THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, February 1, 1954.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 9.30 o'clock a.m. today, when His Excellency the Governor Brigadier Sir Robert Arundell, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., addressed the Legislature on the occasion of the inauguration of Ministerial Government in the Council Chamber, Public Buildings.

Present:

His Honour, Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*), Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Mr. W. A. CRAWFORD, Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. M. E. Cox, Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. T. O. BRYAN, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Mr. C. E. TALMA, Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, Mr. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., and Mr. L. A. WILLIAMS, LL.B.

Prayers were read.

Mr. G. H. ADAMS and Mr. O. T. ALLDER entered the House and took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would suggest to honourable members that on this House being summoned to the Other Place that honourable members follow me in order of seniority and on the return, after the names of the Ministers have been announced, that the Ministers take priority to other honourable members.

Mr. ADAMS: May I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that inasmuch as we have not got together on the question of re-arrangement of seating, that honourable members come back in the same order as they went out. Obviously, until the names of the Ministers are announced, the fact of seniority can be the only guide. I suggest that it will be conducive to a bit of confusion if we do not come back as we went out.

Honourable members being in their places, the Sergeant-at-Arms entered the Chamber and informed Mr. SPEAKER that His Excellency the Governor was in the Council Chamber and was awaiting the House.

Mr. SPEAKER preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and followed by honourable members in pairs according to seniority, proceeded to the Council Chamber and awaited His Excellency the Governor.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS

His Excellency then addressed the two Houses of the Legislature as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

When I took the oaths of my office in this Chamber last May, I said that the name of Barbados had already become associated in my mind with the loyalty and stability of her people. To-day, as we usher in what is, perhaps, the most advanced system of government to be found in any British Colony, one wonders if such a development can ever have been preceded or accompanied by so little fuss.

Even this ceremony, which in most other countries would have occasioned the greatest public interest, if not excitement, had to be fixed at this early hour so as not to interfere with the cricket. The presence in the Island of the visiting M.C.C. team is a happy augury, for no game can have had so much influence upon the character of our peoples. Indeed, Viscount Hailsham once used the game of cricket to illustrate his arguments on the subject of Cabinet responsibility, when he wrote:—

> "Like the rules of cricket, the correct interpretation of "the conventions of Cabinet government has always been open to argument.

"This is because the institution, like the game, depends "as much for its efficient working upon sentiments of honour "and considerations of practical convenience, as upon formal "rules and regulations, and has evolved slowly and naturally "through the centuries, remaining still in a state of develop- "ment to-day."

As in the United Kingdom, so here, there has been a steady development within the framework of an ancient, but very flexible constitution. No amendment of the constitution was needed in order to introduce a ministerial system of government. It was only necessary to settle the principles upon which the system should be based in agreement with Her Majesty's Government. As an Englishman, perhaps I may be permitted to say that it is a source of pride and happiness to me that Barbados has chosen of her own free will to model the development of her institutions upon the English parliamentary system. It is on that system that the British Commonwealth has been built, and I believe it is the best system that the world has ever seen.

The nature of the changes we are making has been expounded and debated at length, both in this Chamber and in the Other Place, and it is not necessary for me to advocate what has already been agreed, or to explain what is already understood. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to what strike me as the most important features of the changes.

Ever since the Settlement in the 17th Century, Barbados has enjoyed the uninterrupted possession of a large measure of self-government so far as the Legislature is concerned. The General Assembly of the Island is composed entirely of Elected Members. The Queen has no power to legislate for the Island by Order-in-Council; Her Majesty's Representative in Barbados has no positive reserve powers, only the power of veto. A few years ago the Island took in its stride the grant of the franchise to every adult. The life of a parliament has recently been extended from two to three and again to five years.

On the executive side progress has been slower but equally sure. Executive power is vested by the Constitutional Instruments in the Governor-in-Executive Council. In 1881 the first step towards a ministerial system of government was taken, albeit unknowingly, when the Legislature created a new executive body, the Executive Committee, consisting of the Executive Council, one member of the upper House and four members of the lower House appointed by the Governor. Executive Committee then became the Government's principal instrument of policy, Executive Council retiring into the position of a Privy Council.

The next, and this time a conscious step towards a ministerial system of government, was taken in 1946, when Sir Grattan Bushe introduced the experiment which bears his name. This innovation was so important that I think it necessary to quote briefly from his speech in this Chamber:—

"On the assembling of the new House, therefore, the "Officer Administering the Government will send for the "person who appears to him to be best able to command a "majority in the House of Assembly and will ask him to "submit to him names from the House for membership of "the Executive Committee, and Members of the Executive "Committee will be asked respectively to take charge of the "general policy relating to particular departments of gov- "ernment for the purpose of dealing with the affairs of those "departments in Executive Committee and in the House of "Assembly.

"The Executive Committee will then in practice cease to "be merely a collection of individuals nominated by the Gov- "ernor for the purpose of advising him and will become an "effective organ of government accepting collective respons- "ibility for policy, though the Governor must under the "constitution as at present existing retain ultimate re- "sponsibility."

Two years later Sir Hilary Blood made it known to the Legislature that his practice in Executive Committee, as a general though not as an absolute rule, was to accept the unanimous advice of the House of Assembly members.

Thus the stage was set, not suddenly as a result of popular clamour, but gradually, with dignity and assurance over the years, for full-time Ministers of the Crown, responsible collectively to the Legislature and so to the people of the Island, to take up the reins of Government.

This morning, the Honourable G. H. Adams, C.M.G., Q.C., M.C.P., became the first Premier of Barbados. He has also been appointed a Member of Executive Council by Her Majesty's direction for such period as he holds office. Four other Ministers have been appointed by me on the Premier's recommendation :—

Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour	The Honourable R. G. Mapp, M.C.P.
Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries	The Honourable C. E. Talma, M.C.P.
Minister of Social Services	The Honourable Dr. H. G. H. Cummins, M.C.P.
Minister of Communications, Works and Housing	The Honourable M. E. Cox, M.C.P.

You will note that I have used the title "Honourable" in each case and I should explain that the Secretary of State has approved the use locally of this title by all members of Executive Committee for so long as they remain members of that Body.

The Ministers will be responsible for operating a ministerial system of government in accordance with the several conventions set out or referred to in the despatches that were laid before the Legislature with my message No. 25 of 1953. In so doing it will be incumbent upon them, and upon me as Governor, to follow the constitutional conventions observed in the United Kingdom, so far as these are applicable to our local circumstances and to the constitutional position in Barbados as it will be under the new system.

This means, **inter alia**, that the Ministers will be expected to conform to the code of ethics that governs Ministerial conduct in the United Kingdom. And I should like to say publicly that it took no prompting from me or from London to induce Mr. Adams and the party he represents to accept the need for such rules of obligation, among which I might mention the rules that a Minister must vacate any official post in a trade union or the directorship of a public company.

Now what do the changes amount to in practice? To understand this, it is necessary to examine the administrative machinery of government. We have seen that the Bushe Experiment initiated a rudimentary ministerial system in that the House of Assembly members of Executive Committee became, in practice, not merely advisory, but also collectively responsible for policy over a wide field, though the Governor retained ultimate responsibility. But while the House of Assembly members have generally had the power of decision in Executive Committee, the obligation and responsibility for working up matters to the point of decision and for translating decisions into action, in consultation with and through the various departments of government, have rested on the Colonial Secretary and his staff.

This was the only workable arrangement so long as the House of Assembly Members were only expected to give a portion of their time to public affairs, but it has obvious shortcomings and I fancy it must have led to a good deal of frustration on both sides. It has also placed an almost intolerable burden on the Colonial Secretary.

