all the equipment which is to be used and our subscription is only \$1,500. What annoys me about this whole matter is that we have been misled in some parishes, having been told that the amount required to carry out this spraying would be \$50; now we are told that a big campaign is to be carried out. I think that is a very good thing but the Government should realise that sanitation concerns the whole island and assistance should be given to every parish.

It would appear from this Resolution that this money is to be spent in the metropolitan parish chiefly and probably in Christ Church; but several parishes have carried out some cleaning and I consider that they should be given some compensation for having done so. The parish which I have the honour to represent has spent about \$70 in cleaning up debris and I would like to know if this money will be refunded. I would also like to know if the work of conveying the equipment for this residual treatment and the various paraphernalia will be done by these labourers, otherwise I am afraid that this campaign will be blocked, because the parishes cannot afford it. In St. Andrew we have allocated a Sanitary Inspector for nine months to carry out inspection work and also to see after this residual work when the equipment arrives. As you know, Mr. Chairman, this work costs a lot of money and I should like to know from the Minister of Social Services if the amount of this Resolution is enough because it looks very small to me. It seems to me as if the local Health Authorities have not estimated either the importance or the magnitude of this job. I happen to be very much interested in sanitation generally, I happen to have some practical knowledge of it and I am perfectly convinced that this money will not cover what should be covered in this campaign.

Another matter is this. I do not see how we will manage the use of four labourers in St. Michael, St. Joseph, St. Andrew and other parishes. I think that the four labourers should be chosen from each parish and used for the time during which the work is done in the respective parishes. I think that that would be more advantageous than what has been proposed here because you will have the labourers on duty earlier, and you will get more service out of them than if they have to be transported from one parish to the other.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to assure my colleague that the Board of Health has no staff; it will be noticed from the Estimates that the staff is under the control of the Director of Medical Services. I would also like to assure my colleague that at an early stage the Board of Health asked the Director of Medical Services to carry out what is to be carried out so that there would be no flaw in the matter. The honourable member will remember that when the Regulations were before the House I particularly mentioned that we would

have to be very careful about spraying into people's water barrels so that they will not resent it; I also asked that the Regulations be made effective for a year. I must say that the honourable member has reflected on the Board of Health and in so far as this Board is concerned they did nothing but assist in the drafting of Regulations. The Board has no staff and what is being done is no concern of theirs, but they have given excellent advice in connection with the preparation of this campaign.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: My colleague has pointed out that the Board of Health has no staff; it gave advice but that advice was not carried out, and nothing was done. What can you call it more than a farce for the Director of Medical Services to be taking the advice of the Board of Health and employing Sanitary Inspectors to go around picking up bottles, coconut shells, etc., and spraying them within and without and waiting for a layman to tell them that it would be better to adopt a different scheme? It took a layman to tell them that they are wasting Government's money and it is better to have somebody to remove these bottles, etc., to a heap where they could be buried. The Board of Health merely tells the Director of Medical Services something but he refuses to carry out what has been said. I am glad to hear my colleague say that the Board of Health has given advice in this matter but he should have said that that advice was not taken.

The campaign was to be started a week after the Officer from the World Health Organisation arrived here and not one word was said by way of encouragement to the local Health Authorities; the Director of Medical Services has not said one word and I take it that that was sabotaging the entire effort. I made a suggestion to the Minister of Social Services who spoke over Rediffusion Service and that was something to be taken into account. I sat and listened to this Officer from the World Health Organisation and I say that there is some jealousy on the part of half-baked doctors and people who are trained in sanitary science. The Reporters asked for information but nothing was done; when the Director of Medical Services or any other Head of a Department refuses to listen to the advice of the Minister we will know what is the next thing to be done.

Mr. BARROW: I hope the honourable Minister of Social Services will tolerate my asking a few pertinent questions: I should like to know whether there are any of these Mosquitoes in Barbados either at large or in captivity. If the answer is "Yes," I would like to know what is the population of this Mosquito in Barbados; in the same way that the authorities in places like New York and London can estimate the amount of damage done by rats and other vermin every year, the authorities here can estimate how many of these Mosquitoes there are in this island. I would like to see a campaign started to eradicate the cockroaches and rats in this island—I mean the four-footed ones. (Laughter).

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of order. I have not seen anything in this Resolution about the eradication of rats or cockroaches; we are dealing with the campaign to eradicate the Yellow Fever Mosquito.

Mr. BARROW: I fully appreciate that the honourable member is not so interested in the eradication of vermin in Barbados. This is a matter of public health and I consider that the public should be given some definite assurance that the Yellow Fever

Mosquito is present and is active in Barbados and that it is a potential threat to the island; and we have other infestations which need to be eradicated. We cannot estimate how much merchandise is lost in warehouses through the action of rodents and other vermin and we cannot estimate how many eggs are lost to the consumers in this island through the action of the mongoose. I would like to know where these bottles and tins are, because if we are going to employ four labourers to remove them from the backyards of premises, there is a statutory obligation on the occupiers of premises to keep those premises free from any such things as old bottles and rusty tins. If these bottles and tins are lying by the side of the highways they would come under the control of the Scavenging Departments of the various parishes; if they are dumped in the proper place, the proper course to be taken would be to bury them. If they are on people's premises there is legislation which provides that occupiers of premises should keep them free from those things.

I wonder if some of the money which is at present being frittered away in unproductive channels in this colony belonged to any member of the Government, whether he would treat a Resolution for the disposal of this money in the same manner in which this Resolution is now treated. If this Yellow Fever Mosquito were lessening the activity of workers in this colony, then this expenditure would be justified; but we do not know whether there are any of these Mosquitoes in this colony. In one week one of my cupboards was sprayed against mosquitoes and the next week there were many more mosquitoes there; I never had any mosquitoes in that cupboard before. I think that the sediment left from the spraying of the insecticide is still in the cupboard; but perhaps it is another variety of mosquito of which I am speaking. I have heard of people dying from cancer and tuberculosis but I do not see the Government spending any money in the eradication of these evils; I would like to see something done about these evils. I consider it a waste of time to vote money for doing something about which we are indulging in mere speculation.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: It is true that when this Campaign was started I was approached by the honourable senior member for the City who drew my attention to certain things that were taking place. Acting on the honourable member's advice, I saw the gentleman who came down here to see about the carrying out of this Campaign and asked him his views as to how the Campaign was proceeding. Honourable members will remember that certain Inspectors were sent to Trinidad to be trained with a view to this Campaign being carried out; I am not blaming anybody, but, apparently the way in which the Campaign is being carried out here is in accordance with the way in which the Inspectors were taught in Trinidad. However, that is not fast enough for Barbados.

As far as the matter of bottles, tins and so on is concerned, if people have them in their cellars where they do not catch water and breed mosquitoes, I think they are quite safe; but where the Sanitary Inspector has to go into the cellar and all over the place, bring out these bottles, etc., and spray them inside and outside and put them in a heap, naturally, that will hold up the Campaign. It would be much better from the point of view of expediting the Campaign and also from the point of view of economy, to get labourers to precede the Sanitary Inspectors and collect this debris and put it in a place where it can be sprayed; that is what it is intended to do with the expenditure of this money.

This Resolution applies mainly to the parish of St. Michael for the reason that we all know that the parish of St. Michael is the most thickly-populated parish. The Campaign was started without very much publicity; however, these four labourers will do the work which should have been done at the beginning. As far as the other parishes are concerned, they have been notified that the Campaign will be started at a particular time and they have been advised to take steps to see that the removal of certain receptacles is done before the Sanitary Inspector begins his work. The labourers whom this Resolution seeks to pay will not be extended to the country parishes; I understand that the machine sprayers which are to be used in the country will be heavier than those which are being used in St. Michael and so additional labourers will be required to carry these machine sprayers. I am keeping my ears to the ground in this matter and if I am at all dissatisfied with the way in which this Campaign is proceeding, I will let honourable members know of any irregularities or inefficiency which may appear in the Campaign as it progresses.

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

Mr. BARROW: I would still like an assurance as to whether there are any of these Mosquitoes in Barbados.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: If the honourable member would put the matter in the form of a question I will get the information for him.

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

GRANT TO THE AMATEUR WEIGHTLIFTING ASSOCIATION

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is a Resolution to place the sum of \$1,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1954-55, Part I—Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1954-55 No. 3, which form the Schedule to the Resolution for a grant to the Amateur Weightlifting Association of Barbados.

This Resolution is to assist a local weightlifter to proceed to Canada where the British Empire Games will take place from July 31 to August 7, 1954. Each one of us has his own form of sport: of course, cricket is the national game and it gets the support of almost every Barbadian; it is the most popular game in Barbados, probably more so than it is in England. In Barbados, football, basket ball and other games are played and there are other forms of sport in which we engage. Weightlifting is, I believe, one of the latest forms of athletics but it has its devotees. Personally, I have never seen a contest; I have read about these contests taking place in Queen's Park, but I have never been sufficiently interested in weightlifting as to go and see a contest. I suppose, however, that other people would prefer to see a contest in weightlifting than to see a game of football or cricket. This man, Mr. George Nichols, has the reputation of being the best man in his class in weightlifting; I saw a letter from the Secretary of the British Empire Weightlifting Association and in that letter it is stated that Nichols is the best in his class and he is a sure winner at these British Empire Games.

On one occasion this House assisted the Barbados Cricket Association with a loan; we have assisted the Rifle Team to go to Bisley, last year we assisted Mr. Farnum to go to Finland to take part in the Olympic Games and we are now asked to assist this gentleman. With those precedents before us, even if this form of sport may not be as popular as other forms of sport in Barbados, yet the Government feels that in fairness

to this Association and to this gentleman who has the reputation that he will win these Games and then take part in contests against weightlifters in the United States of America and in the Olympic Games in the not far distant future—the Government feels that this assistance should be granted. If this gentleman goes abroad and succeeds as we expect he will succeed, we will be advertising Barbados in another way. It is not known that any other man in the West Indies who engages in this form of sport, has reached the height which this gentleman is reported to have reached. With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: At some times the Government does provide amusement and that is the case more so now than ever. I am opposing this Resolution, not because I want to be vindictive, because I do not know the person who will benefit from the Resolution, nor can it be taken that I am not interested in sport. I agree that sport is healthy both for the individual and the nation, but I shall not give any assistance to sport which is unduly expensive. It is surprising, Mr. Chairman, that with the numerous organisations in this colony which are interested in sport, none of them, as far as I have been able to gather, has come forward and assisted in providing these funds so as to enable this youngster to go overseas and display his prowess to the nations abroad. I feel that not only should the sporting organisations in this colony assist in this matter, but also the hotels and boarding houses which benefit from any advertising of this colony overseas; they should also come forward and assist in sending this youngster overseas.

As the hon. Minister for Social Services has said, if this youngster succeeds in showing his ability over the others, that will be a means of advertising Barbados. I agree with that and that is why I feel the honourable Minister should have taken the lead in calling on the hotel owners and those who benefit from training overseas, to provide a part of the cost of sending out this youngster. The Government is definitely giving a wrong impression not only to the public but to the world: if Barbados were in a healthy financial position, I would say: "Yes, the spending of this \$1,000 in this matter is all right." If many of our young men and women were employed and getting a livelihood by the exercise of their energy, I would say: "Yes, we can spend this money"; but there are so many thousands who must go without the merest necessity of life during the time that this \$1,000 will be spent on this youngster, that I cannot assist in the passing of this Resolution.

During the last number of weeks, people who went out to sea in order to bring us fish have been drowned, and we have read in the Press articles and appeals for the assistance of the dependants of those fishermen; as far as I have read, I have not noticed that any Government member or the Government as a whole has made any statement or promised to assist in this matter. The Government is definitely doing the wrong things when it would be much easier to do the right ones; I am sure that if this Resolution had asked for this \$1,000 or for several thousand dollars to remove the misery from the dependants of these fishermen—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with weightlifting.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sure that no one, however evil minded, would have had the courage to oppose this Resolution if it were for the purpose of assisting the dependants of these fishermen; that would have been an indication that the Government was

travelling along the right path. We are passing through a period when we must be very conservative in the expenditure of Government funds, and this instance shows that the Government is not particularly interested as to how these funds are conserved. A Resolution like this will naturally satisfy the minds of a few persons who are directly interested in weightlifting and other forms of sport, but I am sure that the majority of people in this colony, many of whom give financial assistance to sport, will agree that this \$1,000 could be better spent. I do not want it to be taken that I am against anybody who is concerned in this matter, but this is the attitude which I have always adopted; when the Resolution for the purpose of assisting Mr. Farnum to go to Helsinki was brought before the House I said the same things I am saying now. I would like to know what benefit has the island obtained from Mr. Farnum's going to Helsinki, and what benefit will it obtain from the going overseas of this weightlifter Mr. Nichols? I cannot see that there is anything in it; what I do see is that this individual will get his mind satisfied because he will have competed with overseas candidates. However, we are not particularly interested in satisfying the mind of one individual in this respect especially when it costs us a tangible amount to do so. I feel that the Pickwick Cricket Club, the Wanderers Cricket Club, the Barbados Football Association and many other Associations and Organisations in the island should assist in sending this youngster overseas; it should not fall on the Government to give this assistance and I am wondering why the Government is so anxious and willing at times to spend reasonably large sums of money on such frivolous things. It would have been a better investment for the Government to spend this money in the establishment of a Civic Theatre, realising that demands have been made by several people for the establishment of such a Theatre which would assist in the imbibing of culture not only by this generation but by future generations; but instead of spending this money in that direction, we are spending it on an individual to go abroad and when he returns here what does the colony benefit? That is just like paying the passages of delegates to go overseas and all the benefit we get is that they went by plane and returned. This is a definite waste of money.

In this colony one has to pay quite a lot so as to enter the various places of entertainment; the sponsors of the entertainment have increased their charges for admission because it is probably their desire to make more profit; but I am sure that if each place of entertainment and if each sporting organisation had provided a small amount of the profits which they make daily, the total amount would cover the total cost of sending this youngster overseas. However, these places have adopted a *laissez faire* attitude and they have left it to the Government to sponsor the sending of this youngster to compete with others abroad. I feel that the Government should have been the last people to provide this money; they should have waited to see if the general public would refuse to provide this money and then in order to save the situation, they would come forward and provide the money and at the same time deprecate the policy adopted by those in the entertainment world. But before sufficient time is given to the various organisations to provide this money, the Government comes along and provides it; that will prevent many members of the public from contributing what they might have contributed towards this venture. The Government is willing to spend money on every possible nonsensical thing, but you have to agitate for substantial improvements over a very long period before the Gov-

ernment decides to do anything about them. I must vote against this Resolution.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I will begin on the note on which my colleague ended, that is in respect of the Cultural Theatre; none of us would object to the Government's proposal to provide money for the establishment of such a Theatre and thus produce dramatists. I hope that the bringing forward of this Resolution is not a sign of the imminent decadence of the present Government; I would support the expenditure of this \$1,000 if it were for the provision of cricket and football gear for the Elementary Schools, but this is purely a matter of bringing glory to an individual. If the sporting fans who support weightlifting are so desirous of bringing glory to this colony, certainly they should be willing to put their hands into their pockets and support this venture; the Government should have been the last people to be called upon for assistance in a matter of this sort. I have my own private belief in this matter; it is that some colleague of members of the Government who believes in State patronage of this form of sport, has asked the Government to bring down this Resolution and owing to their friendly relations the Government may not have had the courage to refuse to bring it down, but they would be glad if it were rejected. (Laughter).