In Britain the outstanding feature of constitutional progress over the centuries has been the growing power of the people in their own Government. This was developed, first, through an expanding suffrage for election to the House of Commons, and, secondly, through the gradual transfer over the centuries of executive power from the Crown to elected members of that

House. In Barbados, the introduction of universal suffrage completed progress in the first respect. The new ministerial system is a momentous step along the second line of progress, namely, the gradual transfer of executive power to elected members of the House, and will, I feel sure, sweep away many of the shortcomings and frustrations of the old system.

How great this step is, can be seen when one analyses the far-reaching changes that are being made in the methods of conducting Government business on the executive side. The old central Secretariat has disappeared and in its place five Ministries have been set up, each in charge of an elected member of the House. These Ministers thus assume the general control and direction of the affairs of most of the departments of Government. It becomes their responsibility to make the decisions and to give the directions that up to this morning rested with the Colonial Secretary. It becomes their task to make recommendations on matters which require reference to higher authority —Executive Committee, the Governor or the Secretary of State. In Executive Committee they become individually responsible for propounding all business connected with their Ministries, and in the House of Assembly, they become collectively responsible for supporting all decisions of Executive Committee.

To enable the Ministers to discharge these heavy administrative responsibilities, it has been necessary to provide some additional staff. The efficiency of a ministerial system of government anywhere depends very largely on the calibre of the civil servants who man the Ministries. Realising this, I feel sure that Permanent Secretaries and their staffs will rise to their new responsibilities and will help to convince the doubters that the extra cost has been well worthwhile.

In accordance with well-proved British traditions certain aspects of government are removed from ministerial control. First of all, the Judicature remains independent of all political control. The independence of the Bench is a vital principle of the British democratic system.

Secondly, the Attorney General will retain complete freedom of action in regard to the control and institution of prosecutions and those other matters which are traditionally the functions of his Office.

Thirdly, the control of the Public Service remains outside the political arena in order that public servants may do their duty un-influenced by fear or favour. The political neutrality of the Public Service is another cardinal feature of British democratic government.

Fourthly, the special arrangements for Police, detailed in the enclosures to my Message No. 25 of 1953, while entrusting the Premier with certain responsibilities in relation to Police administration, will preserve the essential independence of the Police Force, who exist under the British system, not to carry out the instructions of the Government of the day, but to preserve the peace and to enforce the law.

The special responsibilities of the Colonial Secretary, under his new title of Chief Secretary, were referred to in my Message No. 25 of 1953. He will be responsible under the Governor for all matters relating to the establishment and personnel of the Public Service, for defence and security matters, external affairs, ceremonial, and for the administrative work of Executive Committee. Besides these particular responsibilities the Chief Secretary, as deputy to the Governor, will share with me the general duty of cooperating impartially and constructively with the elected representatives of the people and of maintaining the basic constitutional conventions.

Executive Committee will continue to be the Government's principal instrument of policy. The Governor will continue to preside and decisions will continue to be reached in the light of the advice freely and frankly tendered by the Governor and by all members, including the Executive Council members and the Legislative Council member, and by the Financial Secretary, who, by convention, attends all meetings of Executive Committee. I have seen this arrangement described as illogical, but it is workable, thanks to the abundant goodwill that exists between

all concerned, and I am sure it is in the best interests both of the party in power and of good government.

One of the basic conventions that we have accepted is that in arriving at his decision in Executive Committee the Governor will, except where it appears to him that grave or exceptional circumstances compel him to act otherwise, accept in legislative matters the advice of the Ministers. It can thus be seen where responsibility lies.

I should perhaps mention that it is proposed to relieve Executive Committee of some of the administrative routine which has tended to clog the machine of government.

There is one other feature of the changes to which I must refer. A salary is provided for the Leader of the Opposition. This provision recognises how vital it is for the healthy development of parliamentary government that there should always exist a well organised opposition party. The Secretary of State's comment that "the feasibility of such a provision would depend on whether such a person could be readily identified" reflects the state of the parties today.

That brings me to the end of my general review of the changes we are making in our system of government. I believe they are sound and workable. They certainly represent a great advance towards self-government and they will, I believe, help Barbados to fulfil her destiny in the Caribbean.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

The first Ministers of the Crown in Barbados, who, let it be remembered, are sacrificing their private interests in order to serve their country, have a heavy and difficult task before them. They must be made to feel that they have the sympathy and goodwill of all classes, not necessarily for their party programme, but certainly for the success of the system of government, which it is their privilege and their duty to inaugurate.

For my part I should like to assure them of the wholehearted cooperation of the Public Service and of myself.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,
Barbados.
1st February, 1954.

At the close of the Address, His Excellency presented Mr. Speaker with a printed copy of it.

Mr. Speaker and the other honourable members, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER REPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that on the last occasion when His Excellency the Governor was pleased to receive the House in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to deliver a speech and to present me with a copy of it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that His Excellency's Speech be taken as read.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HON. G. H. ADAMS ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, It would be impossible, altogether inappropriate, if not improper, for me to let an occasion of this sort pass without making a few remarks on the event that is now taking place in this island in order to mark our sense of its outstanding importance in the development not only of constitutional government in this country but constitutional government in all British colonial territories. As His Excellency has so comprehensively and so lucidly explained the position which has taken place and which this morning's ceremony marks out, it is unnecessary for me to remind this House except in passing reference of the unique position that we have attained and the unique opportunity that has been offered to all of us not only for insuring the good government of this country but of setting an example which we hope would be followed by other colonies not so fortunate in so far as attaining a measure of self-government as we have attained.

In a spirit, not I hope of boasting but of paying tribute to the sense of responsibility that characterises Barbados generally, I would like—and I think it my duty—to draw attention to what I have called the unique position that Barbados holds among colonial territories as a result of our present constitutional

advance. Put briefly, we have attained a measure of self-government which in internal affairs is beyond that of any other dependent unit in the British Empire. This is something which we are justly entitled to be proud of but with our pride must come the sobering reflection that ours is a terrible responsibility, and when I say ours, I mean not merely the Ministers, other Honourable Members of this House and myself, but the people of Barbados.

It is not enough for us, the Government, to succeed as a party. The Government as a party must succeed in improving conditions in this country, and the Government as the unit that is entrusted with this great advance must set an example. I hope that other colonies do not take this as normal Barbadian boasting but it is well known that the spirit of Barbadians is to lead the way. That is by the way. We are saying now that it is our solemn duty with the constitutional advance we now have to show the rest of the world, not merely the United Kingdom Government, that the apparent failure of constitutional development in any area in the British Empire whether it be Malaya, India, British Guiana or anywhere else, is not due to the fact that they are not in the colonial territories people who are prepared to put the good government of their community before personal or racial prejudices.

Fundamentally, we do not differ in this island as regards the role of trying to improve conditions. Unfortunately, the Opposition, like the Conservative Opposition of Great Britain, has just copied the programme of Government and as a result of that it is useful to us, so really speaking, there is no Opposition in this Chamber. I hope the words and the implications of the Head of the Executive will create in my friends on the left some attempt at having some coherent policy which may aid by nature of contrast Government in its endeavour to promote good government in this colony.