Sir, I certainly would more agree if the Government had subsidised the artists that took part in the Passion Play during Holy Week. I would be more in agreement. I have not said that I would advocate it, but I would be more in agreement. There are very instructive documentary films which I have read of that have not been shown in this colony and I would give my support if Government thought it necessary to purchase these films for distribution so that they could be shown throughout the various country districts or loaned to the theatres in Bridgetown to be shown at cheap prices. As a matter of fact, I think it is time that Government become aware of the educational value of such documentary films and adopt it as a policy to buy a few every year and distribute them to the Mobile Cinema and local theatres so that they can be shown to the populace. I would support the expenditure of a few thousand dollars for the purchase of such films, but certainly I cannot promise to support the expenditure of that amount of money on this kind of thing. I think I have said enough. I repeat, this resolution is more to satisfy the whims and desires of some individual who is "haughty-taughty" with the Government than it is a genuine resolution on the part of the Government to advertise Barbados.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, in a matter such as this, you hear a lot of things that has no bearing on the issue. As I have said on a previous occasion in this House, I am one of those persons who think that Government should embark on a more scientific method of allocating money towards matters like this. I feel that there should be a Social Council set up here along the lines as that in England by which such a body would be in a position to advise Government on matters such as this. On an issue like this, you hear a lot of views expressed about what is good for the community and what is not good for the community. I am aware that the Government is getting requests from time to time on matters like this and while I do not disagree with the granting of certain requests, I do not like granting them money in this *ad hoc* manner. I do not think it is the best thing to do.

The honourable Minister of Social Services talked about this being no precedent. I agree, but you are drawing yourself into too many precedents by your saying so; because somebody will say if you did it for A, you must do it for B.

I do not subscribe to the views expressed by the two honourable members who spoke of cultural organisations and things pertaining to culture. One honourable member said he would agree to Government giving a subvention for elementary schools to buy bats and balls and another said he would more agree to a subvention being given to the artists who performed the Passion Play during Holy Week.

Now, I want to say that in my younger years, I happened to be a weightlifter, therefore, I feel I am in a position to say something on this form of sport and more on this resolution than the honourable Minister of Social Services who introduced it. Do not get the idea into your head that a person who indulges in weightlifting is only using brawn; he has to use his brain also. I can say that indulging in that activity as a young man has done a lot to steel me with the 'brick-bracks' I have to face today. Had I not indulged in that form of sport I would be a weakling. "Mens sana in corpore sano." It gave me independence of spirit.

Sir, I feel that you should not regard this resolution as something you are giving an individual. You should not regard it as something you are giving to Mr. George Nicholls. The insinuation has been made that this is a resolution which has been brought down for an individual who is "haughty-taughty" with the Government. I only want to say that I had no private conversation with the Minister on this matter; as a matter of fact, I have no private conversations with any Minister of the Government because I feel that the integrity and honesty of a minister of the Government should be such as to prevent him from sinking to any low level to ask for support on matters such as this. I think the youngster, Mr. George Nicholls, hails from St. Peter, the parish which I have the honour to represent, but his residing in that parish has nothing to do with my views on this matter. As a matter of fact, I know that some honourable members of the Government would like to see my representation of that parish come to an end. So far as Mr. George Nicholls is concerned, it does not matter to me which parish he belongs; what matters to me is that he is a first-class weightlifter and is a bit above the ordinary in his class. He is in the weight class which I feel, if he go to the Empire Games in Canada, he will have the opportunity by his weightlifting to push this colony in the foreground.

The honourable Minister of Social Services mentioned that this was no precedent and that the Government had given its support to cricket and other sports. I think the honourable junior member for Christ Church supported the resolution which came down to this House for £5,000 to grant a loan to the Barbados Cricket Association.

Mr. GODDARD: I rise on a point of explanation. When that resolution came before this House, I was not a member of this Chamber.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the honourable junior member for Christ Church has denied that. It was my opinion that that resolution came before this House when he was a member, but I am sorry that my memory has failed me; I now recall to mind that it was on the occasion when this House passed a resolution to enable Mr. Ken Farnum to take part in the Olympic Games at Finland that the honourable junior member for Christ Church was a member of this Chamber. With regard to the amount of £5,000 which this Government loaned to the Barbados Cricket Association, I think the Government would be well advised to see to it that the money is repaid. There is an element of fact in what the honourable junior member for St. John said as regards large sporting associations doing more to

assist in sending overseas persons who take part in other games than those which those associations sponsor. What I feel about this matter is that as there is no federation of sport in this island, the Government should take this as an occasion to form what I regard as a Social Council which would be able to advise Government on the granting of subventions to send people abroad as on this occasion as well as what should be given to other voluntary organisations.

Sir, weightlifting is not a sport which gets the support of the public as that of cricket or football; therefore, the Amateur Weightlifting Association would not be in a position to have the money to send this youngster abroad. As I have said, it is my belief that Mr. George Nicholls will bring more to Barbados than what we are giving to send him abroad. He will be going to Canada and will take part in weightlifting in the 148-pound class and his lifts in that class are as good as the records set up in that respect in the British Empire games. A weightlifter can lift in his highest form anywhere and I think it would be a good thing if we pass this resolution so as to give Mr. Nicholls the honour of representing Barbados at the British Empire Games to be held in Canada. I am not saying that this will be an advertisement for Barbados in the sense that we will be doing something to advertise Barbados. As a matter of fact, I hold some strong views on that aspect of the question. It is well known that business houses are not really very easy on giving their support to instances of this nature. Since the emergence of a different political organisation in this island in the last few years, some business houses feel that they should not be as charitable as they used to be and they would not regard it as worthwhile to contribute, so to speak, to weightlifting because they feel that it is not one of the popular sports of the island. I think it would be a pity if Mr. George Nicholls cannot get the opportunity to weightlift in his class at the next British Empire Games in Canada. I know he is in a class with those who have made records at those games. He is in a class with the Egyptians who are the best weightlifters but they will not be taking part in the British Empire Games at Vancouver as these are purely for people from the British territories. I think we are also fortunate that these games will be taking place in Canada and owing to that, we will not have the expense of sending the person any further distance. Sir, now that we have the opportunity of assisting in sending someone who is quite qualified to take part in these games, we should do so. I will sit down on that note.

I may further say, Sir, that while I am supporting this resolution, I do not want the Government to believe that every issue of this nature should be supported. I am not one of those persons who believe that this House must do something because there is precedent. I am not one of those persons who believe that because this House granted a subvention to Mr. Farnum, and a loan to the Cricket Association, therefore, if the Basketball Association wanted a subvention from the Government to send away some team or if a tennis player wanted help in circumstances such as this, that we should do so without discussing the matter thoroughly. What I think we should do is to urge people who are sponsoring such sport as this to collect as much public subscriptions as they can before coming to the Government to ask for a subvention. Like everything else, I feel that in every avenue of sport or calling, the support for doing anything pertaining to it should come from the particular people concerned. To give an instance, I believe that the training of someone to carry out the work in a Trade Union

movement is fundamentally a job for people connected with the Trade Union to do and not for the Government to do. When a Union goes to the Government and asks for some subvention to assist it in the training of some person to carry out some particular work in the Union, the individual who benefits from the subvention or the Union itself would feel that he owes some sort of allegiance to the Government. I support this resolution on the grounds which I have stated. I do believe it is desirable but not because of the reasons which the honourable Minister mentioned about Government already giving its support to cricket and other forms of sport. As I have said, I believe in the Latin phrase: "Mens sana in corpore sano". "A healthy body, a healthy mind."

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, it is difficult not to question the bonafides of the protestations of Government with regard to its desire to advertise the island abroad. The introducer of this resolution claimed that the expenditure of this money in sending Mr. George Nicholls to Canada will be of assistance in advertising Barbados—presumably from the point of view of tourism. One can only say that it is regrettable that there were so many other greater opportunities which the Government had to promote tourism but failed to take advantage of them and with regard to this specific instance, I find it difficult to believe that a Government, which presumably cannot afford to take any space this year at the British Empire Industries Fair to advertise the island, can be really serious when it says it wants to do so. It is common knowledge that the present Government dropped out of the British Empire Exhibition which is to be held in London in May this year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the honourable member to keep to the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is what I am doing, Sir. We are told that the purpose of this resolution is to advertise Barbados.

(A VOICE): That is not true.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What are we sending him for then, Mr. Chairman? Are we sending him for a vacation trip? I distinctly heard the honourable junior member for St. Thomas say that if Mr. George Nicholls go to Canada, he will advertise Barbados. The burning principle in the minds of the Government is that if we spend this \$1,000, we are not giving Mr. George Nicholls a free plane trip to Canada, but that the island would benefit from the publicity which he would get for it. If the Government really wanted to advertise this island abroad, why did it drop out of the British Colonial Exhibition in London? This colony has not taken any space at that exhibition. Jamaica has increased its space at that exhibition, likewise Trinidad, and only today, I read in a local newspaper what a grand success were the colonial stalls at the exhibition. The article went on to state that within a few moments after the opening of the exhibition, people from all parts of the world were making enquiries about West Indian goods.

Certainly, Sir, if we want to promote Barbados and to promote what we produce here, and we can afford to spend money on a weightlifter, we can afford to take a stall at such an important exhibition as the British Industries Fair. Sir, when the Government gives the explanation to this House and to the public that in bringing down this resolution, it wants to advertise the island abroad, it should say why it could not afford to take any space at the British Empire Exhibition which opened in Great Britain a few days ago. I am quite willing to support any gesture which would give this island support abroad, but it does appear to me as if we

are a penny wise and a pound foolish by our failing to contribute to certain things of importance and magnifying out of proportion the importance of other things. It is for this reason that I began by questioning the sincerity of the Government in its anxiety to advertise the island abroad.

On motion of Hon. M. E. Cox, seconded by Hon. R. G. MAPP, the CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. M. E. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION IN COMMITTEE

On re-assembling,

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

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

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two resolutions in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox in each case, the resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORISE GOVERNOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 14 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Premier to move the passing of the following resolution: A resolution to authorise the Governor to enter into an agreement with a person to serve as Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, according to the addendum the Executive Committee has agreed to the re-engagement of Mr. Garrett, Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas for a period of two years and Mr. Garrett is willing to continue at the same salary. I do not think it is necessary to say this, as I believe I have said it on the floor of this House already, but Mr. Garrett is one of those persons whom this island is fortunate in getting. Two Canadians, widely separated from each other, and on different occasions, have told me that what Mr. Garrett does not know of natural gas, nobody else knows. This resolution is only a matter of authorising the Government to re-employ him for the next two years. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. GODDARD: Sir, we are in agreement with the renewal of this contract and on the same terms, but I would like the honourable Premier to answer a question with respect to natural gas. I have heard that some gas has been found in the last well that has been sunk by the Gulf Oil Company and I would like to know if the honourable Premier has any statement to make as to the quantity of that gas. Needless

to say, this House would be glad to hear. This matter comes under the purview of this Department Head and for the enlightenment of the public, a statement will be very interesting to us and for the reason that it is known that the pressure of the present gas wells is going down rather quickly and it has caused some concern to those who use that gas in large quantities. They are wondering whether there is the likelihood of maintaining adequate supplies. If it is possible for the honourable Premier to give a statement on it, I would be glad to hear of it.

Mr. ALLDER: Sir, I am wondering if this natural gas is sufficiently profitable to the community for this Government to pay \$14,440 per annum to the person who is administering it. Certainly, it does look very expensive and more so, when it does appear as if the oil industry is very uncertain. I am wondering if it is worthwhile to have such a highly skilled and paid officer to look after that concern and if Government cannot look around to see if some local man would be able to administer natural gas. It does appear a large sum to pay the person who is administering this industry which, up to now, has not impressed me that it needs somebody to administer it at such high cost. I would be glad if any member of the Government would enlighten me on this matter. This gentleman was here already for two years and I presume that Government has seconded some local officer to him whom I think by now should have gathered a sufficient knowledge of the working of the industry to take over and manage the concern when the Director is away. Sir, it does appear costly and as I have said, from reports which I have been able to gather, the oil situation is definitely at a low ebb. We must concern ourselves with whether this industry merits our spending this amount of \$14,400 per annum on its director.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have already voted this sum in the Annual Estimates. This resolution is only asking the Legislature to give sanction to the re-engagement of this officer. It is not a question of whether we should spend this sum on the Director of Natural Gas that is in the estimates.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know you will sympathise with honourable members in this respect. There are so many items which are tucked away in the Annual Estimates that one cannot see all of them. On top of that, the estimates are passed *en bloc* and they were passed at such an unusual hurry on this occasion that one found it very difficult to discuss things which one even noticed. If during the discussion of the Annual Estimates were a more appropriate occasion, the Government Bench should have been more tolerant then. I pass on the idea that Government should consider at some future date the training of some local officer to take over the administration of this concern. I feel it is necessary and it would be a great saving to the colony.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Sir, I too am asking the same question which was asked by the honourable junior member for Christ Church. I did see a statement that the pressure of natural gas was declining and recently another statement that in the last oil well that was drilled at Turner Hall, a small deposit of gas was found. I am wondering whether the Government is keeping this whole problem before its mind's eye.

A further question which I would like to ask is with respect to reports from this Department of Government. From the time I have been a member of this House I have never come across a report issued by this corporation at all. I would like to know whether any report was ever made. I understand that a report was laid on the table of the House, but I have not seen any copy at all. If hon-

ourable members are supplied with some report on this corporation, we might be able to get some survey as to the future of this whole undertaking.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I cannot answer the question asked by the honourable junior member for Christ Church as well as by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. All I know about the finding of small deposits of natural gas in the recent oil well sunk by the Gulf Oil Company is what I read in the *Advocate*. It is true that I do not go to the *Advocate* for my facts, but possibly, the *Advocate* may be right on this occasion. I know that there are pessimistic views of natural gas but I do not think it is as bad as to say that natural gas is going down fast and the pressure is not being maintained. As far as any information officially is concerned, I had a few chance talks with Dr. Auer with respect to the drilling operations of the Gulf Oil Company, but nothing officially has been put to Government. He did say that they were trying out a new well. Reading between the lines, it does look as if he did not discover all that he would have liked in the last drilling operations. In a matter of this sort, one has to be extremely careful. It did not occur to me that there would have been a question like the one asked. I would suggest that if honourable members sense these things, just before coming into the House, they can give notice to the mover of the resolution that they want certain information and members of the Government would be glad to get it for them. Frankly, I did not think I would have been asked what are the prospects in respect to natural gas when I introduced this resolution. I would suggest that if the honourable members want the information, I would refer it to the minister under whose portfolio the question comes and probably he can make a statement on the matter at the next meeting of the House.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I am the minister with the portfolio under which that question comes. I can tell this House that the report which the honourable junior member for Christ Church referred to and which the honourable Premier said that he saw in the *Advocate* is correct and that a supply of natural gas has been discovered. I may state further that certain negotiations are going on but they cannot be disclosed at the moment.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, while it can be said that \$1,200 a month is a princely salary, yet for a man with the capabilities as the Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas, it is not an extravagant sum. However, I am in no way interested in the aspirations or the ability of the imported gentleman. What I am interested in is: I wonder how many members of this House or of the public can say exactly what are the benefits that have accrued to the community since Mr. Garrett came out here on contract. Reading the statement published by the Natural Gas Corporation, as far as I can see, it is a simple matter of accountancy. If any revolutionary discoveries or proposals have been made by the Natural Gas Corporation for the benefit of this community, that information so far has not been vouchsafed to the members of this House. We have the office of the Natural Gas Corporation situated in the same building as the American Consulate and along with the Director are a Secretary-Treasurer and a Typist. I think they prepare an Annual Report, but over and beyond that—it may be a matter of ignorance on my part—I certainly do not know what benefit the Natural Gas Corporation is to this community.

I would like to mention to the honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour, who acknowledges responsibility for this particular de-

partment that there is no point in discovering one thousand sources of natural gas in Barbados unless those sources are going to be utilised to the benefit of the people of this country and would lessen the importation of fuel and such commodities as wood and coal.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has stated that negotiations are going on.

Mr. BARROW: I am not denying that negotiations are going on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I, personally, am worried about the outcome of the negotiations. If the results of the negotiations would be that the Gulf Oil Company cares to sell to the Natural Gas Corporation the well in which deposits of natural gas have been found recently, and the Natural Gas Corporation in turn sell the natural gas to the Barbados Gas Company which in turn would not sell it to anybody, I counsel honourable members to see that those negotiations would be a waste of time. I counsel the honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour to see that we want a certain amount of leadership from the Natural Gas Corporation in investigating the possibilities of channeling natural gas and selling the idea of its utilisation amongst all strata of the community.

It seems to me that now this country which has a big unemployment problem and which is toying with the idea of industrial development, must create an atmosphere of optimism, so secret are the discoveries and the negotiations that are going on between this Natural Gas Corporation and the Government and other people concerned, that only alarm and despondency are spread in the community rather than the necessary atmosphere of optimism which is the natural prerequisite of industrial expansion. Not only do we in this country want to know what is going on in respect to this matter, but I am one of those persons with scientific leanings and we want to know how things can be measured, and the potential investor in Barbados would like to know the limit of our resources. I would give a little illustration. We know that in China at present, there are no resources of coal and at the present rate of exploitation, the great coal producing companies have 20,000 years to carry on. It is obvious that if coal is to be produced longer than that time, that China is the obvious place for exploitation of that idea. We know the mineral oil resources of the neighbouring colony of Trinidad and we would like to know the potentiality of our supplies of natural gas. All that we are getting about the matter is a pessimistic statement from the Government.

There can be only one or two constructions to draw from that attitude. The first is that the Barbados Gas Company has every reason for not expanding and supplying gas to the people of this colony and that company can state the question of the uncertainty of the resources as a subterfuge to escape its responsibility. The other construction which is equally uncharitable is that we are dealing with a matter to which we are completely ignorant of the technical knowledge on the particular situation. These are the two constructions which come readily to me. There may be other constructions either more charitable or uncharitable which other honourable members can put forward.

I am not dealing with Mr. Garrett, the Director of the Natural Gas Corporation at all. If the Director get \$14,400 per annum for putting out an Annual Report, that is a matter for the Government; I am not saying that he has not the necessary experience. I would only say that if he has the necessary experience—and I believe he has—either the

terms of reference or the present ineptitude of the honourable minister dealing with this particular matter must be preventing a free exercise of the Director's expression. We know that the Barbados Gas Company has not substantially increased its consumers' supplies, neither has the Natural Gas Corporation been able to induce the industries of this colony to convert from their present fuel supply to natural gas. As I have said before, one must feel an atmosphere of optimism rather than pessimism if one wants the industries of this colony to take natural gas as their fuel. I hope the next time that any proposals come before this House relating to the Natural Gas Corporation that the Government would be able to give a little more information as to the activities of the corporation and its subsidiary bodies; and secondly, that Government would be able to give us more precise information as to the benefits of the Natural Gas Corporation to this colony.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PART OF TRENTS PLANTATION

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 15 as the next order of the day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Minister of Social Services to move the passing of the following resolution: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a plot of land, part of Trents Plantation, St. James, for the site of a Parish Community Hall and for a playing field for the parish of St. James.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: In accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, this resolution is to approve of the acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of three and nine-tenths acres of land, part of Trents Plantation. Honourable members will remember that Mr. Ronald Tree, who comes to Barbados every year for the past few years, was very interested in the purchase of an area of land in St. James to serve as a playing field for the parish and as a matter of fact, he has contributed the sum of \$3,000 to assist in the purchase of this land. The Vestry of St. James considers that a part of Trents Plantation is most suitable for this purpose and has recommended its acquisition. I think there is some Chancery suit in connection with the ownership of Trents Plantation, but using the machinery set out in the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, the Government is in a position to take over the land as soon as possible and to hold the money for the payment of it until such time as the ownership is determined.

Now, Sir, the portion which Government proposes to acquire is next to Trents school and it is proposed that the school children there will also have the use of this as an extension to their playing field. There is a portion of land attached to the school as a playing field already but it is small. The acquisition of this portion of land will form an extension to the school's playing field and will also serve for the use of the public. It is also proposed that part of the school will help to form a community hall for the parish. I have been made to understand that the site is most desirable on the part of the community of that parish. I beg to move that the resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this resolution deals with two things actually. It deals with the compulsory acquisition of three and nine-tenths acres of land at Trents, and in the addendum, it is stated that this land is wanted for a playing field. When you pass this resolution, you would not be able to discuss what appears in the addendum so I propose to ask the honourable Minister of Social Services if he did not feel it was necessary to say more about the Community Hall which is proposed for that centre and how it is to be erected.

As the honourable Minister found it necessary to say something on this community centre, I will ask some pertinent questions so far as Labour Welfare is concerned. I cannot say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is the amount of money available for playing fields and community centres out of the Labour Welfare Fund, but I know that the Labour Welfare Fund is used specifically for housing and playing fields. What I would like to know is, if the Government is satisfied that it is offering all the welfare facilities it can offer out of the Labour Welfare Fund. I am satisfied in my mind that to quicken and accelerate the pace of greater social services of a welfare character to the people that the Government should embark on capital works in some of the country parishes, such as establishing communal baths and latrines, in order that the agricultural people of the rural areas could make greater use of such facilities. I know it will be stated that establishment of such facilities is a function of the Vestries, but it is my view that while such things form part of the function of Vestries, there is a portion of money available at the Government's disposal that can be used for such social amenities. I regard the provision of such social amenities as I have mentioned as in the best interests of the community and for the reason that many areas up to now have no playing fields and community centres, owing to the fact that many of the Vestries have dilly-dallied with the question for the past five years without reaching any decision. Their main excuse is that they cannot get suitable land to establish these playing fields. I feel that in this year of grace, 1954, we should try to do our best to provide these social amenities in the community so as to rid ourselves of the primitive state which exists in many of the country districts where hundreds of people are without any proper latrines and without the convenience for bathing themselves properly. I hope that more money will be made available out of the Labour Welfare Fund for this purpose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member asking for the extension of the use of the Labour Welfare Fund for this purpose? If it is not used for a particular purpose, I do not think you can say how it should be used in discussing this resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Sir, you are aware that this House can only question the use of the Labour Welfare Fund when a resolution comes down to this House annually with respect to the matter. The Executive Committee controls that Fund and spends the money; this House has nothing to do with it.

While on this question, I would like to ask the honourable Minister if it is true that the Government has purchased land somewhere in St. Michael out of the Labour Welfare Fund. If that is so, I would like to say that although it is desirable to buy areas of land that are rented out in house spots, it is still a dangerous policy on the part of Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hate to interrupt the honourable member when he is discussing such

an interesting subject, but has the question any bearing on this resolution?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This resolution is to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Trents, St. James, for the purpose of establishing a playing field and a community centre. The addendum sets out the manner in which the land will be used for the social facilities. It is not a simple resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: While agreeing with the resolution, I am not in agreement with what has been made public as regards the purchase of land somewhere in St. Michael by the Government. I am quite aware that the Government can purchase anything by means of the Labour Welfare Fund and then let it be known publicly. It seems to me that it is a dangerous thing for the Government to buy land which is rented out in a tenantry and which has been set up for sale as a going concern, simply because the tenants some of whom are agricultural workers, come to Government and state that they are going to be ejected if it is bought by a private concern.

In conclusion, I just want to say that the original idea with regard to the use of the Labour Welfare Fund was to allocate \$300,000 on things like the playing fields and community centres. I feel the time has come when Government can make a review of that idea. I feel that instead of Government spending \$300,000 on the establishment of a playing field that it can allocate \$150,000 or \$200,000 for the providing of such social amenities as communal baths and latrines so that the people in the rural areas can make use of such facilities. I do not agree to Government giving the money to the Vestries to provide such amenities; Government can work in conjunction with the Vestries in the carrying out of such programmes.

Mr. ALLDER: I am wondering Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is the Government's policy as regards these playing fields. The Social Welfare Officer, who is the Government's spokesman in this case, has said that agricultural lands must not be used for the purpose of playing fields; therefore, the people of St. John have to be satisfied with just a small area of land on which could only be placed a community hall, because according to the Government spokesman, Government was not buying agricultural land to be used as a play field; but according to this resolution, Government is going in another parish to compulsorily acquire three and nine-tenths acres of agricultural land to establish a playing field and community centre. Do you know the reason why there is this difference? It is because the Playing Field Committee in St. John is comprised of planters and landowners of that parish who for the past number of years, have refused to give up any of their land for the purpose of converting it into a playing field; but in the case of the parish of St. James, the Playing Field Committee which for the most part is comprised of planters, also, but prompted by the benevolence of one of the wealthy residents of the parish, has agreed not to take over any of their lands but to ask Government to compulsorily acquire land which is part of a plantation owned by poor Barbadian emigrants in Panama. What I am trying to point out is the discrimination in this matter. If Trents plantation were owned by a local planter, he would have put up some objection and that objection would have been upheld by members of the Playing Field Committee of St. James. There has been such objection by planters in other parishes. In St. Thomas there was a long drawn out battle in the

acquiring of land for a playing field because the Playing Field Committee in that parish was also constituted of landowners. I have already mentioned that of St. John. In this parish, the wealthy planters would not even give up grass lands for this purpose, they saying that the grass lands are just as important as the lands for growing canes. And it is because of that statement that Government made the statement that it was not prepared to buy agricultural land to establish playing fields and owing to that, as I have said, the people of St. John had to be content with an half an acre on which a community hall could only be put.

Now, to-day, Sir, several months after that statement was made by the Government spokesman, this House is asked to agree to the compulsory acquisition of three and nine-tenths acres of agricultural land from a plantation owned by pauperised Barbadian emigrants in Panama. This resolution is before us now, only because the owners of this land are absent and do not have any amount of influence in the parish that they hold land. It has been said that the estates which belong to these people have been the subject of some litigation between themselves and it is to be noted that before the matter is finalised that the Government is stepping in to compulsorily acquire part of one of those estates. I am sure that Government would not have made any attempt to compulsorily acquire one foot of Sandy Lane or Blowers or any of the other locally owned plantations to establish a playing field. This is nothing else but discrimination. I wonder if honourable members are going to agree to this act of discrimination. It is now six or seven years since the Playing Field Committee of St. James has been set up. We are told that its members could not find a spot of land to establish a playing field anywhere in the parish. Now, suddenly, they have decided to use up this land which is owned by these pauperised Barbadian emigrants for this purpose. I feel it is wrong for Government to step in and cut up the land of these poor people.

Another thing, Sir, is that these poor Barbadian emigrants are the first body of Barbadian emigrants who have gone abroad and have incorporated themselves into a body to purchase a couple of plantations in the island of their birth. There are some who would accuse them because they have not fully utilised the plantations after they have purchased them but it must be borne in mind that they are a people who are unaccustomed to handling large financial ventures and in their attempt to acquire and run such a large industry, they would fail in the initial stages. Be that as it may, it does not mean that Government should do something to take any part of the land from them. It is known that many of us own a motor car and before we have learnt to drive it properly, we have bounced it several times. I am asking Government not to interfere with those people's lands; if Government takes this action, it would discourage any body of Barbadians in the future from investing their money in lands of this colony. It would be discouraging to these poor Barbadian emigrants when they hear that this Socialist Government has agreed to cut up their lands.

Sir, I am not going to support this resolution, not because I do not want the people in St. James to have the recreational facilities that are necessary for them, but because I feel that discrimination has been mixed with the Government's policy in respect to the acquisition of playing fields and no one should encourage the Government in these acts of discrimination. Sir, if you have a set policy in respect to playing fields, let it be your policy in every

parish. If it were suggested that part of the land which is owned by the honourable junior member for St. James should be compulsorily bought, I am sure that it would only be a suggestion; you would not see such a resolution before this honourable Chamber.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: But I have no plantation in St. James.

Mr. ALLDER: I thought you were a landowner. I would say instead if it were part of the plantation which is owned by the honourable member's family. (Laughter). Sir, what seems to be prompting the compulsory acquisition of this land for a playing field for St. James is because a philanthropist in that parish has donated a couple of thousand dollars to be spent towards the establishment of this playing field and because the Playing Field Committee of that parish has been fooling with the matter for so long a time, the gentleman has threatened to withdraw his promise; therefore, they are running helter-skelter to acquire this piece of land and the Government in assisting the Committee is assisting in an act of discrimination instead of assisting in the safeguarding of the interests of Barbadian emigrants who are not present to look after their interest themselves.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been favourably impressed from time to time by the attitude adopted by the honourable senior member for St. John on questions which he feels affect the well being of the poor classes of this community but on this particular issue, I think that his impassioned appeal was wholly misdirected, and I think that can only spring from a misunderstanding of the nature of compulsory acquisition and from a misinterpretation of the Government's motives in bringing the resolution which is before us in its present form. Let me say at once that I had no consultation with the members of the Government on this matter and may not have risen but for to ask the two honourable members for St. James, the honourable senior member being also a representative of the Vestry of that parish, to tell us what the constituents of that parish think about the matter.

I would like to point out to the honourable senior member for St. John that very seldom is the power vested in the Government under the Land Acquisition Act to deprive anyone of land which they want to retain. At the beginning of this debate, I took the opposite view to what the honourable senior member for St. John expressed. I took the view that Government by their compulsory acquisition of this land was performing a good service to the joint-owners of this property whoever they may be. I do not think that Government can be accused in this case of treating with any of the parties whom this land may concern nor do I think it can be said that the Government is depriving the owners of this property of agricultural land as this strip of land is far below the quality of land which is of any economic productive value. I think if the honourable senior member for St. John had made enquiries from either of the representatives of that parish, he would have been informed that Trents estate is one of the most unproductive estates in the island. I very much deplore the fact that the praiseworthy effort of those Barbadian emigrants in Panama should have fallen on such evil days. I do not think any one planter would wish ill on the part of these patriotic Barbadians who went into this project with good intentions. However, I have been travelling that part of the island for many years, and I can say that it is the most barren part of the northern parishes. It is the only place along the whole of that northern stretch of road

where you see devil grass growing and flourishing almost to the dereliction of the cane plant in the fields; therefore, in this sense, the Government is doing a service to the shareholders of the particular plantations when it sets about to compulsorily acquire part of Trents plantation.