I say, Mr. Speaker, ours is a great responsibility and it is no affectation on my part when I say on behalf of all Ministers that we are deeply conscious of this responsibility. We realize that a greater burden is placed on us now in administrative matters than was placed on us in the past seven years when we had what was called the Bushe Experiment but which was never any real experiment but a natural evolution of self-government in this island. We are conscious, I repeat, of our added responsibilities and our duties. Conscious as we are of these responsibilities, we pledge our best efforts to guide this country aright. We know full well the truth of Macaulay's saying that ministerial office is a laborious, invidious, closely watched slavery which is mocked with the name of power, therefore, we shall try our utmost best to balance the advantages of so-called power against the disadvantages in this most critical spot on the earth, Barbados now that we are responsible for the good government of this country and we shall try to make the most insensitive politician aware of the tremendous task that lies before us.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not be too serious in the remarks I am making this morning but we are often inclined to pass by lightly a great event in history because we are near to it and because it is actually happening. No doubt, to-day's happening is a great event in our history. To-day in the true sense of the word,—if I may not be found guilty of using a rhetorical expression—is an historic occasion in the history of Barbados. Unfortunately, as His Excellency has reminded us, the average Barbadian is likely to put cricket before anything else and the conjunction of the cricket tournament may possibly make us not fully conscious of what today means to us here as we should be. I feel, however, that I should express what should be in the minds of all of us, that it devolves on members of the Government Party to rise to the importance of this occasion and to support wholeheartedly the Government which has come into power and which has promised to put into effect those principles of socialism that bind us together in the struggle for better conditions for the masses of the island. It is a fact that this Government has continued over the past seven years to direct the destinies of this country because it has the support of the people, the people being conscious of the improved standard of life which this Government and its great ally, the Barbados Workers Union, have brought about and which we will in the future extend.

I therefore appeal to the members of the Government Party, here and now, to rededicate themselves to maintain the unity and the growth of this great party to which has been entrusted the future well-being of this community. For myself, Mr. Speaker, I have no fear. Political prophesy is always dangerous, but I think I can make the assertion that in the lifetime of all of us sitting around this table, this Labour Party will remain in power because for the first time in the history of Barbados, it is the Party of the people. Sir, let none of us think that any one man, be he Premier or back-bencher, is greater than the Party or the cause of Barbados. (Cheers). The people will be the ultimate judge and I have no fear of the verdict they will give. (Cheers). Let me say that from today, I will turn from appealing to the representatives of the people in this Chamber to the 220,000 jurymen of this island. I have no fear of the verdict of that jury as long as this party fulfills its promises which it made to the people at election time. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to members of the Government Party to let us work together, ministers and back benchers alike as a team taking the field without any malice to anyone, without even — if I may use a cricket term parliamentarily—a mild or body-line bowling attack. Sir, let us take the field in that spirit, prepared to win if possible, but at any rate, to play the game. I am sure that if we continue in the way we have begun, with that earnest desire to fight, all the forces, all the foes of orderly progress, whether they come from the extreme right or the extreme left, will not prevail and we will always win. If this Government is prepared so to control the destinies of this country, unswayed by fear or threat, and certainly never giving way to favour or personal interest, then I have no fear whatever for the future of Barbados. Let me say, though with no boastful pride, that due to our historical circumstances, if ever an experiment is to be tried in any dependent territory of the British Empire, without any fear of its success, this is the colony in which to try it. The Bushe Experiment has passed. They called it an experiment, but it was not an experiment; it was the natural evolution of parliamentary government in this colony.

Before I sit down, I will also make this appeal. I make it without any motives whatever save because of this auspicious occasion I think it should be made. I appeal to all members of this House to let us work together for the good of the community. His Excellency the Governor has assured us of the co-operation of the Civil Service, and this Government is promising its co-operation. As all honourable members know, the whole question of ministerial status depends on the efficient working of the Civil Servants. Not only is this so to this Government of Barbados, but it is also so to other governments in other countries. Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain has to depend on the efficiency of the British Civil Service for the good running

of his government. Because of that, we must have a permanent Civil Service with servants who will have no cause to fear who is or who will be in power so long as they do their duty.

What is the position so far as the Opposition in this Chamber. I will say that far from counting them as our opponents, I am sorry that they are not greater opponents than they are. They sit and talk among themselves and make remarks occasionally but, unfortunately, the Government gathers nothing from them. This is not as good as it should be. No human being is perfect, therefore nothing is perfect, but we do need in this Chamber an official Opposition, which would not merely vote against the Government but help the Government and if the Government makes a mistake — a remote possibility — it will help the Government to correct that mistake.

(A VOICE: That is ridiculous.)

Mr. Speaker, I am appealing to all who may today feel some disappointment on not having attained the plums of office to remember that the cause is greater than the man. In any assembly, many are called but few are chosen. A man might be the best bowler in the world, but he may not be chosen to represent his country on the cricket field; nevertheless, it is his duty to play the game and do nothing to hinder the success of the eleven that has been chosen. Sir, all of us have our part to play in this new system of Government, whether it be in the initiation of discussion or the augmentation of policy. I do appeal to all honourable members on the Government side to see that ours is a responsibility. What we have been granted today has not been granted to any other dependent unit — neither Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Jamaica, Trinidad nor any other portion of the British Empire. It is not so much the accomplishment which can be said to have founded in the unique virtues in ourselves under the present generation that has caused the consciousness on the part of Her Majesty's Government to give us so advanced a form of ministerial government, but because of the sense of the responsibility which the people of Barbados have always put in the political affairs of their country and the historical fact of having three centuries of representative government progressing from one stage to another along parliamentary lines of international government. I think it is because of this difference that we have succeeded in convincing our neighbours and even our friends more distant than the Caribbean area that we are foremost. It is because of this fact that Barbados deserves the position it has to-day.

I wish, Mr. Speaker,—and I may say you too would wish as Speaker—to thank the Legislature of our sister colony of Grenada for the congratulations which it has tendered to this colony on this great advance that is taking place. There are other [illegible] system of representation now elevated to responsible government.

Mr. Speaker I have used the word 'responsibility' very often this morning. It was inevitable for me to do so. I will only remind honourable members and the outside public that we have to-day responsible Government—a government which we never had before. This Government is responsible to this House and to nobody else. This House is responsible to the electorate and nobody else and the electorate is responsible to their own consciences and their own sane and sober judgment on political issues. Let us all in this spirit go forward determined to hand on to future generations, strengthened and unsullied the great instrument of good government that we have been granted this morning. Let us make the words "government by the people and for the people" not merely a phrase for apt quotation, but a really living and virile principle of our parliamentary government in this struggle for a better Barbados. Mr. Speaker, let us on this historic day shine forth as if it were that we had a beacon before us to light our footsteps and go forward in the light of our responsibilities and our opportunities to make a better Barbados fighting together as a band of happy warriors. (Cheers).

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, when I gave way to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, who is now elevated to the distinguished position of Premier, I only wanted to offer sincere congratulations on behalf of those of us on this side of the Table on this great attainment to-day not only on the part of the Ministers but the people of Barbados. I did not anticipate that I would have to reply to something more than that, and as a matter of fact, the condition of my throat to-day would not allow me to do justice even to the offering of sincere congratulations. However, it is my duty so to do, and I do so with no flattery whatsoever. I believe honourable members will remember that in our reply to His Excellency's Message—I refer to those of us from the party to which I belong—we stated that we were prepared to support any measure which gave Barbados a greater sense of responsibility and a greater control in the affairs of this colony. It is for that reason that I rise to-day—and I think it is my duty—to congratulate not only the Premier and the other four Ministers, but the people of Barbados on having attained this great advance and I do hope that we would all make a success of it. I do hope that this form of Government would mean a betterment to Barbados as a whole.

Sir, we on [illegible]ide of the Table, while we have lost powe[illegible]y, have been watching the worl[illegible]er and while we do not

to say now how does he account for his party having adopted the Public Utility Bill against his party's policy of nationalisation? How does he account for his party now adopting tourism which is the policy of my party? How does he account for his party having adopted the Aid to Industries Bill? The honourable member was rather boastful this morning in so far as his prediction that it will not be in the lifetime of any of us that the party in power will be ousted, I will only say that the honourable member cannot always be right. I must arrest those remarks: "The Government gathers nothing from the Opposition and its members only come in here and talk." I am going to be rather strong in my criticism on that statement. I will say that if that remark comes from a man who is honest in his criticisms, it is a dishonest remark. How can the honourable member say that he gathers nothing from the Opposition when on many occasions the Opposition gets up and makes criticism which the Government has to take into consideration and which more or less makes it necessary for the Government to take the measure back to the Executive. I was surprised to hear the honourable member use those remarks this morning; I was surprised to hear a man in his position making on a morning like this a speech which could only be termed as one to the gallery. As the honourable member has said on many occasions before, whatsoever goes up must come down. Little does he know that it is ludicrous for him to use those remarks. Sir, God help any country that does not have some measure of Opposition. God help Barbados if it did not have an Opposition. I would say from the depth of my heart, that what has given the Government strength will not give the Opposition strength. I will say no more on this matter as this is not an occasion to make such a speech.