Sir, I am glad to see that the area of land which is proposed to be purchased is adjacent to the school at Trents because, obviously, it would be an advantage to the children who attend that school to have a playing field next door to the school. There is only one reservation which I have on this resolution. I have frequently urged the Government to set up a survey of land utilisation practices in this colony. It is true to say that the estates belonging to this group of people in Panama have not been managed in the most efficient manner, but if the Government had a proper land utilisation board, as I have suggested on many occasions, it would be able to take steps towards the proper utilisation of all lands so as to get the maximum productivity from them. In a case like this, Government could step in and get persons who could manage these estates efficiently to run them and let the owners share in the profits. In so doing, not only would it be a benefit to the owners of the land but it would also be a benefit to the community as a whole. As I see it, the total acreage of this island cannot be increased except by some unforeseen subterranean behaviour and since we of this island are dependent on agriculture, I would again urge the Government to study and set up legislation in this country to make sure that lands which can more profitably be used in the production of agricultural crops would not be used for such purposes as the construction of houses or factories or the establishment of playing fields.

Mr. HOLDER: This resolution is to give approval to the compulsory acquisition of three and nine-tenths acres of land, part of Trents Plantation, for the purpose of establishing a playing field and community centre. I shall begin by saying that the honourable senior member for St. John is definitely incorrect when he says that this land is agricultural land and Government is acting discriminately in the purchase of this land. I am a member of the Vestry of St. James, but fortunately or unfortunately, I am not a member of the Playing Field Committee, therefore I am in a position to speak impartially on this matter. It is true to say that there is a long history since the Playing Field Committee of St. James set about to acquire land for playing fields in the parish but before going into that question briefly, I would like the honourable senior member for St. John to be assured that there is no discrimination whatsoever in acquiring part of Trents Plantation for a playing field now that the Committee has decided on that area. Years ago, when that land was owned by somebody else, part of that plantation was bought to erect the combined school which is situated there.

Sir, although there are quite a few plantation owners in St. James, not one of them thought of giving up any piece of their land for a playing field until a few years ago when a benevolent gentleman who lived on the coast thought it would be a good thing to provide the parish with a playing field. He did not give money at first. He called a meeting of some people of the parish and after consultation with them set aside two acres of his own property for a playing field for the people of the parish. He also asked that the specifications for the erection of a pavilion on the land be given him so that he could take it to England to have it designed in conformity with that of his home. When a subsequent meeting was held, the gentleman told those present that

his solicitors had advised him that it would not be right to cut off land from his property for that purpose but the gentleman's heart was still in sympathy with the people of the parish having a playing field and it was then that he donated money for the purpose. He said that he would give as much as would buy three acres of land and he left \$3,000 in the Colonial Secretary's Office for the purpose. The Playing Field Committee then searched the parish more vigorously than before for a suitable site for a playing field. At first, the question of a site at Holders Hill and another at Sandy Lane came into the picture but it was thought that the one at Sandy Lane was too rocky and the one at Holders Hill was thought to be too small for the purpose. It was then decided to purchase a portion of the land at Trents near to the school for the purpose, but the difficulty they encountered in this respect was that it was owned by Barbadians in Panama and the land being the subject of a law suit. This was not the case when the portion on which the school now stands was bought. I think the Branch family was the owners of that land at that time. I think this site at Trents for this playing field is most suitable. I well remember that during the Coronation festivities, a function was held at Trents school pasture and it proved too small for the children that gathered there. The school with its lovely verandah could also serve as a pavilion for the playing field. Again, I would like the honourable senior member for St. John to eradicate from his mind that anyone was acting discriminately when they thought of taking over part of that land at Trents for a playing field and that they were only doing so because Trents plantation happened to be owned by Barbadians who worked in Panama for the money to buy it. I would support the honourable senior member for St. George in his remarks that it is regrettable that since Trents and other such estates in St. James have fallen into the hands of these Barbadians that the economy of the parish has gone down.

If the Government buy a portion of the land, that is helping the Government. I am hoping that this will be a stepping stone and that this whole plantation will be acquired for the good of the community and the Island; three quarters of the plantation is being cultivated by peasants and if the Land Acquisition Act has to be put into full force, it will be used to a good purpose. I realise that honourable members will see the need for having this portion of land for the good of the community; this land is along Highway No. 1; people can stop there when cricket matches are being played and there is fine sea-bathing.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I have always said that I would prefer to see the Labour Welfare Fund being used for ancillary services of people such as housing and so on. It is a pity that the local bodies have not been given a sense of direction in this matter; the early direction was along the lines of the establishment of playing fields, and that direction has been continued. It is quite natural for it to be said that if one parish has got a playing field the other parish should have one as well; however, I am hoping that the second phase of direction, assuming that the Labour Welfare Fund is continued, will be along the lines suggested by the honourable junior member for St. Peter. I do not say that people should not have a playing field so as to keep their bodies fit, but a playing field costs a lot of money to keep it in order. My worry is that in the course of time we may not get people to keep these playing fields in order and we may find that we have erected monuments and the taxpayers' money will have gone on the other side.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: This is the second occasion on which I have heard the honourable senior member for St. James say that there is no playing field in St. James. Many years ago the then honourable junior member for St. James, Mr. Wilkinson, allowed more than three acres of land at Orange Hill to be used as a playing field. The most populous part of the whole of St. James is situated in Orange Hill, Endeavour, Gilkes' Village and the surrounding districts. The reason why the Committee did not consider going up there is because of the fact that there is a playing field in use up there, and it has been in use long before any other playing field was provided in the island. If that were not so, it would be unwise for the Government not to have gone more in the hills and less towards the beaches; however, the beaches in St. James do permit the public to have free ingress to the sea, and they afford the greatest amenities you can have in Barbados.

It is all very well to talk about people who gave money towards the purchase of land, but it was not very long ago when somebody rooted out all the tenants from his land on the west side of St. James and gave them a small sum of money to carry their homes wherever they could carry them, so that he could have the equivalent of a local park. Apparently while Mr. Ronald Tree's heart was moved towards the purchase of this land, the other gentleman's heart was moved towards removing all those who were tenants and who had no other place to go. The plantation and factory people had to use one of their cultivated fields on the eastern side of the road so as to accommodate these displaced people; an attempt was made to place these people on lands belonging to Trents Plantation, but the parties concerned were not in a position to allow these people to go on these lands.

No one will disagree that this proposed site is a good one, although there are many of us who thought that another site should have been chosen; we thought that they would have chosen the site at Sandy Lane which is next to the Telephone Company's small building and which offers wonderful facilities not merely for community entertainment and athletic sports, but is also entirely suitable for conversion into a playground. In addition to that, what has been said here both by Mr. Wilkinson and by me is that an attempt should be made to purchase that part of land next to Sandy Lane Woods which is the equivalent of a park for the benefit of the people of this island; this site could be used for picnicking and the other necessary amenities which it would offer to the people of the island. Be that as it may, the choice has been made already and I do not think that anyone would deny that within a limited scope, the choice is a good one, although the site at Sandy Lane would offer not merely a good position for a playground for the benefit of the people of St. James, but also the equivalent of a park for the use of the rest of the people of the island, particularly those whose wearisome days are spent within the metropolitan parish of St. Michael, and it would also offer the finest sea-bathing in the island.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I have listened very carefully to the whole debate on this Resolution. I understand that the parish of St. James has not yet had its allocation for playing fields from the Labour Welfare Fund, and this is the first attempt being made to purchase some land for this purpose. I think the honourable Minister for Social Services has said that this gentleman, Mr. Ronald Tree, gave \$3,000 towards the purchase of land in St. James for the purpose of a playing field, and this money will be used together with what the Government will provide for the establishment of this playing field. I

disagree with much of what the senior member for St. James has said, but I also agree with much of what he has said. I have, on many occasions, mentioned what the honourable junior member for St. James has mentioned; I would remind honourable members of the policy which has been enunciated by the Government, that is, that you should not use your agricultural land for the establishment of playing fields, and then let them think of the Government agreeing to the recommendation of the Social Welfare Officer of a site for a playing field in St. James as against the stretch of land from the Telephone Company's building down to Sandy Lane. That is rocky land and if they went before a Court of Arbitration they would be able to buy that land at a cheaper rate than this land they are now buying. I want to say that the people who are responsible for this proposal here ought to be ashamed of themselves; not only would the establishment of a playing field on this site at Sandy Lane serve the parish of St. James, but the parish would derive income because of the proximity of this site to the metropolitan parish and it would also be used by other parishes; it would be a national recreation centre.

I feel that something went wrong with the St. James's Playing Field Committee; if the honourable senior member for St. James were a member of that Committee, do you think he would say that this land should be used for the establishment of a playing field rather than the level piece of land at Sandy Lane? But the honourable member is accepting this site because it is better than none at all; if it were a question of going to St. James and taking a vote, I challenge the honourable member to say that he would get a large proportion of the people agreeing that they would prefer this site at Trents than that level portion of land at Sandy Lane. I am suspicious of something; I have found that the Government is willing to do something, the various parishes are asked to set up these Playing Field Committees and it has been brought to my notice that when a Committee recommends a site the Social Welfare Officer would say: "This is not the correct site." The Committee would say: "We are in the parish and we know what is best", but as soon as a decision would clash with the opinion of some of the Social Welfare Officer's friends, she would say: "This site is not good enough."

I will vote for this Resolution, but do not let us run away with the idea that this \$3,000 which Mr. Ronald Tree has given will pay for this land; that sum of money will assist in paying for it. The majority of the people of St. James live in the hills, there is a playing field up there and I suppose that is why the Committee did not look in that area for the establishment of a playing field. The land which is used as a playing field at Orange Hill is, of course, agricultural land and it will continue to be there as a playing field even although Mr. Wilkinson is not in the House.

I should like to ask whether it can honestly be said that the Government is acting in the best interests of the people of St. James in acquiring this land? But the honourable senior member for St. James would know that one person would like to have her way against six or seven others. Can the honourable Minister say that the Committee ever recommended this site along the St. James main highway which would be easily accessible from every point as a recreational centre? I do not say that people should not build houses at the beaches; but right now you have to ask people down there for a pass so as to get to the beach and I do not see why the Government should not acquire this stretch of land at Sandy Lane. At present, people who want to go to the beach have

to go hat in hand and say; "Please, Sir, may I have a pass to the beach?" I say that the Government should be ashamed to accept this recommendation; if this is all the Social Welfare Officer can recommend, nobody knows what he is doing. I am wondering if the honourable senior member for St. James knows what he is doing; it is the duty of the Government to buy this land at Sandy Lane and not go up to Trents.

Some years ago the Anglican Church asked this House to grant them permission to sell a portion of land a little past Sandy Lane, and when the Bill was before the House an honourable member—I think it was the honourable senior member for St. John—said that people should not be allowed to purchase this land. I did not agree with that; I agree that people should be allowed to buy land and erect luxurious houses, but, at the same time, I do not agree that they should be allowed to buy all the land.

Since 1949 the Labour Welfare Fund was established and I am wondering now that we have ministerial form of Government and the Minister of Social Services is responsible for dictating policy, whether we will continue to have this clashing with the Social Welfare Officer. I am submitting that the Government should acquire a portion of this land on the beach; I am wondering if, even after we have passed this Resolution, the Government would discover from the Playing Field Committee of St. James whether they had made any investigation as to the acquisition of this site, and, if necessary, postpone action on the Resolution and come back with a recommendation for the purchase of this site at Sandy Lane.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: There are one or two points to which I want to reply. The honourable senior member for St. James has already replied to the honourable senior member for St. John but I would say that this site was under investigation for two years; we were rather hesitant in accepting this site having regard to the fact that it is arable land. The hon. junior member for St. James has made a lot of the site at Sandy Lane, but it is not so easy to make a playing field there; we would have to spend a lot of money to convert that site into a playing field. The contour of the land would not admit of the conversion of the land into a playing field unless a lot of money is spent on it. The Committee visited other sites but they were not suitable and this site was the only one which was left.

The honourable senior member for St. John was just talking through his hat; he wants to make people believe that because the people who own Trents are coloured people certain things can happen, whereas if white people owned it, these things would not take place. Of course, that could only come from the honourable member. The Government sought to acquire land from Mrs. Hanschell compulsorily and we have acquired "Enmore"; I only mention that to show that the Government will acquire land compulsorily from anybody.

It has also been said that the Government would not acquire any land in St. Thomas; well, the St. Thomas Committee recommended a site at Content and the price of land was £500 per acre. The Government turned down that proposal, firstly, because the land is arable land and, secondly, because of the price. I want to assure this House that the Playing Field Committee of St. James did their best in the interest of that parish; we visited several sites and we reluctantly agreed to acquire this site at Trents.

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

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

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

DISCUSSION RE SHIPMENT OF FANCY MOLASSES IN BULK

On re-assembling.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to debate the Replies given to my Questions No. 51. On the 23rd February, 1954, I asked the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour:—

1. What is the amount of money collected by the Government *re* the shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk during 1953?

2. How and when does the Government propose to implement Section 5, Subsection 5 (a) of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export (Amendment) Act, 1953, which states: "Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (4) of this section, Regulations made under this section may make provision in respect of the following matters:—

(a) the securing of alternative employment for labour displaced by bulk shipment of fancy molasses"?

On the 27th April, 1954, the Government replied as follows:—

1. The Government does not collect any money in connection with the shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk.

Under the provisions of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export (Amendment) Act, 1953, the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board has a duty to make a levy on all fancy molasses produced in Barbados and to pay this into a local bank for the purposes set out in Section 5 of the Act. These moneys form a Fund, called the Fancy Molasses Industry Fund.

In January, 1954, the Barbados Produce Exporters' Association Ltd., paid into the Fund a sum of \$33,340.16 which represented a portion of the savings effected through bulk shipment in 1953. This arrangement was voluntarily agreed to by the Association before the Act was passed.

2. The Regulations referred to are made by the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board, with the approval and sanction of the Governor-in-Executive Committee. Draft Regulations prepared by the Board are under consideration by the Government.

Meanwhile, the Government has taken steps to secure employment for these displaced workers in certain Government Departments under the Capital Works Programme. In addition, avenues of alternative employment abroad are being vigorously explored.