Sir, we are all very glad to see present amongst us to-day the Hon. T. A. Marryshow of Grenada who is the grandfather of political movements in the West Indies. We are also proud to see other responsible political leaders.

Although the Opposition has been made to believe that it contributes nothing to the public, I am still minded that it has made its contribution to several matters. What comes to my memory fleetingly is that some years ago when the Labour Party promised the people that it would nationalise the Electric Company and the Gas Company and even the Barbados Rediffusion within six months of the party coming into power that I told them I would offer my seat if they did it in that time. Years have passed and nationalisation has not been carried into effect by that party. That policy has been somewhat modified and [illegible]ition, [illegible] honourable

fly around of the Government, that they are lying jades. We do hope that what we have seen in the Press happen in other colonies of the West Indies will not happen in Barbados. It is for that reason that I throw out this warning. I will say most emphatically that we must be more than careful. From the Premier's predictions, none of us will live long enough to see the Labour Government out of power. That would mean that I would be in the opposition as long as I have honour to serve the people whom I represent. If that is the case, let me warn the Government that I will be looking into every possible matter and will be asking questions as vigourously, if not more vigourously, than before. Sir, even although there is a change in the system of Government, anyone who is acquainted with the running of the country and who walks and keeps his ears to the ground is bound to hear and know things. The Opposition in this Chamber, though slim, is comprised of thinking members—members who can think for themselves and not members who have to be dictated to. We are therefore prepared to think for ourselves and to say at all times when we see a measure is right to vote in the favour if Government and when we see something that is wrong to vote against the Government.

Sir, I now offer personal congratulations to the Premier and the other Ministers. I do hope that the system will work for the good of the country. From my personal observations, the one and only way to get this system working properly is for every minister and every honourable member in this Chamber to be aware of his high responsibilities and though a minister's suggestion might clash with that of other honourable members that the better way would always be taken for the good of the island. I foresee that any attempt at dictatorship will be fatal to this form of government I have listened attentively to the appeal by the Premier and I would like him to know that this new system of government has a good chance of working for the good of the country provided that the opinions and criticisms, not only of members of the Opposition but also of backbenchers of the Government's Party are respected. I know that the honourable member would not want me to tell him that, but I also know that he still has his whip over certain members of his party. At any rate, I do hope he will take high regard of any criticism, opinion or suggestion by any of his backbenchers. In that way he can more ensure of what he has said that his government will not fail in the lifetime of any of us.

I would also like the honourable Premier to know that the Party to which I belong—I believe I can speak for it—would not like to take over the government of this country at this stage. Members of our Party would prefer to see the honourable member [illegible] this new system of Government which

of his government. Because of that, we must have a permanent Civil Service with servants who will have no cause to fear who is or who will be in power so long as they do their duty.

What is the position so far as the Opposition in this Chamber. I will say that far from counting them as our opponents, I am sorry that they are not greater opponents than they are. They sit and talk among themselves and make remarks occasionally but, unfortunately, the Government gathers nothing from them. This is not as good as it should be. No human being is perfect, therefore nothing is perfect, but we do need in this Chamber an official Opposition, which would not merely vote against the Government but help the Government and if the Government makes a mistake — a remote possibility — it will help the Government to correct that mistake.

(A VOICE: That is ridiculous.)

Mr. Speaker, I am appealing to all who may today feel some disappointment on not having attained the plums of office to remember that the cause is greater than the man. In any assembly, many are called but few are chosen. A man might be the best bowler in the world, but he may not be chosen to represent his country on the cricket field; nevertheless, it is his duty to play the game and do nothing to hinder the success of the eleven that has been chosen. Sir, all of us have our part to play in this new system of Government, whether it be in the initiation of discussion or the augmentation of policy. I do appeal to all honourable members on the Government side to see that ours is a responsibility. What we have been granted today has not been granted to any other dependent unit — neither Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Jamaica, Trinidad nor any other portion of the British Empire. It is not so much the accomplishment which can be said to have founded in the unique virtues in ourselves under the present generation that has caused the consciousness on the part of Her Majesty's Government to give us so advanced a form of ministerial government, but because of the sense of the responsibility which the people of Barbados have always put in the political affairs of their country and the historical fact of having three centuries of representative government progressing from one stage to another along parliamentary lines of international government. I think it is because of this difference that we have succeeded in convincing our neighbours and even our friends more distant than the Caribbean area that we are foremost. It is because of this fact that Barbados deserves the position it has to-day.

I wish, Mr. Speaker,—and I may say you too would wish as Speaker—to thank the Legislature of our sister colony of Grenada for the congratulations which it has tendered to this colony on this great advance that is taking place. There are others who have also sent me cables of congratulations and I wish to say how greatly I appreciate them. I have received a cable of congratulations from the Mayor and Council of the neighbouring colony of Trinidad so for some people to think that there should be any reason why Trinidad and Barbados should not be other than sisters in this British Commonwealth has always been past my understanding. It is a measure of great pleasure to myself personally that a cable of congratulations has come from a Local Council — the borough of San Fernando — in the colony of Trinidad and Tobago.

It is the duty of us all in our alloted spheres to build firmly and fruitfully on the sure foundations which have been laid by the pioneers of this movement of which the Government is the true embodiment, and upon that more fundamental bedrock—a system of representation now elevated to responsible government.

Mr. Speaker I have used the word 'responsibility' very often this morning. It was inevitable for me to do so. I will only remind honourable members and the outside public that we have to-day responsible Government—a government which we never had before. This Government is responsible to this House and to nobody else. This House is responsible to the electorate and nobody else and the electorate is responsible to their own consciences and their own sane and sober judgment on political issues. Let us all in this spirit go forward determined to hand on to future generations, strengthened and unsullied the great instrument of good government that we have been granted this morning. Let us make the words "government by the people and for the people" not merely a phrase for apt quotation, but a really living and virile principle of our parliamentary government in this struggle for a better Barbados. Mr. Speaker, let us on this historic day shine forth as if it were that we had a beacon before us to light our footsteps and go forward in the light of our responsibilities and our opportunities to make a better Barbados fighting together as a band of happy warriors. (Cheers).

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, when I gave way to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, who is now elevated to the distinguished position of Premier, I only wanted to offer sincere congratulations on behalf of those of us on this side of the Table on this great attainment to-day not only on the part of the Ministers but the people of Barbados. I did not anticipate that I would have to reply to something more than that, and as a matter of fact, the condition of my throat to-day would not allow me to do justice even to the offering of sincere congratulations. However, it is my duty so to do, and I do so with no flattery whatsoever. I believe honourable members will remember that in our reply to His Excellency's Message—I refer to those of us from the party to which I belong—we stated that we were prepared to support any measure which gave Barbados a greater sense of responsibility and a greater control in the affairs of this colony. It is for that reason that I rise to-day—and I think it is my duty—to congratulate not only the Premier and the other four Ministers, but the people of Barbados on having attained this great advance and I do hope that we would all make a success of it. I do hope that this form of Government would mean a betterment to Barbados as a whole.