What prompted me to ask these Questions is this: I was interviewed by a large section of the coopers and other workers who were dismissed or whose services were terminated on the 1st February, 1954, which can be regarded as Constitution Day. After certain enquiries which were made at the interview, I thought it fit to ask the Government about this matter, and you will pardon me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I reveal to this House certain matters which have taken place subsequently and which I regard as being deplorable. I hope that the "L" in "Minister of Labour" really means "Labour" and does not refer to a famous Frenchman named Laval whose conduct everyone deplored.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I must object to the honourable member beginning what should be a serious debate in that manner. This is a matter in which the honourable member should have uppermost in his mind the duty which he owes to the workers and he should try to approach it on the highest level. I am objecting to the honourable member referring to me as Laval; I do not know if he is serious or if it is a matter of levity on his part.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If the Minister of Labour can take his duties so seriously as to tell the porters and coopers that I am responsible for any delay in assisting them, then the name "Laval" can be applied not only to him but to anybody who would attempt to do anything like that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Laval was an honourable man.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: So was Judas.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: So was Ananias. I am only following the honourable member's reference to people.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: As a member of the Board, if there is any delay in anything, the honourable member is responsible for it.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am going to show how false that is. The honourable member gave an invitation to the coopers to come to his office and see him and he says that, as a member of the Board I am responsible for any delay in justice being done to the coopers. You will remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when we were dealing with the Estimates, the Premier was so anxious to deal with this matter that I was afraid that his blood pressure would have risen. I said that a man of his years should wait until the time comes to deal with the matter. Well, this is the appropriate occasion on which we can deal with this matter.

In my first question I asked what is the amount of money collected by the Government in connection with the shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk. In reply to that question the Government said that it does not collect any money in connection with the shipment of this molasses in bulk, and further in the reply the Government says this:

"In January, 1954, the Barbados Produce Exporters' Association Ltd. paid into the Fund a sum of \$33,340.16, which represented a portion of the savings effected through bulk shipment in 1953. This arrangement was voluntarily agreed to by the Association before the Act was passed."

In truth and in fact the producers could not have paid money into the fund before the Act was passed because there was no fund into which to pay the money; therefore the money which was paid in was paid in to the Government. That is the first contradiction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these questions were not asked with any intention of showing up anybody, because the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour was not a member of the Executive Committee before; he only became a member of the Executive Committee on the same day on which these workers were dismissed. My duty was to ask the Government what funds have been collected through the shipment of fancy molasses in bulk. The Premier attempted to say; "You are a member of the Board and you have come to the House and asked these questions!" On the 12th March, 1954, some days after I asked these questions, I received a letter from the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries informing me of my appointment to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board and expressing regret that I had not been informed of my appointment to the Board before it appeared in the "Official Gazette."

I asked these questions because I wanted to know how much money was available to the Government in so far as money collected through the shipment of Fancy Molasses in bulk was concerned. I asked these questions on the 23rd February and the services of these coopers and other workers were terminated on the 1st February. I had informed the workers that a shipment of Fancy Molasses had been made and it was agreed that a sum of money should be paid into a Fund so that some use could be made of it.

To give honourable members a brief history of this matter, some time in 1950 the Barbados Workers' Union was approached by Messrs Evelyn Roach & Co. Ltd., who stated that they could sell a shipment of molasses in Canada, but in order to do that, we would have to agree to send it by tanker. It was stated that there was a surplus of molasses and we agreed to the sale so long as there was no loss of employment to the coopers. The amount which was to be sold was in addition to the amount which would be sold that year; if we were selling three million gallons of molasses that year we would have to sell it in the normal channels; but in addition to that three million gallons we had 250,000 puncheons. It seemed to us that by agreeing to this sale of surplus molasses we were not doing any damage to the workers, despite what some of our opponents were saying that we were doing something against the interest of our workers. Eventually it was brought to our notice that it was not a surplus of molasses above what was being sold; therefore it was a part of the amount which would be sold that year. After a long discussion we decided that if this molasses was a part of the amount to be sold that year, it would have some adverse effect on the community and the people engaged in the industry to send it in bulk, and therefore it was decided that the shipment should not be made in bulk. At that time Messrs Evelyn Roach & Co. Ltd., agreed that they would have paid all the workers on the same basis as if they had shipped the molasses in puncheons; the coopers would have been paid on a *pro rata* basis, the stevedores would have been paid on the same basis, so would the lightermen be paid and therefore, everybody would have been happy. To us that seemed to be reasonable, but it proved not to be so.

After these disturbing events and the issue became a public one, it was felt that a Committee should be set up to inquire into the matter, and on the 12th June, 1950, a Committee was set up with the following terms of reference.

"To enquire into all aspects of the fancy molasses industry of Barbados with particular reference to production, price, marketing and methods of export and to make such recommendations as might be considered necessary to ensure the maintenance and development of that industry."

The composition of that Committee was as follows: Sir John Saint (Chairman), the Premier, and Honourable J. D. Chandler with Mr. E. A. B. Deane as Secretary. A part of their recommendations was submitted to the House, and in the Report I shall draw attention to what existed before: There was the old Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board and in this connection paragraph 28 of the Report of the Committee says this:

"The Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board established and operated under the Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act, 1937, controls the production, price, marketing and export of fancy molasses. The Board consists of seven members with the Director of Agriculture as *ex officio* Chairman. One member is appointed by His Excellency

the Governor, two members by the Legislative Council and the remaining four by the House of Assembly."

That was the old Board, and you will remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this Committee recommended that the constitution of this Board should be changed and that the powers of the Board should be increased. Paragraph 112 of the Report of the Committee says this:

"The Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board is a most important body and should be truly representative of all branches of the industry. The present method of appointing members to the Board is open to criticism, and we recommend certain alterations. We agree that the Chairman should continue to be the Director of Agriculture, but consider that the rest of the Board should be appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and shall include two members of the Sugar Producers' Association and two members of the Exporters' Association."

This House agreed to that recommendation and now the Act says: "The Board shall consist of the Director of Agriculture and seven other members appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee." I was placed on the Board on the recommendation of the Premier because, as a member of the Government, I was dealing with Agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture must have some association with the Barbados Workers' Union. The Premier held the responsibility for the honourable senior member for Christ Church and myself being members of the Board, the idea being that, as Labour members of the Board, you had to agree to what he wanted. When I became a member of the Board, the Board never met and the Minister of Agriculture will tell you that the first meeting of the Board was subsequent to the letter of the 12th March. When the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour told the workers that I was responsible for the existing state of affairs, he knew that the Board had not held any meeting to deal with the matter, and on the 12th March the Minister of Agriculture had more control over the action of the Director of Agriculture, who is the Chairman of the Board, than any other member of the Board. If the Premier or the Minister of Agriculture were satisfied that this Board should have met, he could have given directions for this Board to meet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will remember the attitude of the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour to these questions; you will remember the slanderous innuendos made by the Minister. When the Premier tried to answer the questions during the consideration of the Estimates His Honour the Speaker had to stop him; I asked these questions because I was surrounded by people who enquired into the delay in this matter; but these innuendos are the sort of reward you get from people with whom you have been associated for all these years. I was the person who put forward the idea that any worker who was employed in the sugar industry should have what is known as severance pay; but after you have done that, after you have pointed that out to employers all over the country and after the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union was called upon to get something done for the workers, people forget all these things. If it were a question of malice, I had malice in my heart for the last 10 years because it was a question of looking after the interests of the workers. Nobody thought of embarrassing the Government at that time; you were representing the people; but nowadays you are embarrassing the Government. I am saying

that the Government did collect this money because the Fund referred to was not in operation.

When I referred to the question of unemployment during the consideration of the Estimates, I said what I said merely in passing. All I said was that the question of unemployment was a serious one and now the additional laying off of coopers placed a heavier responsibility on the Government. I pointed out subsequently that I did not think this Board, constituted as it is, could do what the Government required.

I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not explain fully to this House the full effect of what has taken place; I do not want to be a party to any system which, in my opinion, militates against my conscience. You cannot harm a man who is on the right road, because sooner or later justice must prevail.

One of the recommendations of the Committee which enquired into the aspects of the Fancy Molasses Industry was that a fund should be created to provide alternative employment for labour displaced by bulk shipment. The Board which was set up should be a Board which would be able to deal with something in the industry and not what is taking place otherwise. So far as work on the Capital Works Programme is concerned, there is a broad statement in the replies to the questions and the honourable Minister for Trade, Industry and Labour will be able to deal with that. When I was appointed to this Board I was not appointed there as a representative of the Barbados Workers' Union; the Act only provides for the appointment of members. It might be that if I were not a member of the Executive Committee, somebody from the Barbados Workers' Union might have been asked to be a member of the Board; it was my express wish that when the Bill came down to the House, representatives of employers and workers should be placed on the Board.

It appeared to me that this Board could not carry out the functions of finding alternative employment for these displaced workers because the Board does not possess the means of finding this alternative employment. I pointed out that it did not seem to me as if the Board was capable of performing the functions under the Act which had been passed by the Legislature, and subsequent events have proved that I was right. What I want to bring to the attention of the House is this; I could see that the Board could not perform the functions under the Act and I felt that it was just a waste of time. I therefore wrote a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries tendering my resignation from the Board.

There are in this House some people who, when somebody does something which they do not like are the first people who will try to take off his head, but not in the case of others. It is true that the price of sugar has dropped; the price of molasses was fixed at 60 cents per gallon. There was a weighted average between two prices; a cent was added for the cess in Canada and when the price of 76 cents was quoted the Board did not know how the extra 15 cents f.o.b. charges were made up. I have been blessed with as much commonsense as to know that the invoice price should have been known by the Board. When the invoice price was quoted at 76 cents, there was intended to be made a levy on behalf of the displaced workers. When certain people do things in this island they are all right; certain people can be defended for having committed murder, while other people will be beheaded for speaking the truth. With this mess in this affair — I do not want to die

with any weight on my conscience — I felt it would be necessary for me to allow the Executive Committee to know that I could not continue as a member of the Board. I tendered my resignation on the 14th April and I have not received any acknowledgement of the receipt of the letter.

When I asked these questions, the question of the Board meeting did not arise because the Board had not held any meeting; the first meeting of the Board was on the 21st March, and they must have held about three meetings. From what has been stated in these replies, the Board has found itself in more difficulty and therefore the Government should embark upon a system where it could give greater effectiveness to the recommendations of the Committee which enquired into the Fancy Molasses Industry. If the Board has the power to collect funds for the purpose of finding alternative employment for these displaced workers, then the Board must be in a position to do that; unfortunately, the Board has to call on the various Government Departments to do it. If this Board has found this difficulty, just as the Executive Committee controls the Labour Welfare Fund, it is quite easy for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to control the employment policy. It is for that reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I have mentioned that I do not think the Board could effectively carry out those duties. I want to say that people who believe in the socialist theory must also believe in the working out of that theory and be able to appreciate how it works; there are those who want the trappings of the capitalist system and look to the masses to keep them up.

I hope that what I have said is enough to show this honourable House that this is a question which goes very deep; it touches on more than the question of unemployment. One of the recommendations is for advertising. We have been told that there was the question of sending an envoy to Canada in order to see if he could make arrangements for work on behalf of workers who were displaced as a result of bulk shipment of the industry. It is not beyond the energy of the Government to enquire into this aspect of the question. I mention this because with this system of gradual reduction of workers taking place, we have to look to the organisation of the industry to see what is wrong; we have to look to see if the organisation is serving the people as a whole or is only serving a few. This is not an empty phrase. We cannot believe in socialism unless we can teach ourselves to look at a question from all angles, and to examine it from the roots. I am out of the Government and I can speak as a free man now. What I have been talking about is something to which I have given careful study and I do not think any member of the Government has given as much study to this matter as I and because of that, I am not apologetic in any way for anything that I have said. Every member of the Government should bear in mind that if he does not want to hear or answer questions under this new set up, he should cease to be a member of the Government. We will not be doing our jobs if we look at this honourable House as a place where we should just come to have something like a little tea meeting and to say that we all are nice fellows. All members of parliament must be true and realistic and must represent the views of the individuals who sent them there. If the honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour has taken umbrage at what I have said, he must remember that I took umbrage because he had the effrontery to call workers in the industry in his office and tell them that any delay in their receiving assistance was due to a delay on my part. That statement was not only

slandorous and malicious, but it is not true and the honourable Minister knows that it is not true.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this stage, I beg to move that the motion for the adjournment of this House be now withdrawn.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Does the honourable member want to get away with something that he is withdrawing the motion without giving anybody the opportunity to reply?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not want to get away with anything.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member addressing the Chair? No honourable member seconding the motion for the adjournment of the House, the motion is withdrawn.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I second the motion for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister cannot now second the motion for the adjournment as I have already ruled that the motion is withdrawn. I allowed sufficient time before I ruled. The honourable minister or any other honourable member could have seconded the motion.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The honourable junior member for St. Peter made certain charges against me as Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour. I was waiting to see if any honourable member would second the motion before I replied, but seeing no one is desirous of seconding the motion, I now rise to second the motion. I think the attitude of the Chair, should be to give me, or should I say any other honourable member, the opportunity of replying to statements made against him. It seems very strange that I am not being given the opportunity to reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No honourable member can withdraw a motion if it is seconded; but he is at liberty to withdraw it, if it has not been seconded. I have not the slightest objection against the honourable minister or any other minister of the Government replying to any statement made against him. I gave sufficient time for any honourable member to second the motion. I am sorry, but I have ruled already.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minister of Labour be now heard to reply to the accusations made against him by the honourable junior member for St. Peter.

Hon. M. E. Cox seconded the motion.

The question that the honourable Minister of Labour be now heard was put and resolved in the affirmative on the declaration of Mr. Deputy Speaker. "I think the 'Ayes' have it."

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shouted 'No', and I want a division taken.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I distinctly heard several honourable members saying 'Aye' and one honourable member saying 'No'. I declared the 'Ayes' have it. I am not having a division on this matter because I believe it is just a delaying tactic.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a matter which concerns the welfare of a substantial number of workers who were employed in an important industry in this island, but the majority of whom have become unemployed as a result of the bulk shipment of fancy molasses. The fate of those workers should be taken seriously into consideration by every responsible member of this House as well as by responsible members of the Government. The honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries who is a member of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board under the Act which was passed last year by this House, and I have given long and serious consideration to this question and it is in that mood that I approach this matter

tonight. I do not think that this is a question which should be approached in a mood of levity or sarcasm. After listening to the long 'apologia' by the honourable junior member for St. Peter, I think it is incumbent on the House to listen to the Government's side of the story and give it the serious attention which it deserves. I am going to reply to the honourable member in no uncertain manner because he is deliberately or mistakenly lying on members of this Government by the accusations he has made against it in the course of his speech.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I object to the honourable member's last remarks that I am deliberately or mistakenly lying on members of the Government. The honourable minister is unworthy of making that statement. If the honourable minister wants this debate to run smoothly, he will refrain from making such remarks. He certainly will get all the trouble he wants if he proceed to make such remarks. Again I object to those remarks by the honourable minister.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable member started the trouble from the time consideration was being given to the Estimates.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I object to that statement also.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The honourable member does not seem to understand plain English.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am interrupting the two honourable members to remind them of the motion which is before this House. The honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour has been allowed to make a statement in reply to the accusations which were made against him by the honourable junior member for St. Peter and I am asking the honourable Minister to put his remarks in the form of a statement.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am replying to the charge made against me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the honourable minister to do so in the form of a statement.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what was the position with regard to the Fancy Molasses Industry when I took up office as Minister of Labour? The honourable junior member for St. Peter went into the history of bulk shipment of fancy molasses and I need not waste the time of the House on that question because I think it is well known by every honourable member of this House. The whole of that question took place before ministerial system came into being; it was then a *fait accompli*. What we are concerned with today is the effect of bulk shipment of fancy molasses and the subsequent events that have taken place since the first shipment was effected.

When ministerial system was instituted and I took office as Minister of Labour, there was on the Statute Book the Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act, which this House passed last year on the 11th August. The Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board had been set up under the authority of that Act and the purposes of that Board have been set out very clearly in that Act. This is what that Act says:—

"Section three of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by deleting subsection (2) thereof and substituting therefor the following—

"(2) The Board shall consist of the Director of Agriculture and seven other members appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee."

(b) by deleting subsection (3) thereof and substituting therefor the following—

"(3) The members of the Board appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of five years from their appointments:

Provided that—

(a) a member may at any time by notice in writing to the Governor-in-Executive Committee resign his office;

(b) the Governor-in-Executive Committee may declare the office of any member vacant on the ground that he is from any just cause unfit to continue in office."

The honourable junior member for St. Peter had been appointed a member of that Board. He was appointed a member of that Board whether he likes to hear that or not. The honourable member says that on the 12th March last, a letter was written him by the Governor-in-Executive Committee telling him about his appointment to that Board and he is sheltering behind the statement that he was only appointed a member of that Board because he was a member of the Executive Committee. Throughout the debate he has been making that statement. Then the honourable member ends up by saying that I called workers of the industry inside of my office and told them that he was responsible for everything that is happening in the industry.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the Government has a lot of important matters to consider and as you can see, some honourable members are weary listening to this debate; they are actually sleeping. Under Private Members' Business, I have an important bill to deal with and I cannot get any time to do it. The honourable Minister of Labour has told us nothing new. I move that this House proceed with Private Members' Business.

Allow me to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I am not getting into any domestic quarrel. I do not intend to get into any domestic quarrel between erstwhile members of the Government and present members; however, I am wondering if any useful purpose will be served by prolonging this discussion.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the workers in the fancy molasses industry called on me, the honourable junior member for St. Peter had by that time, written statements in the 'Beacon' newspaper stating that the Government should not make pious statements about the displaced workers in the fancy molasses industry and should do something positively about the matter. During the discussion on the Annual Estimates, the honourable member unfairly said that the Government was doing nothing about these workers. Bear in mind, it was not simply a matter of the honourable member asking a question; he was saying and implying that the Government was doing nothing about these workers.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Will you permit me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just to make an explanation? The honourable minister referred to what I said during discussion on the Annual Estimates. The official report of what I said during debate on the Estimates came out this afternoon. It is abominable that the honourable Minister of Labour should err like that. In that debate I did not discuss the workers in the fancy molasses industry more than to say that the Government should look into the question of the shipment of fancy molasses in bulk because more people are going to be unemployed. I said that this question of unemployment has aggravated the situation. The honourable minister is wrong when he said that I said that the Government was doing nothing about those workers.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: As I have said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable junior member for St. Peter did say that the Government was doing nothing about the workers in the industry and wrote implying that the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour, was taking no positive steps to assist those workers. I told the workers when they interviewed me that the honourable member was a member of the Fancy Molasses Board and he must join in any responsibility for delay in framing regulations. If the honourable member does not care to accept this responsibility, he can run from that as he has run from the Board.

Now, Sir, the Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act which was passed by this House last year, specifically states that regulations must be made by the Board to make provision in respect of the following matters:—

- (a) the securing of alternative employment for labour displaced by bulk shipment of fancy molasses;
- (b) the payment of interest and depreciation on capital involved in providing bulk storage in this Island or elsewhere;
- (c) the fixing of the price of fancy molasses and any subsequent adjustment in relation to the price of sugar;
- (d) for preventing fluctuations in the price of fancy molasses owing to minimum crops.

As has been stated specifically in the Act, the duty devolves on the Board to which the honourable member was appointed a member for five years to provide for the securing of alternative employment for labour displaced by the bulk shipment of fancy molasses. The honourable member is sheltering under the fact that the Board never met. From the time I took office, I impressed on the members of the Board that they must meet and carry out their duties. I feel that the honourable member through his position in the Government at that time and his official position in the Workers' Union should have been an influential member on that Board. He could have anticipated what would have happened when bulk shipment of fancy molasses came into effect. He could have asked for and got a meeting of the Board. Sir, did he do it? No. What did he do? He comes later on and infers that the Government did nothing. What has the Board done since my coming into office as Minister of Labour? We have made proposals along the lines which we thought that regulations should be made, and these draft regulations have been since considered by the Board. As I have been made to understand, the Board met again today and adopted those draft regulations. Those regulations will in the near future be submitted to the Government for its approval. Sir, I can say that we are definitely approaching the stage where we can arrive at something definite with regard to those workers. That is the stage we have reached and it has been reached after about three or four meetings of the Board held since I took office. Had that been done before the ministerial system came into being, we should definitely today have been well on the way to getting something workable and tangible for the interest of the workers in that industry. Simply to say that the Board never met, when you yourself are a member, is not to accept your responsibility as a member of that Board. The honourable junior member for St. Peter was a member of that Board, therefore, he must join in the responsibility.

Now, Sir, the honourable junior member for St. Peter said that his position on the Board became untenable after he found out that the equivalent price of fancy molasses was fixed at 60 cents and the Board could not fix a levy as required by the

Act of even one cent to make the price 61 cents. I will tell the honourable member that the Government has insisted that the Board fix the levy as required by the Act. The Act specifically says that a levy must be fixed. The Board cannot now come back and say that it cannot find any room, or that the industry cannot make sufficient profit to pay a levy.

(A VOICE: The Act says "may fix.")

The honourable junior member for St. Peter said *sotto voce* "may fix." The honourable member who pretends to be an authority on most matters is now preaching about the capitalist system and saying that we should not perpetuate the capitalist system. Of course, he has already openly said that members of the Labour Party should not preach nationalisation as that would drive away capital. He said so when he was a member of the Government.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: When did the honourable member hear me say any such thing? I do not want to say again what I said just now—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the honourable junior member for St. Peter to allow the honourable Minister of Labour to reply.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have never tried—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the honourable junior member for St. Peter to take his seat.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The honourable junior member for St. Peter said *sotto voce* just now "may" and not "shall". The honourable member has taken so little interest in his responsibilities as a member of that Board that he does not even know how the Act is worded. I will read Section 5, (1) of the Act which was passed by this House last year so that this House and the honourable junior member for St. Peter will see how it is worded. It reads as follows:—

"Notwithstanding the provisions of the principal Act, there shall be raised on all fancy molasses produced in the Island during each crop year a levy at such rate as the Board with the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee shall fix in respect of each crop year."

The Act states "shall be raised" not "may be raised." The Board must fix a levy so as to make provision for the schemes which are specifically mentioned under sub-section (5) and this Government has insisted that that section should be carried out and that this levy must be raised to carry out the provisions of that sub-section and in accordance with the Act.

(A VOICE: Why did the Executive have to change it? Why did not the Executive change it before?)

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The Executive has changed nothing. Of course I should not take notice of the honourable member's *sotto voce* remarks. The honourable member was a member of the Board. He said there were no savings to give effect to the schemes set out in the Act.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is what was told me. In effect what I did say was that the old quoted invoice price of the exporters which we received was 76 cents. The honourable Minister of Labour was not listening to what was said. The export price has nothing to do with it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Are you going to allow the honourable member to bob up every two or three minutes?

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I personally feel that no useful purpose will be served in continuance of this discussion. It has devolved into a personal quarrel. I think quite sufficient latitude has been given.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I will ask this House not to get confused between the cess and the levy. The honourable junior member for St. Peter is referring to the cess as provided by the previous Fancy Molasses Act but in addition to that Act, we have the 1953 Act. The Act states that a levy shall be raised to assist coopers and the Government gave this House the assurance that the Act must be adhered to and must be complied with.

Sir, I feel it is my duty to refute any suggestions of dishonesty or inactivity in my Ministry despite what the honourable junior member for St. Peter may feel about it. There are some points which were made by the honourable member which could more appropriately be dealt with by the honourable Minister of Agriculture who is also a member of the Fancy Molasses Board. I shall only say in conclusion that as the replies to the honourable member's questions have stated, the Government is taking active steps to secure employment for those displaced workers and it is trying to find work for them not only in Government Departments under the Capital Works Programme but also outside of the island. This Government has written to Dominica and has asked if there is opportunity there for employment of some of these workers. We are also enquiring from Canada. The honourable Premier has already said in this House that when he was in Canada, he was told by an employer that he would take steps to find out whether he could find work for some of those displaced workers there. We are making further enquiries over that matter. This Government is seeking all alternative avenues to find work for these displaced workers. Wherever we believe those workers can gain employment we are making enquiries. As has been stated in the replies, the Government is taking active steps to secure employment for those displaced workers.

So far as assistance from the fund is concerned, we have already stated that it would not be the right thing to dish out cash to these displaced workers. We have made it a general policy that the fund should first be used in the securing of alternate employment rather than giving it out in cash. We have been making enquiries from each worker personally. We have asked them: "What work would you like to do? "Would you like a little plot of land so that you can do a little kitchen gardening?" Such questions we are asking them. We will devote the major part of the funds to securing such alternative means of livelihood for those workers. The Labour Department has carried out many investigations into this matter with respect to these workers. All of them have been called in and they have stated what alternative means of livelihood they would like and this Government is doing its best to secure such alternative means of livelihood for them. Sir, this House can rest assured that in my Ministry and in my capacity as Minister of Labour, we will do our best and all that is in our power to secure employment for these workers—and not only these workers but all workers. Every day we receive queries from unemployed workers. Many workers are coming in and saying that they cannot find any work to do, therefore, you can realise, Sir, that it is not an easy thing to find employment.

(A VOICE: Well give them money.)

Employers would like us to share out the money in that way but as I have just said, it is not our policy to dish it out in that manner. Just as we have regulated the Labour Welfare Fund and have not shared it out, so we are going to regulate this fund; we are not going to give it out in cash. We are getting all kinds of information from these workers. We are getting their ages and those who cannot work any longer or for whom it is difficult to

find alternative employment, we will consider giving them cash, but for the young and able-bodied men, we will find alternative employment. As I have said already, it is not the best policy to dish out this fund in cash.

MOTION TO DISCUSS CONDUCT OF FANCY MOLASSES BOARD

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am moving the adjournment of the House to discuss the actions and conduct of the Fancy Molasses Board and in doing that, I shall be as brief as possible. I may say that I shall exercise that degree of self-control in discussing this matter as I have been endeavouring to do all this afternoon and before. I shall exercise as much self-control as I can.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to know how long would the motion for the adjournment be.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am moving the adjournment for five minutes. As I was saying Sir, I have amazed myself at the amount of self-control I have exercised from the first meeting of this House since ministerial system began and that self-control has been exercised because I think it is in the interest of the community to exercise it and despite the provocation which I have had, I am going to exercise it tonight also. However, I do not think it would be in the interest of this community if I allow this Government to be wrongly accused and to let judgment go by default. I am not so old as to accuse the honourable junior member for St. Peter of the impetuosity of youth. The honourable member is at liberty to say all that he has said and what is his opinion of us.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Premier seems to be dealing with the actions of the honourable junior member for St. Peter.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Sir, the honourable junior member for St. Peter was a member of the Fancy Molasses Board; he has resigned; and I am speaking of his conduct as well as the conduct of other members of the Board.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot refuse the motion for the adjournment of the House but the honourable Premier must understand that if such a motion is being used to get around the ruling of the Chair it would be certainly out of order. If the honourable Premier is discussing the conduct and actions of the Fancy Molasses Board, he should stick to that and nothing which has been said here tonight should be the basis of his argument.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Sir, I do not agree to that. If anything has been said tonight in relation to the action of a member of that Board, surely I am at liberty to quote it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All that I am saying is that the honourable Premier is placing me in an awkward position if he uses this motion to get around my ruling.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Sir, no question has been decided to make it wrong or to prevent that matter being brought up again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not say anything of the same question coming up twice. All that I was saying is that I hope the honourable member will confine his remarks to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board. I am willing to hear him on that. As I have said, I think I gave every latitude and every hint that the question as raised by the honourable junior member for St. Peter could have been seconded for the sake of discussion. Since the motion was not seconded, I cannot allow the honourable member to get around that motion because I feel it would be unfair to myself.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have moved a motion for the adjournment of the House, and every honourable member can speak on my motion for the adjournment. I cannot do anything to deny any honourable member from speaking on the motion for the adjournment which I have raised. Every honourable member who wants to speak on it can do so. I am not taking any advantage of any honourable member. I can speak on this motion and then any honourable member can do so and they can end up this motion with the discussion on the last pyramid that was discovered in Egypt—if Your Honour so allow them to stray.

(A VOICE: A Speaker must be impartial; he must be as much for the Opposition as for the Government).

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have moved the adjournment of this House for five minutes to discuss the actions and conduct of the Fancy Molasses Board and one of my reasons for moving this adjournment is because the honourable junior member for St. Peter asked questions with regard to the bulk shipment of Fancy Molasses and to which the replies were given by the honourable Minister for Labour. The honourable junior member for St. Peter discussed those replies today and from the Government's point of view, I am saying that the Government has been accused by the honourable member either directly or by insinuation of letting down certain sections of workers and it is my duty to defend the Government apart from the honourable Minister of Labour who had to answer the specific question. I shall endeavour not to repeat what the honourable Minister of Labour said. Mr. Deputy Speaker, all I wish to say is that this Government is conscious—boastful if you like—that the people of this country are solidly behind it and this Government being conscious of that can afford to treat with silence accusations, slanders, and at times sheer abuse that are hurled against it. If it were a tottering Government and on the verge of losing confidence in the people, it would be necessary to take account of every single word said against it. But sometimes silence is taken as weakness—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the honourable member when he is going to get down to the debate on the motion which he has before the House.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: There is no such rule as to say when you should finish your preamble. I am going to respect the Chair and the Chair must in turn respect all honourable members. I am not abusing any rule of this House. As I have said, I have moved the adjournment of the House to discuss the recent conduct of the Fancy Molasses Board. I am showing that because of the recent conduct of the Fancy Molasses Board of which the honourable junior member for St. Peter was a member, the Government has been attacked both directly and indirectly, and it is my duty as head of the Government to defend the Government lest silence be taken as weakness. I am not going over all that the honourable member has said but this is the position: In 1937, it was found necessary to establish this Fancy Molasses Board. When this question of bulk shipment of fancy molasses became a burning problem in 1950 or thereabout, it was felt necessary, as we all know, to send a delegation to Canada to discover the truth and in order that the Government might know how to handle the impending trouble if bulk shipment took place. After the Fancy Molasses Delegation returned and reported the Government stated: "We have not found it necessary now to prepare for bulk shipment but it is coming. The Government further said that it was patently clear that coopers would be displaced and it therefore would have to send down legislation which would

give it the opportunity of doing something for those displaced coopers. Well, evidently, we got more and more advice from Canada from year to year and it became obvious last year, which was three years after the Committee spotted it, that the time had come when in order to compete with others in the fancy molasses industry, we had to bulk ship our molasses.