Sir, we on this side of the Table, while we have lost power in this country, have been watching the working of the party in power and while we do not agree with everything it does, we give our moral support whenever we believe it is necessary for the good of the government as a whole. I listened to the remarks of the Premier and while I sat and listened to him, the words of the Great Book came to me "He that humbles himself shall be exalted," and I wonder whether he realises that he should have taken with great humility this occasion instead of assuming the boastful manner which was shown by his speech. I must reply to the part of it when he said words to the effect that the Conservative Opposition in this Chamber has no policy and only adopt measures of his party. Although this occasion is so auspicious, I cannot sit and allow those remarks to go unchallenged. We, the members of the party to which I belong, have always said that our fundamental difference of policy from that of the party in power, is on the question of nationalisation. If my party have no policy, I am going to ask the honourable member

to say now how does he account for his party having adopted the Public Utility Bill against his party's policy of nationalisation? How does he account for his party now adopting tourism which is the policy of my party? How does he account for his party having adopted the Aid to Industries Bill? The honourable member was rather boastful this morning in so far as his prediction that it will not be in the lifetime of any of us that the party in power will be ousted, I will only say that the honourable member cannot always be right. I must arrest those remarks: "The Government gathers nothing from the Opposition and its members only come in here and talk." I am going to be rather strong in my criticism on that statement. I will say that if that remark comes from a man who is honest in his criticisms, it is a dishonest remark. How can the honourable member say that he gathers nothing from the Opposition when on many occasions the Opposition gets up and makes criticism which the Government has to take into consideration and which more or less makes it necessary for the Government to take the measure back to the Executive. I was surprised to hear the honourable member use those remarks this morning; I was surprised to hear a man in his position making on a morning like this a speech which could only be termed as one to the gallery. As the honourable member has said on many occasions before, whatsoever goes up must come down. Little does he know that it is ludicrous for him to use those remarks. Sir, God help any country that does not have some measure of Opposition. God help Barbados if it did not have an Opposition. I would say from the depth of my heart, that what has given the Government strength will not give the Opposition strength. I will say no more on this matter as this is not an occasion to make such a speech.

Sir, we are all very glad to see present amongst us to-day the Hon. T. A. Marryshow of Grenada who is the grandfather of political movements in the West Indies. We are also proud to see other responsible political leaders.

Although the Opposition has been made to believe that it contributes nothing to the public, I am still minded that it has made its contribution to several matters. What comes to my memory fleetingly is that some years ago when the Labour Party promised the people that it would nationalise the Electric Company and the Gas Company and even the Barbados Rediffusion within six months of the party coming into power that I told them I would offer my seat if they did it in that time. Years have passed and nationalisation has not been carried into effect by that party. That policy of Government has been somewhat modified and it is due to the Opposition, yet the honourable Premier is saying that the Opposition has no policy. Sir, as a full-blooded Barbadian, I would say from the depth of my heart, that whatever differences there may be between members of the Government Party and the Party to which I belong, politically speaking, I do hope for the sake of posterity and for the sake of all West Indian people that our form of ministerial system will work for the good of all. I do hope, that in the performance of their duties, the ministers will be spared of any slander. However one may feel as an individual, whatever personal feeling one may have against another individual, I believe that every honourable member in this Chamber would not like to see this system of Government become a state of corruption because it would speak badly not only for the Government of Barbados but for the West Indies. I do hope that those of us who are outside the Government will be able to say at all times, should rumours of ill repute fly around of the Government, that they are lying jades. We do hope that what we have seen in the Press happen in other colonies of the West Indies will not happen in Barbados. It is for that reason that I throw out this warning. I will say most emphatically that we must be more than careful. From the Premier's predictions, none of us will live long enough to see the Labour Government out of power. That would mean that I would be in the opposition as long as I have honour to serve the people whom I represent. If that is the case, let me warn the Government that I will be looking into every possible matter and will be asking questions as vigourously, if not more vigourously, than before. Sir, even although there is a change in the system of Government, anyone who is acquainted with the running of the country and who walks and keeps his ears to the ground is bound to hear and know things. The Opposition in this Chamber, though slim, is comprised of thinking members—members who can think for themselves and not members who have to be dictated to. We are therefore prepared to think for ourselves and to say at all times when we see a measure is right to vote in the favour if Government and when we see something that is wrong to vote against the Government.

Sir, I now offer personal congratulations to the Premier and the other Ministers. I do hope that the system will work for the good of the country. From my personal observations, the one and only way to get this system working properly is for every minister and every honourable member in this Chamber to be aware of his high responsibilities and though a minister's suggestion might clash with that of other honourable members that the better way would always be taken for the good of the island. I foresee that any attempt at dictatorship will be fatal to this form of government. I have listened attentively to the appeal by the Premier and I would like him to know that this new system of government has a good chance of working for the good of the country provided that the opinions and criticisms, not only of members of the Opposition but also of backbenchers of the Government's Party are respected. I know that the honourable member would not want me to tell him that, but I also know that he still has his whip over certain members of his party. At any rate, I do hope he will take high regard of any criticism, opinion or suggestion by any of his backbenchers. In that way he can more ensure of what he has said that his government will not fail in the lifetime of any of us.

I would also like the honourable Premier to know that the Party to which I belong—I believe I can speak for it—would not like to take over the government of this country at this stage. Members of our Party would prefer to see the honourable member carrying on this new system of Government which he has done so much in its introduction. We do hope that the Premier will make a success of it, so that when the time comes, my Party would be able to take over something that could be called a well-built house. Again I offer my sincerest congratulations and I hope that he will pay heed to my criticisms. After all, I need not remind the honourable member that the essence of democracy depends on compromise. I need not remind the honourable member also that he must reckon with youth. Mr. Speaker, again I offer the Premier my sincerest congratulations on the introduction of this new system of government.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Sir, this is a historic day in the destiny of this colony. I want the public to know that although I made some trenchant criticisms on ministerial status yet I am one who realizes the importance of this occasion. This morning, minis-

terial government has been introduced as a fact—a historical fact in this colony—and although political differences have more often than not separated the leader of the House and myself, yet I must pay him this tribute. I must say that ministerial system in this colony is the direct result of the persistence of the honourable Leader of this House in advocating constitutional advancement in this colony. If Barbados owes the Leader of this House one thing—and it owes him—it is to this, his most important and unique contribution to this colony. This is what I personally feel about him. This is what I feel of his value to the community. The honourable Leader of this House has made the unique contribution of awakening the people of this colony to political consciousness. It did not exist previous to his agitations. That belongs to him. Whatever is the result of that political consciousness—and ministerial status is the result of it—we all in this colony owe something to the Leader of this House for this his most unique contribution. I have and I shall continue to oppose some of his policy for the social advancement of this community, but although these political differences shall continue as far as I know to divide us, yet I must offer my sincere congratulations to the Queen's first Minister of Barbados.

It is my intention, Sir, to regard the new ministry with some trust and in my criticism I shall endeavour on every occasion to be as constructive as will be helpful to that ministry. It is unfortunate that the honourable leader of this House in his speech just now said he gained nothing from the Opposition. That Sir, is an illustration of the chronic stupidity of the Government Party in power. We are, this Opposition, as much a responsible body as is the Government Party which is responsible to the people. Without an Opposition there cannot be any sort of good government because complete power as the great historian, Acton has said "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely," and without an Opposition the government would feel that they have an absolute power and its corruption would be inevitable. The test of the pudding is in the eating and here I trust at the time of cutting the cake to this new ministerial government which has been given to this colony, it would not give us indigestion.

When the Leader of the House said that he cannot see in the lifetime of any of us here a change of the government which now prevails—the Government of the Labour Party—it sounds to me just like a frightened child shouting in the dark to keep up its courage. We on this side of the table have been placed here by a substantial minority of the electorate and because we, the Opposition, represent the views of that substantial minority, let him not forget that democracy rests on the majority of opinion, but let him not forget also that the minority of opinion has the power during the lifetime of a government to change itself into a majority. Let him not forget that more powerful governments which thought they had perpetual power have fallen in the twinking of an eye One single line of policy can cause a governmet to fall. A government may do ninety-nine good things and fail to turn the hundredth and that can change the complexion of government. That can cause the Leader of this House to come from this pinnacle of power which he at present occupies to occupy a place in the Opposition. The honourable member cannot predict with any intelligence the perpetuation of his system of government. As the last honourable member who spoke said, the honourable Leader of this House owes much of the policy which he pursues, such as the implementation of the Public Utilities Bill, to the party which the last honourable member who spoke, represents.