What was the Government doing in the meantime, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Of course, the Government was preparing for it. It had done nothing positive by way of legislation, it is true to say, until June last year but in that month a Bill was introduced by the honourable junior member for St. Peter to amend the Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act of 1937 as he has told the House. Let me here eradicate once and for all a statement made by the honourable junior member for St. Peter. The honourable member tried to impress the House that he was put on this Fancy Molasses Board because he was handling agriculture on the Executive.

(A VOICE: That is a fact, you said so.)

Sir, the honourable junior member for St. Peter brought in the Fancy Molasses Bill and introduced it on the 16th June last year. This is part of the objects and reasons: "The Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board is considered an important body and should be truly representative of all branches of the Industry. The present method of appointing members to the Board, viz., one member by the Governor, two members by the Legislative Council and four members by the House of Assembly, cannot be said to accomplish that purpose and is therefore opened to criticism and the Committee recommended that seven members (other than the Director of Agriculture) of the Board should be appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. In exercising this power of appointment, it is the intention of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to ensure that representatives of Producers, Exporters and Workers in the Fancy Molasses Industry should be appointed to the Board and clause 3 seeks to give effect to this recommendation."

When it states that workers in the Fancy Molasses Industry should be appointed to the Board, it means that the honourable junior member for St. Peter as General Secretary of the Workers Union was put on the Board in that capacity. The honourable member introduced the Bill and he stressed that in his speech on the Bill. This is what he said in his speech: "The Government has accepted this recommendation. What sums should be raised each year as an additional cess on fancy molasses to be paid into the Fancy Molasses Industry Fund is given further on and then the Committee recommended that a Board of this nature should have a representative not only of all the employers but also a representative of the workers because it is something that is going to affect workers very closely."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member reading something from the debates of this House for this Session? If he is, I must rule that out of order as the Rules of this House do not permit it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I know what the honourable member said on that occasion from memory. Let me say that the objects and reasons of that Bill included recommendations that not only producers and exporters but workers in the industry should be put on the Fancy Molasses Board and that is my point and one which I want this House to bear in mind. If honourable members read the *Official Gazette*, they will see that the honourable junior member for St. Peter in his speech on the introduction of this Bill stressed that the Committee recommended that representatives of the workers should be placed on that Board because it was something which was going to

affect workers. Now, the honourable member is saying that he considered himself a member of that Board because he was a member of the Executive; now that he is no longer a member of the Executive, he considers himself no longer a member of that Board. How can the honourable member come to that conclusion when the law says that you are appointed a member of that Board for five years. The honourable member is running from his job. As General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, it is his duty to be sitting on that Board. Obviously, the Executive Committee had to appoint someone to represent workers on that Board and it had to appoint a representative of the Barbados Workers Union. The obvious representative of the Union to be put on that Board would be the honourable junior member for St. Peter. It therefore can be seen that the honourable member is running from his obligation in order to bolster up his attempted attack on the Government. If the honourable member has any interest in the workers in his calling as General Secretary of the Workers Union, he should remain on that Board. Who can put the case of the workers better than the honourable member? I can think of no better person than the honourable member. If the honourable member wants a fight, he is going to get it. The honourable member out of bitter disappointment that he was not made a minister has resigned from that Board. If the honourable member continue to come into this House and make accusations against the Government, the Government is going to defend itself on every occasion. I say again, the honourable member is letting down the workers if he does not represent them on that Board. Nobody can represent them as he can owing to his experience. He has no right resigning from that Board; how can he help the workers by resigning? Well, the honourable member has resigned and will go on resigning.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable junior member for St. Peter is only one of the members of the Fancy Molasses Board it is true to say. The fact that the Fancy Molasses Board is appointed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee is something which would make me hesitate and even stop from attacking that Board. I shall merely say that if the Fancy Molasses Board feel that when we enacted the law putting on them the duty to make regulations to provide alternative employment for displaced workers and the Board felt that it could not make the regulations as the Act stated, it was the duty of the Board to write and say so and to ask Government to amend the Act. Let me repeat, although the honourable Minister of Labour, since he has taken up office has written members of that Board and told them to meet and get on with the job of the Board, he has no right to tell them that; he was not obliged to tell them that; but if we find people neglecting their duty we can drop them a hint, and in all probability, that is what the Minister of Labour has done. I repeat, if the Fancy Molasses Board felt that it could not really make recommendations as the Act stated, it was the duty of the Board to write and say so and to ask us to amend the Act. That is the main point of what I am trying to bring to the knowledge of the members of the Board. I am sorry I have to do it on the floor of the House. Sir, we know that the Board does not have any work to give the people, but the Board could have told the Government that it has a Public Works Department, employ some of the displaced workers in that Department, or something to that effect. Sir, the only point I want to emphasize is, if the Board cannot carry out what is stated in the Act, let it come to the Government and ask Government to take over that task. It is patently clear that because the Board failed to make recommendations that the regu-

lations were not made. If members of that Board failed, including the honourable junior member for St. Peter who was a member of that Board and who introduced the Bill and who knew of this section in the Bill; if he now discovers that the Board could not act on that section, surely it was his duty to remain on the Board and get a motion carried by the Board to draw the attention of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to the impracticability of Section 5, (5) of the Act and ask the Government to come down with an amendment to that Section.

(A VOICE: Ask the Minister of Agriculture if I did not do that).

Sir, I am not cursing anybody. I remember when I was called to the Bar, the lot of us who passed out were told not to call a man a fool until he proved himself to be a fool. I am remembering that advice tonight. As regards the sum, the honourable Minister of Agriculture gave an explanation but I would say that the honourable junior member for St. Peter was a member of the Executive Committee when the information was given to the Executive Committee; the honourable member was a member of the Executive Committee when the Sugar Producers paid the money over to that fund.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable member knows that the Association did not state the amount.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I can read something to show—

Mr. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the honourable Premier, despite his long experience is about to read something which should be an official secret. I rise to save the honourable member from the embarrassment of unthinkingly divulging executive secrets which I, nor do I think any honourable member, am not interested in. Let the honourable Premier go on and give his explanation but do not let him commit a breach of the Official Secrets Act. I think he forgets himself sometimes.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I get somebody like the honourable senior member for St. George to tell me how I must conduct myself, I will go and bury myself first. Every minister who knows his duty and what are Executive secrets, knows what he can divulge. I have been born too long to allow these honourable members who climbed up on the backs of the Labour Party to tell me how I should act. If they had any honesty, they would walk out of the Party.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, I would like the honourable member to tell this House exactly how much money the Labour Party contributed to my coming into this House, apart from a bill of \$38 which was sent me from the *Beacon* for handbills and so on. I was a student when the honourable Premier asked me to come over and join the Labour Party.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have made the mistake, Mr. Deputy Speaker, assuming that because they were students, they were qualified by character to be members of the Barbados Labour Party. It is quite true that I asked him to join the Party, but he was not the only student I asked at that time to come and join the Party; I think I had to implore his colleague on his left to do the same thing. If they think that this Government is going to sit down and act like a stick or a stone while they do as they like, they are mistaken. I say again, if they have an decency, they would walk out of the party.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter said that he was not on the Executive when the sum was paid in and he did not know what was the amount. According to a Minute, the question was what was to be done with it and I see that the amount was quoted in three places. The amount there stated is \$3,340.60 and the date of that Minute is the 7th January, 1954.

As far as I remember, we did not at that time decide on the 1st February as the date for inauguration of ministerial status.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT : On the 7th January, I was not there.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS : I am not pursuing that point any further. Over and over again, the honourable junior member for St. Peter makes statements which we can disprove by statements in black and white. The honourable member was in the House on the 5th January; he was at the meeting of the Executive on the 7th January; and was in the House on the 12th January; I am not sure if he was at the meeting of the Executive on the Thursday of that week. It is unfortunate when people in public life allow personal disappointments to make them mislead the public, whether intentionally or otherwise. Here is a member of the Fancy Molasses Board, and although all the members of the Board were guilty in not telling the Government that they could not carry out what was set out in Section 5 (5) of the Act, he chooses to come here and ask questions implying that it was the duty of the Government to do something and the Government did not do anything. Sir, since the honourable junior member for St. Peter has implied that the Government has done nothing in the matter, the Board has met and has told the Government something. I may also say that some of the coopers are quite prepared and willing to work in the land apart from work of a similar nature to what they were doing. I am only showing that even apart from the fact that the Fancy Molasses Board did not put up anything until quite recently, the Government was getting statistics with respect to the situation.

Sir, one of the points that I have made is that it was not primarily the duty of the Government to make provision for the securing of alternative employment for labour displaced by bulk shipment of fancy molasses, though it is always the duty of the Government to see as regards the unemployment in the island. The Government of itself saw what was going on in this matter and it began to collect the statistical information of how many coopers were unemployed as a result and such other information as it thought was necessary. The second point which I made was that the Board later made some recommendations and the Government is now working on the matter. Sir, I withdraw nothing that I have said, neither the word nor the spirit in which I have said it. It is true to say that politicians are at the mercy of the electorate. If members of the Government have done anything wrong, the electorate will kick us out.

Hon. C. E. TALMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second the motion for the adjournment and in so doing, I would first of all give expression to the unenviable position I occupy in taking part in this debate in that I happen to be a member of the Fancy Molasses Board and am also a member of the Government. I think honourable members will fully appreciate my position in this matter. I have listened attentively to the remarks which fell from the lips of the honourable junior member for St. Peter who was a member of the Fancy Molasses Board and I must say that he gave a true account of the various things that took place on the Board but from my point of view, the unfortunate position in this matter is that the questions by the honourable member to the Government in respect of the funds paid into the Fancy Molasses Industry were wrongly timed, because the onus has always been on the Board and not on the Government to make provision for the industry and those displaced as a result of bulk shipment of fancy molasses. In my view, the honourable junior member for St. Peter, who as I have said was a mem-

ber of the Board, by asking those questions, in a veiled way, apparently, was trying to embarrass the Government, the honourable member seeming to forget that the onus was always on the Board and not on the Government.

I would like to make my position perfectly clear. In so doing I would like to say that I was asked to be a member of the Fancy Molasses Board since September, 1953, and I accepted the invitation; but I was only asked, my full appointment was not made to the Board; in other words, the Governor-in-Executive Committee did not actually reply, formally notifying me that I was appointed to serve on that Board. I think that has been the case with most of those persons who were asked to serve on that Board and the result has been that the Board constituted as it was tentatively, did not function as it should function. I think that is the whole difficulty. As a matter of fact, the formal appointments of members to serve on that Board were not made until the 12th March, 1954.

In the meanwhile, the money which accrued as a result of the saving effected through bulk shipment of fancy molasses was paid into the Fund. The honourable junior member for St. Peter made reference to the Price Fixing Committee. The Price Fixing Committee was appointed by Sir John Waddington, a former Governor, and before the Fancy Molasses Board held its first meeting on the 22nd March, the Price Fixing Committee had met and fixed the export price at 76 cents per gallon. The Board was therefore faced with the awkward position that the export price was fixed before the producers price was fixed. We were told that in order to save the industry and to encourage the production of fancy molasses as well as to be in a position to compete with the free market price, the biggest tax that the Board could demand, if we wished the industry well or to keep alive, was one cent. The honourable junior member for St. Peter and myself did our best to get something more but met with a *fait accompli*. We tried in every way possible to protect the displaced coopers. The honourable member subsequently tendered his resignation and I can tell him that he will soon receive a reply to his letter; the reason for the delay being that the Board desired to sit specifically in order to give consideration to his letter of resignation and only did so yesterday. I said that to show the importance which was given to the honourable member resigning his position on the Board.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, because no regulations were drafted nothing could be done although in the meanwhile money was paid in to the Board. Because there were no regulations, the Board could not give any assistance to the workers in the industry who were laid off, either by doling out money to them, or by employment schemes, or by granting them assistance to leave the country in search of employment or by land settlement schemes, or by any other scheme which might be thought fit. Such things cannot be put into effect until regulations are drafted and approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. The first set of regulations which were drafted, did not meet with the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee because they did not carry out the objects of the Bill which were passed by the Legislature and they were rejected. The result has been that a new set of draft regulations have been suggested by the Government, the honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour, the Labour Commissioner, the Director of Agriculture, the Permanent Secretary and a few others including myself. These are now being put into proper form to be submitted to the Governor-in-Executive Committee and

we hope that they will meet with the approval of the Executive.

Sir, it is not right to blame the Government or for anybody to say that the Government is blameworthy in this matter. Although I happen to be a member of the Board and can be said to be occupying a dual capacity by virtue of being a member of the Government, yet I do not blame the Government at all, because the Government was waiting on the Board and in any case, the paying out of money, finding employment or any other function in this matter rests with the Board. It is for such reasons that I say, the questions by the honourable junior member for St. Peter were untimely, and asked at the time they were, they could not serve any useful purpose apart from expediting the work of the Fancy Molasses Board of which the honourable member who asked the questions was a member himself. Again, the honourable junior member for St. Peter by his peculiar position of being a member of that Board when he asked those questions was only asking himself, "why not get ahead and do something for those unfortunate coopers." Although the questions were addressed to the honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour, the honourable member was only asking himself the questions and not the Government. The honourable Minister found himself in the unfortunate position in that he happens to be Minister of Labour, but in truth and fact, he is not blameworthy at all. I would say that if those questions were asked by me with the purpose of attacking the Government the only person who would be under fire would be myself, because I happen to be a member of the Government and a member of the Board. As I have said, the Government could not be attacked because the onus is on the Board to draft regulations whereby assistance would be given to those unemployed as a result of bulk shipment of fancy molasses. The drafting of those regulations was not an easy matter for the Board, but now with the assistance of the Ministry of Labour, we have gone into the matter with more concrete proposals than before and the position is that the situation is now well in hand and regulation would be submitted to the Governor-in-Executive Committee soon, and I hope that in the very near future the Board would be able to carry out its functions according to the objects of the Act of 1953.

Mr. Deputy Speaker in so far as a levy is concerned, a levy will be raised in compliance with the Act, because the phraseology of the Act is 'shall' and not 'may'. The Act states: "there shall be raised" . . . a levy"; in other words it is compulsory or mandatory to raise a levy and it would be a breach of the law if there were no levy. I do admit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is an awkward position to some extent that the Board has found itself in through the Price Fixing Committee having fixed the price of the exporters before the producer's price was fixed and I think an amendment to this Act will have to be brought in because if the Price Fixing Committee can fix the export price before the Fancy Molasses Board can fix the producers' price, the Board will always meet with a *fait accompli*.