Sir, as I have said, the present system of Government is a result of the people's will. It can be said that the honourable Leader of this House has preached a ministerial form of government for this country up and down its length and breadth for the past several years. It has come by his political agitation and by the people who has returned him to power. We must conclude that the people after listening to his utterances on ministerial status for this colony, that they agreed with him, and so, ultimately, this historical hour is the result of the people's will. Sir, although I criticised the introduction of ministerial status in this colony, I have sense enough to recognise it as such and because I recognise it as a fact, I shall endeavour to do all in my power by constructive criticism to let the rest of the Caribbean area and the British Government see that the introduction of ministerial system into Barbados will not prove a failure.

Sir, I take this occasion to congratulate the individual ministers but I will warn them that they must think of their position primarily as a position of servants of the people. They must think of their position as servants of the people and not as masters of the people. We, in this colony have a very peculiar psychology, which has been mainly inherited from the slave history of the colony. We have a peculiar psychology that when we are occupying positions of responsibility and power that we are the masters of the people. Our feeling should be the direct opposite to that. Those who occupy positions of responsibility and power can only do so successfully if they regard themselves as the servants of the people. I will remind the ministers that they also serve who stand and wait. (Cheers).

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate, first of all, the Premier of Barbados, and then the other Ministers whose names we have not so long ago heard announced by His Excellency the Governor, and in my congratulations to the Ministers, I offer congratulations especially to those two ministers, the honourable senior member for St. Thomas and the senior member for Christ Church, whom we did not know beforehand would be ministers. We in Barbados would also like at this stage to thank the honourable members of those other colonies, who have sent messages of congratulations to the Government and the new Ministers and the people of Barbados. I was gratified to see the Hon. T. A. Marryshow of Grenada present in the gallery of this Chamber a few minutes ago, because he has been a representative of of the Legislature of that sister colony for many years in the past.

We in this colony have enjoyed freedom of Government for many years. We have had party system of government since 1947, so it is true to say that Barbados has for many years had a party system of government existing in this Chamber. With the institution of this advance in our constitution to-day, it has brought the people of Barbados closer to the Government because they, through their representatives, whether they are in the opposition or on the Government side, can approach the Government more directly, and unless the Ministers get up and do their best, the Opposition will become stronger because we of the Opposition intend to bring the views of the people to their knowledge directly.

We do hope that the work of these ministries will be conducted on a high level, one that would be an example to other colonial territories. I cannot agree with the Premier when he said that in our lifetime it is not likely for his Party to be

out of power. I do not see with him on that score. For that to be so, he would have to be exemplary and may be, he would have to change his views. If the honourable member is prepared to change his views to those of my Party, that may be so. At any rate, all twenty-four honourable members of this Chamber are Barbadians and I will appeal to all honourable members to put Barbados first in all our deliberations. We on this side of the Table intend to put Barbados first and the Party second.

I do not wish to criticise any speeches to-day. To-day has been too happy a day in the constitutional advance of Barbados for that. As His Excellency the Governor has said in the Other Place just now, the importance of this occasion seems to be clouded by the cricket tournament at Kensington and other appointments. I will content myself at this juncture in again offering my congratulations to the Ministers and the people of Barbados on the advance of its constitution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, it is not difficult to see how the joys of today's events lies in the fact that Barbados have made some forward step along the path of self-government. As a matter of fact, it is a matter for pleasant reflection that on the question of constitutional advance, all parties around this Table are in agreement. There has not been in Barbados any objection to the political advancement of the country and it is because there is that general agreement and interest for the constitutional progress that we have achieved this step forward to-day with such a minimum of fuss and without even the necessity for any legislative changes in the constitution. We also feel happy that to-day's step forward marks the beginning of a further step forward to complete self-government. (Cheers).

However, in extending our felicitations to the Premier and his Ministers, it unfortunately has become necessary to answer a challenge made by the Premier in his opening remarks. Most of us would have preferred to-day to have kept our remarks along certain lines but we must make reference to the challenge laid down by the Premier. I would like to tell the honourable member that when you assume the mantle of prophecy without having first been given the gift of prophecy, you are bound to become a false prophet. His prophecy that in his lifetime the present government will remain in power will only mean that he has been told by the Divinity that he has not got too long to live. The honourable member knows that he himself does not believe what he says. His very speech was pregnant with fear. Certainly, this was not the occasion for the Leader of the majority party to feel constrained to appeal to Barbadians throughout the country. If he was so convinced that his Party had the confidence of the country and the Premier enjoyed the confidence of his ministers and his back-benchers, certainly there would be no necessity for making the appeal he made to-day. We know that he knows that it is highly unlikely that his government which is now in office at the introduction of this stage of self-government will be in office when we get to full self-government.

One thing further. I would like to say that I regret that considering the position which Barbados occupies among the other West Indian colonies that there has been such indifference on the part of the big colonies in their acknowledgement to us at this time. We appreciate the fact that little Grenada has congratulated us and the Municipality of San Fernando has also done so, but it seems symptomatic to me that neither the colony of Jamaica nor the colony of Trinidad has sent one word of congratulations to us today. Sir, make no mistake about it, our relationships with the big colonies of the Caribbean are of supreme importance if West Indian self-government is to mean anything. It is all well and good for the Jamaica **Gleaner** and other West Indian newspapers to laud us on the great advance in our constitution and to say what they did, but I want honourable members to know that our advance towards self-government is of extreme importance, but it means absolutely nothing if all the other governments are not self-governing. Self-government of Barbados would mean something when associated with self-government of the West Indies. At the rate of progress which other West Indian colonies are making along constitutional lines towards self-government, Barbados might soon find itself with a "dominion" of Barbados with its dependencies, Pelican and Culpepper, but that would mean nothing. Do you think that the Premier of Barbados as Minister of Finance for Barbados alone would have any say at a Commonwealth Conference or any international organization? I am not decrying the controlling of our own internal affairs, but I want to preserve our most cordial relationship with the other colonies in the Caribbean. I do hope that there will always be full agreement and co-operation with our sister colonies of the West Indies and ourselves. In other words, what is important for us to achieve is a West Indian self-governing dominion with our independent units, Unless we all aspire to that end, we are living in a fool's paradise and we would find that in our external relationships that we are no better off than if we were a Crown Colony. I think this is a lesson which we can avail ourselves of in to-day's events.

Sir, we appreciate the significance of the step we have taken to-day, but at the same time, we bear in mind how important it is that in this colony, we should go forward to the goal of complete independence with other West Indian Colonies following closely in our path.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, on an occasion like this, I think it would be a good thing for a member like myself to say a word. I happen to be the first employee to enter this House as a member. There is no mistaking of the policy that I entered this House with for it was a policy based on the justice of socialism and the hope of the poor people of this colony. When I say 'poor people' I have no sense of race. I am indeed very sorry for many things that have happened. Barbados should have been the first colony to boast of a ministerial system but many other colonies of the British Caribbean have already got a ministerial government of some sort. It would have been a great source of pride to me if Barbados had been one of the first colonies of the British Caribbean to have had Adult Suffrage and a ministerial form of government. I am also sorry, Sir, that the negro members of this Assembly to-day have not thought it right and proper to go further back in our political history than the preaching of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, the Right Honourable Premier. I think it would be fitting to-day to record the political awakening of this country by the late Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neale of whom we should be proud to have in this Chamber a relative of his. We should also be proud to recall the fight for political awakening and advancement of this colony by men like the late Mr. Clennel Wickham, with whom the honourable junior member for St. Thomas was associated. There are others, but I mention those two whom I knew

and heard preaching socialism and social justice at a time when it was very unpopular to do so. I am sorry that I mentioned only the dead, but I remember that Your Honour, yourself, was associated even at that unpopular time with the movement.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, views that I have expressed in this House have earned me the displeasure of people politically opposed to me and even of honourable members and the Leader of my own party. I take some consolation in the fact that those people who worked hard and suffered in the interest of the political advancement of this colony were bitterly opposed by the Premier of to-day. He has however reaped the benefits of his own political activities as well as those of others.