With regard to the question of advertising, that has always been done; it was done before the introduction of this new Act. The honourable junior member for St. Peter made mention of advertising. As I have said, it was always done but it is done now on a bigger scale in order to recapture the market. The Price Fixing Committee dealt with the question of advertising, but I take it that they always deal with that question. Sir, though it comes in the recommendation it is not one of the points mentioned under the new Act and I take it that the reason is because it is something that always had to be done. In

conclusion, I will say that the blame for this whole matter should be levelled on the Board though not on any particular member of the Board, but it should not by any means be levelled at all on the Government because the onus is on the Board to draft regulations. The onus is on the Board to find employment for displaced workers in the industry. To attempt to blame the Government or to put the Government on the spot for something which is in the hand of the Board or of which you are a member yourself is wrong and should never be attempted.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,— You have heard the statements which have been made and it is due time that I be given an opportunity to say something on this motion. I do not intend to go over all the ground but the honourable member who has just spoken will remember that this Board met on the 22nd March and my questions were asked on the 23rd February. The honourable Minister has got himself tangled in the events: I could not have done anything to make the Board meet because I was an ordinary member of the Board. What is wrong with any honourable member asking the Government any question? There is no question of embarrassing the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member discussing the replies to the questions?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am saying that the questions I asked arose out of the dismissal of people; the matter was not brought to my attention until February 18, I do not know what is wrong with the Premier, but whatever is wrong with him, it is tragic Molasses was shipped in 1953 and when I made enquiry as to the amount of money which was paid in, it was said that money was paid in but nobody knew what money was paid in. These questions are not any embarrassment to the Government; these questions were asked so as to find out how much money was paid in. If I knew what the amount was, I would have told the workers; I would not have had to ask questions to embarrass the Government.

I have in my possession a letter from the Premier written on the 10th September, 1953; it is one of the few letters which he has ever written and signed. Whenever I die this letter must go down with me. Three months before Ministerial Status the honourable junior member for St. Thomas sat in my home in the presence of my wife (Noise from the visitors' gallery).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Persons who are in the visitors' gallery will remember that they are there on sufferance. They are not at liberty to show their feelings in one way or the other as to what takes place in the House.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable junior member for St. Thomas heard me say, in the presence of my wife, that I had no intention of continuing as a member of the Executive Committee; that was three months before Ministerial Status came into being. The honourable member told me that it was not a wise step for me to take. I joined the Party with a tremendous amount of confidence in both the honourable junior member for St. Thomas and the Premier and I have lost confidence in the Premier. When it is said that I was disappointed because I was not given a Ministerial post, when I decided to remain with the Union, the Premier was the most surprised man because he wanted to tell the Governor what I had decided; he said that he was trying to ring me up for the last nine days so as to give the Governor an answer. Now the honourable member, speaking for the benefit of the people in the gallery, says that I am a disappointed man because I have not been made a Minister. I would not divulge the conversation which he had with the

four of us on that particular Sunday night because although he has seen fit to create an enemy for me, I am a man who believes in a Supreme Being: I will not say what he said about any person in that company.

When I was in Costa Rica a cable was sent to me telling me about the arrangements for Ministerial Status and that the Premier had said that I would be remaining with the Union. That cable was received from the Colonial Secretary. I sent back a cable stating that I would be remaining with the Union. When all the Premier's friends were cursing him I organized something for him at the Airport and now I am told that I have climbed up on the back of the Labour Party. That is the sort of reward one gets; if I had been as faithful to my God as I have been to the Premier, I would have been better off to-day. I wrote a memorandum on Ministerial Government setting out my views when there was some hesitation on certain things; these fingers will work whether I am a member of the House or not. I say that honesty must prevail. Let the Premier ask the honourable junior member for St. Thomas what he has told him; when he tries to establish in the community that I have climbed up on the back of the Labour Party and that I am disappointed because I have not got a Ministerial post, I ask him if he has ever caught me in any dishonest or dishonest act against the Party. All I have done in the Party is to get personal abuse. I was the first person to introduce the idea of a production bonus for the agricultural workers and now I have introduced the idea of severance pay.

I fought for the honourable senior member for St. Michael until I was hoarse; now I am told that I have climbed up on somebody's back; now I am told about a coalition with people on the other side. Coalition with whom? But although we may have different political ideologies, that does not prevent me from having a drink with anybody. At this stage of my life do you think I would consider any question of a coalition?

I think I have said enough to vindicate myself. I asked these questions because I felt that it was in the interest of people who were dismissed to have done so. I did not want to sit as a member of a Board and agree to something which was already a *fait accompli*. I therefore told my Council that I am resigning from the Board. The honourable Premier has told many people that I am aggrieved because I am not a Minister and he can continue to tell the people that. I know that that is not true, he knows it is not true and there are a large number of members who stood at the hall of the Barbados Workers' Union and heard me make the bold statement that the Premier was the most surprised man when he heard of my decision to remain with the Union. I asked: "Why don't you take these people into your confidence and tell them who the Ministers are going to be"? The honourable Minister for Communications could say nothing because he might be like Sapphira: the truth sets you at liberty. I am not the one of whom the Premier says he is the laziest person; he has always found me working and I have been working for the last 20 to 25 years. If he express something and you express something else you are a stumbling-block to the Labour Party he cannot live anywhere in the world because he does not want to deal with a man who does not agree with him.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I made three attempts to curtail this debate; it is still my feeling, and it is the feeling of other members of this House, that no useful purpose was being served by this debate; but since a motion for the adjournment has been made—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member criticising the Chair for allowing this debate to continue?

Mr. BARROW: Not at all. I would not criticise Your Honour of all persons in this House whose integrity has never been impeached by any member at any time. I was only explaining that far from my wanting to speak in this debate at all, I was trying to curtail the debate; but since the debate has degenerated to personal recrimination, I feel it is my duty to raise it back to a certain level. During the course of the debate, the Premier insinuated that I had climbed up on the back of the Labour Party; the Colonial Office is being fooled in its conception of the Labour Party because it feels that the Labour Party is some broad democratic Organisation in this colony. In 1950 this Manifesto was written by Your Honour, a member of the House not now present, myself and the Minister of Communications as Secretary. Certain people in this community got together because we had a broad area of agreement as to what was needed for the improvement of the colony; there was the question of the relief of unemployment and the improvement of the conditions of the working classes in this colony. We went to the electorate with something which was described as the Labour Party which I imagined to be an existing fact at that time; no sooner than the Labour Party obtained 16 seats in this House, we were informed by the Premier that if it came to electing 15 votes from the Labour Party and the hard-working Civil Servant who is now working in British Guiana, he would have to choose Sir Alfred Savage's opinion every time in preference to the Labour Party. However, members of my family were the foundation of the Progressive Movement in this colony and I was obligated because the Labour Party needed a majority; there has never been any change of heart. The Labour Party had no subscriptions and I submitted that 20% of the salaries of members of the Party should be put into a fund and that submission was turned down. When the time of the Elections came my colleague and I were the only people who could produce a balance sheet; I was sent a bill for \$38.50 for printing. I was just beginning at the Bar, I could have been in West Africa, but I came back here with less than a year's practice and spent every cent out of my own pocket.

On one occasion we got together and decided that we must organize the Party and stop all this wrangling in the House; a meeting was called in Queen's Park and something was done which I did not understand any human being could do up to now. The honourable Minister of Social Services was associated with my uncle in the Labour Movement and it was partly due to his blandishments and thinking that no group with which the honourable Minister was associated could be entirely without morals or principles, that I identified myself with the Labour Movement. I did not want any job in the Civil Service because I am temperamentally unfitted for any such job. For the Premier to tell my friends in the Colonial Office that certain members of the Party are Communists is the height of dishonesty. When he discussed me in the Tea Room at the Church House—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I object to the word "dishonesty" but I will reply to the honourable member.

Mr. BARROW: He ought to know that anything he tells people in England about me I will know in seven days. He cannot tell any Labour M.P. anything that I cannot know. I challenge the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour to deny that up to last Friday he wrote an article in the

"Beacon", the newspaper in which Your Honour was stopped from writing for your independent views. That Minister who says that we are forming a Coalition, has threatened that if we voted against a certain Measure, he still had the ability to write. When it was said that the particular newspaper was losing \$4,000 a month, he said that he never boasted that he was any business man; that is the type of individual with whom the Premier has surrounded himself. He can lose \$4,000 a month of the workers' money because he is not a business man.

The honourable Minister has said that the Fancy Molasses Board has no power to do what the Government could do. As you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I worked out simple arithmetic when Sir John Saint, the Premier and the President of the Other Place went to Canada and came back here. I said that even if we pensioned every cooper for life we would still have a margin to play with. Money has been paid into the Board, that money has not been spent and they are sheltering behind technicalities. I am not satisfied with the composition of this Board. Sir John Saint is now taking away £3,000 in respect of the analysis of sugar at Edgill; he is an authority on everything and no coloured man has any ability at all. The honourable member will find out that he is raising a hornet's nest on the water front.

We have been told to get out of the Labour Party, but there was no Labour Party to be in; we felt that it was better to go along with an existing organisation rather than start an organisation. The Premier is only a latter day Socialist but I have been a Socialist from birth; I have never praised Sir John Simon or Stalin in practically the same breath. I was born a Socialist and therefore the Premier should expect certain idiosyncrasies from me at least.

The honourable senior member for St. Michael is only concerned about creating jobs for his friends and that brings the Government into disrespect. I want to say that people climbed up on my back; I did not climb up on their backs. I can go to the Colonial Office or the Foreign Office to-morrow and get a job and the honourable Premier knows that; I have not got to bow down and worship them. When the honourable member was disclosing Executive secrets I told him that he had better be careful because he might soon be swept away from his ambition. I have nothing to conceal or anything to be afraid of; for the eleven years during which I have been out of this colony not one penny from any private firm, the Shipping and Trading Association, Gardiner Austin or any of them, has gone into my pocket. I hope Mr. Douglas Smith and others will read this debate and if they want chapter and verse for it, let them ask people in the House of Commons. I carried banners in 1945; I am no latter day Socialist like the Premier; I told my colleague to-night not to pay much attention to him because it has been said that inside his cranium is like the inside of a pig's belly which has a fatty substance. I repeat; I can go to the Colonial Office or Foreign Office and get a job to-morrow.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I am very grateful for what this debate has brought about to-night.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to remind the honourable member that the motion before the House is a motion for the adjournment so as to discuss the activity of the Fancy Molasses Board.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I am speaking on certain of the remarks which arose out of that motion. I left here some time in 1940 and served in the R.A.F. I left there in 1946 and I can say that I was not kept

in England at the expense of any Government. I have a brother who, despite whatever disagreement we might have had, we like each other. I want to say that the Progressive Movement did not start and end in Barbados; I have been in the Gold Coast Independence Movement and the Indian Independence Movement. As early as 1948 the Minister of Social Services asked me what my intentions were and I declared them; I returned to this colony and was pestered for 2½ months about joining the Labour Party. Since I have joined this Party it is true to say that we have had a Manifesto and whenever I exercised my vote in this House I have never voted against one Socialist principle at all. When I left the University in London I received letters from my colleagues and I could have been happy in England to-day. I got them to think that I could leave for the West Indies and I came here in the interest of my brother. My last remark would be; "To thine own self be true." Honourable members will know to what I am referring.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable senior member for St. George has spoken about my calling people Communists. I have never called anybody in Barbados a Communist, I have said that I have never met a live Communist in Barbados. There were those who flirted with the idea of Communism but I do not believe that there is a live Communist in the island; people do not know the ideology of Communism.

I have never discussed the honourable member at the Colonial Office. I do not know that there is a Tea Room at the Church House. I am not prolonging any quarrel and I say that if I am wrong the people of this colony should throw all of us out of the House. God help those whom the people think are wrong. I have never discussed Stalin or Sir John Simon in this House. (Mr. BARROW: You said that Stalin was the greatest man on earth and I disagreed with you.) One of these days the public will find out what I have found out about the honourable member. I have never said what the honourable member has said, but I would be prepared to say what a close friend of Sir Winston Churchill has said and that is that as between President Roosevelt and Stalin, Stalin was the greater man.

It is all immaterial, but I have risen to contradict substantially any suggestion that I have discussed the name of the honourable senior member for St. George with anybody. Away back in 1937 the Colonial Office called upon all Colonial Governments to let them be aware of what was being said in the Colonial Legislatures. Someone at the Colonial Office would say that he noticed that Mr. So and So has said such and such a thing in the House and has taken you up on such and such a point. I would say "Yes". That is the only way I have discussed anything about anybody in the House. But I am glad that all of this is happening because the public will have a chance of judging what the position is.

I wish to apologize to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker; you have been placed in a very unfortunate position and it is fair to apologize to you, because you were put in such an awkward position that you had to allow this debate to take place. However, nothing happens that has not got its good point; at least the atmosphere has been cleared and everybody knows where we stand. I will make a stupid confession: I have found out how easy it is, almost without a word, to provoke some people who are opposed to the Government and then get their inmost thought. I now ask leave to withdraw my motion.

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—I beg to move that the House do now proceed with the consideration of Private Members' Business.

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

VESTRIES (AMENDMENT OF BORROWING POWER) BILL, 1954 POSTPONED

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I ask leave to take Order No. 21 as the first Order of the Day under this Head. There being no objection, the hon. member was granted leave.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under this Head stands in the name of the hon. senior member for the City—To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911, as amended by the Act 1948—14.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—The Vestry of St. Michael is at present empowered to borrow £20,000 under the provisions of the Act and permission is now being sought to increase that amount to £50,000. We have found that £20,000 is insufficient: it is a question of running the affairs of the parish until the Estimates are prepared. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am making an appeal to the honourable senior member for the City: we have made it a practice, which we are observing, to discuss matters under "Private Members' Business" in Executive Committee. Sometimes a mistake takes place and then it has to be corrected. We have not yet discussed this matter in Executive Committee; I promise the honourable senior member for the City that we can deal with this matter next Tuesday and get it out of the way. I therefore beg to move that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I appreciate what the honourable member has said and I am asking that this Order and the next three Orders be placed high on the Order Paper for the next meeting of the House.

The question that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

"ST. GEORGE'S PARISH (BARBADOS) LOAN BILL, 1954 POSTPONED"

Mr. BARROW: I am asking that Order No. 29 be taken as the next Order of the Day under this Head. I do not think that the same consideration will apply to this Bill as to the other Bill, because

this Bill has been before the House for nine months, and every time I try to deal with it the honourable senior member for St. Michael objects to its being considered. The honourable Leader of the House has promised that he would give time so that this Bill could be dealt with today for the benefit of the people of St. George.

Hon. M. E. COX: I did not oppose the Bill; I never said a word about it. The honourable member cannot help that because he is warped.

Mr. BARROW: I ask the honourable member to withdraw that word, or I will invoke the sympathy of other members of this House and ask that the honourable member be named. I have made a statement of fact that the honourable member has opposed this Bill which will give the people St. George a bath and latrine. Not one standpipe was installed in St. George last year; the honourable member wants to have all the power to give out jobs and install standpipes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member has taken offence at the use of the word "warped"; I ask the honourable senior member for St. Michael to withdraw it.

Hon. M. E. COX: I have always obeyed the Chair and I will do that now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the honourable member.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: In fixing the Order Paper—

Mr. BARROW: I am asking that Order No. 29 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Hon. M. E. COX: I object.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am appealing to the honourable senior member for St. George to take our word just as the honourable senior member for the City has taken it. Before Ministerial Status started I said that we ought to take every Private Member's Bill and go through it; the Honourable Leader of the House did promise the honourable senior member for St. George that he would give him an opportunity to deal with this Bill, but it has not been gone through.

Mr. BARROW: I understand that the honourable Leader of the House has moved up this Order and I am therefore asking leave to withdraw my request to deal with this Order.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week at 3 o'clock p.m.

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