Sir, I said that the occasion warrants me saying something because of my political views and because I have had to suffer greatly through them. There is no gainsaying the fact that many people have suffered for their political views, but Sir, some have lived to get back something monetary or otherwise. At any rate, Sir, because of the hope that I have for the poor of this colony, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Premier and his Ministers and would like to let them know that I will support them when they are right and will criticise them most severely when I consider that they are wrong. Sir, that has been my political policy and I feel it is right, irrespective of the consequences, that I should continue to pursue it.

Mention has been made about the Opposition. So far as I am concerned, I would like to draw attention to just one criticism that earned me the displeasure of the Leader of my Party. The Government set out during 1953 to borrow a sum of two million dollars. It has not done it. It has only borrowed half-million dollars. I believe it is the result of cricicism originated by me that that has not happened. There are other things to which I would not let false modesty prevent me from referring. Through everything, I have tried to put my Party on the right path. The Leader of the Majority Party who is still leading politics in this country has often described himself as a Liberal of Liberals.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that on an occasion of this sort, that the honourable member should say something which I would have to rise and refute. It is a fact that at one time I was a Liberal, but that is not so now. It is very regrettable to introduce this type of speech on an occasion of this sort.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has used those remarks on public platforms over and over again. At any rate, I was merely saying that the honourable member has said so. I sincerely hope that he is today a sincere socialist and will strive for the social justice of each and every member of this community.

Sir, I forgot to mention the name of the late, Mr. "Chrissie" Brathwaite the first member of his particular kind to enter this House and who earned the displeasure of the other members of that time, for some walked out the first day he walked in. I sincerely hope that the political advancement of this colony has not been given today because of any particular person. I hope it is the feeling in England that Barbados and Barbadians as a whole deserve and have worked for and have earned the political advancement given to them to start on today. I sincerely hope that the Premier has the confidence of his Ministers and that he, himself, reposes confidence in them. Again, Sir, I am willing to say that I shall support the Government to the best of my ability but strictly in accordance to my political convictions. I see no reason for boasting because we have not been the first to achieve this form of government although I firmly think that we should have been the first.

I should like to say in conclusion that I hope it is not a matter of asking for false unity in this Chamber but that we will be deserving the unity of purpose of members of this House. I am extremely glad that I am a member of this Assembly at a time when this constitutional advancement has come to Barbados and I wish it well. I should like to say that I hope that the conventions of which we speak and on which we base our political conduct will come into existence. I am indeed very sorry, for instance, that we cannot know today if the members of the Government Party and the Ministers have severed their connections with the Barbados Workers Union. This is an announcement that we expected to hear today. I sincerely hope that the convention of having a well organised party in which when any member of this House of a party disagrees with another member of the same party, he can have the matter threshed out other than in public. These are conventions which are the foundations on which ministerial system has been founded and granted to Barbados and I hope to see them well established in all our actions and the conduct of our affairs.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I do not think an occasion such as this should come and leave me voiceless. I feel that ministerial status is a real political advancement to the people of Barbados and we are proud to have received the possibility of enjoying it on this momentous occasion. I feel that today will go down into the hearts of all Barbadians and all West Indians with some measure of joy—a day when we can say: "Here it is, we can enjoy the privileges which have been enjoyed by other peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations." It is more so when we realise that just a couple of years ago we who are to enjoy the first fruits of ministerial status have been what I would call serfs. We only knew at that time of the existence of a legislative assembly by hearing and reading something of it in the newspapers. Today, I join in the deep feelings of the people of this colony in ushering in what I consider to be what we have been fighting to receive for many years before we were born. I must at this stage compliment the appointed ministers and I hope that theirs will be a change in heart — a change for for the better, a change from the past to one of the future. I can only pledge them my continual support which is not based on personalities but on the policy which I hope they will initiate. I feel that the new change can be made to work successfully.

Sir, I do not agree with the remark made by the honourable Premier when he tried to belittle the views of the few though vocal members of the Opposition. I regret that the honourable member should have made such a statement because to me, it savours of ingratitude in view of the fact that in the past the honourable Leader of this House has had to compliment honourable members from this side of the table on the remarks which they made. On several occasions, remarks made by members of the Opposition have had to be taken into consideration and have resulted in a change of policy of the Government. I somewhat feel that it is an over zealous attitude towards self government and to members of his party that has caused the Premier to make such utterance and therefore I excuse him.

I do want to say that regardless of the efficiency of the individual ministers and the strength of the Labour Party, the successful carrying on of ministerial system of government depends not only on those

honourable members who are obligated to support programmes initiated by the Government in power, but also depends on those honourable members who are outside of the Government Party and as well as on the part of the public generally. It is for that reason that I feel that the remarks of the honourable Premier to which I made reference, were out of time. Along with that, I feel that a speech coming from the Government bench on an occasion such as this should be very magnanimous and appealing to all and sundry who might have something to do with the successful prosecution of the new system of Government which we are proud to have today. I may say, Sir, that the Government has a great responsibility—a greater one than before—because formerly, when charges were laid at some source which the public did not know, we are permitted under the new system to say Mr. X, Y, or Z is the minister concerning that matter or he is responsible for that something which have been or should have been done and that will cause each minister to realise that he must be more careful and vigilant than before and he must bear in mind at all times that compromise is the essence of successful democratic government. It is of no use whatsoever for any of the ministers to sit back as big bosses and with a generous proportion of arrogance and say that even although the attempt to do something does not meet with the approval of other members outside of the Government Party, they will go on and introduce it. Ministers should not disregard the opinions of members of the Opposition because they have a majority to carry through a measure. These are the few remarks which I make and I will conclude by repeating a remark which was made by my colleague and also a point made by the honourable Premier. It is that those who have not been selected need not stand in fear of the future or be possessed with a state of disgruntledness but that they should remember a quotation from a book by the very venerable Sir Winston Churchill and which I feel should have been quoted in the remarks of the honourable Premier "They also serve who humbly stand and wait."

Sir, I realise that an occasion of this sort would bring about some measure of disappointment and were I in the position of the Premier I would be affected by the feelings which I feel would be in the air and distributed among members of my party. I would however say that even although some honourable member might have been made to feel some disappointment that the obligation is still on him to support the policy of progress and I know that policy is intended to be perpetuated by the Government in power. Such disappointed honourable members should also realise that all cannot be admirals and captains in a navy some have to be seamen and even mess boys; yet all have to contribute their quota to the successful sailing of the ship — in this case, the successful sailing of the ship of State. I hope that my little advice and short quotation will be taken with understanding and sincerity. As I have said already, I have all good hopes for the future and I appreciate deeply the change and I pledge to those who have been selected as ministers my cooperation based on mutual respect. I lay emphasis on that statement 'mutual respect' and would also offer as an alternative to the Government's refusal to respect the thousands of people who have sent me here to air their views my continuous opposition, not based on personality but based on any shortsighted policy.

More I cannot offer than that which lies in my power. I hope, Sir, that we shall start off with this new system of ministerial status advancing towards that goal which stands in the distance but which has been fought to achieve centuries before we were born. I feel that this is a very momentous occasion in the history of this colony and one which all of us should be proud of having a part to share in it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I give the new set-up of Ministerial Status my blessing and unqualified cooperation based on mutual understanding with all the honourable gentlemen who would have something to do with the introduction of measures in this ancient and honourable legislative chamber.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, — In view of the confidence which the people of St. Philip have reposed in me, I feel it is my duty to add my quota on this momentous occasion. I hope that the new Ministers all realise that the honour conferred upon them is not for their own personal aggrandisement; but for the progress and interest of the people of this Island of Barbados. I hope, Sir, that the words uttered in this Chamber today will re-echo down the ages and be inscribed in the books of down trodden people so that they will all share in an advancement such as this. I hope that unborn generations will be able to look back on this day with joy.

In my ignorance I want to counsel the honourable Leader and his associates that this honour is underlined with great risks and responsibilities. I want to warn them that their interest must not precede the interest of the people of this island. They are assuming to-day an enormous responsibility for the 220,000 people of this island and I counsel them to keep that before their mind's eye in every move and step that they make; for they will be brought to the bar of justice for every mis-step that they make. I offer my hearty congratulations. (Cheers).

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, — On behalf of the Party and the Government I want to thank honourable members for the kind expressions of congratulation spoken in reference to us. There has been some criticism; but I am sure that that criticism is founded probably on a misinterpretation. I do want to take this opportunity to assure those who criticise us that any time they misinterpret anything we say, such matters can be settled in a friendly spirit. I cannot say more than that. I now beg to move, Sir, that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor.

Hon. M. E. Cox seconded the motion.

The question was put and agreed to without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I mention the names of the honourable members to be appointed to the Select Committee I would like to associate myself with the congratulatory remarks and best wishes extended to the Premier and his Ministers on the occasion of the introduction of the Ministerial System in this ancient colony of Barbados. I hope that the system will work well, and that future generations will look back with pride on a period of admirable progress.

I now have the honour to appoint the following members to be members of the Select Committee:—

The honourable senior member for St. George, Mr. BARROW, the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, Mr. WILLIAMS, the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, Mrs. BOURNE, the honourable junior member for Christ Church, Mr. GODDARD, the honourable senior member for St. Philip, Mr. CRAWFORD, the honourable senior member for St. Lucy, Mr. BRANCKER, the honourable senior member for the City, Mr. MOTTLEY and the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, Mr. MAPP.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, — Before moving the adjournment of the House I would like to suggest that the name of the honourable junior member for St. James be added to the committee appointed to revise and amend the rules of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will accept that.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, — In moving the adjournment of the House for a fortnight I am saying that honourable members have been already approached and will again be approached to let us meet together whether we are members of the Rules Committee or not, and agree to the bringing of our rules up to date. If we adjourn for a fortnight it is possible that in the interim we may be able to make suggestions to that end. I do not think that there should be any dispute as to what rules should be amended. The question of bringing the rules up to date is a very important one, especially in view of the added responsibility which Ministerial Status implies. For example, under the Ministerial System questions have to be addressed to particular Ministers, and not to the "senior member of the Executive present at the next meeting" as has been the case heretofore. It is obvious that amendments are necessary. The corrections will be to bring the rules up to date rather than to make any fundamental change in our procedure.

Now, sir, for myself personally, and quite apart from anything said on behalf of the Party, I want, from the bottom of my heart — and not just from politeness — really from the bottom of my heart to thank members of the Opposition for the candid and full hearted way in which they have treated this matter, as Barbadians and people responsible to the Electorate, rather than as members of the Opposition, or members of this, that or the other Party. I feel that they honestly mean what they have said, and I want to tell the honourable senior member for St. John once again that he must not think that because we sometimes make a joke at the Opposition that we think the Opposition is useless. He must not think that we do not listen to the Opposition. People who have been in politics for as long as that honourable member has been must realise that if he lets certain remarks get under his skin he only gives fuel to the Government. God help us if we lose our sense of humour.

I would also advise members of the government group who fail to realise that it is sometimes advisable to accept the offer of the olive blossom, that it is sometimes advisable to do so. I repeat my appeal to everyone — the Government Party, the Opposition, Civil Servants and to all the people of Barbados. We have too much to lose if we do not make this Ministerial System a success, and an outstanding success. I am glad that the honourable senior member for the City has come back to his seat. I wish him to hear with his own ears that we thank him for all that he has said, but I regret that his present indisposition has made him lose his sense of humour.

ADJOURNMENT

I now beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 16, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, — I would like the honourable Premier to understand that members appointed to serve on the committee to reply to the Governor's Message only include members of the Conservative Opposition, and the two members of the Congress Party.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I looked down the list hurriedly, and I was under the impression that members of all sections of the House were on the Committee. If the honourable senior member for St. John is not on it he should be. I beg to move that the honourable senior member for St. John be added to the Committee.

Hon. M. E. Cox seconded.

Mr. ALLDER: I have no intention of seeking inclusion on the committee. I was thinking about the set-up of the House. The Government Party is in the majority; then you have four members of the Conservative Opposition as the next largest party. There are then two members of the Congress Party. My colleague and myself express independent views, and we hope for the time being to maintain that independence. If the Government is clear sighted enough and a committee is to be set up, the Government should take into consideration the various groups in this honourable Chamber. I do not want to be included on the committee, although I appreciate the suggestion of the honourable Premier late as it was. I had in mind that my colleague should be included. I hope, Sir, that my motives are not misunderstood. I beg to second the motion for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I now add to the committee the honourable junior member for St. John. The question is that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 16, at 3 o'clock p.m. Those in favour will please say "aye" and those against will please say "no". I think the "ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th February, 1954.

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

Present :

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, B. A. C.M.G., Q.C., Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Hon. M. E. Cox, Messrs. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), F. L. WALCOTT, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Messrs. F. C. GODDARD, F. E. MILLER, J. A HAYNES, B.A. V.B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, and Mr. L. A. WILLIAMS.

Prayers were read.

Messrs. E. D. MOTTLEY, J. C. MOTTLEY, HOLDER, and LEWIS entered the House and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

By command of His Excellency the Governor, Papers were laid as follows:—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Premier: Report of the Principal of the University College of the West Indies.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Minister of Social Services: Report of the Social Welfare Department for the year 1952—53.

Hon. R. G. MAPP, Minister of Trade, Industry & Labour: Report of the Comptroller of Customs cn the Customs Revenue, Trade, Shipping and Excise of the Island for the year 1952.

PETITIONS

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker:—I beg to present petitions from the Vestry of St. Michael as follows:

(a) Praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise the Vestry to increase the salary of their Collector of Rates and Parochial Treasurer.

(b) Praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise the Vestry to increase the maximum amount of money which the Vestry can borrow under Section 71 of the Vestries Act.

(c) Praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise the Vestry to pay allowances, if they so desire, to employees who retired from their service.

(d) Praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise the Vestries of the Island, if they think fit, to pay a Cost of Living Bonus to employees to the 24th March, 1955.

(e) Praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise the Vestry to borrow a sum not exceeding £5,500 to purchase the property known as Church Village Girls' School.

The petitions have been respectfully worded and duly re-advertised according to Your Honour's ruling and I ask that they be taken as read.

The petitions were taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of $1,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part I—Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953-54, No. 38, which form the Schedule to the Resolution, in connection with the visit of the Organisation and Methods expert.

Hon. C. E. TALMA, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries: Resolution to place the sum of $473 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part II—Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953-54, No. 39, which form the Schedule to the Resolution, in connection with the purchase of land adjoining Christ Church Girls' School.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to place the sum of $1,806 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part II—Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1953-54, No. 40 which form the Schedule to the Resolution, in connection with the purchase of land for Carrington's Junior School.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Bill intituled an Act to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1949.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of a gratuity and pension to Marjorie Lee Haynes.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: 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.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S NOTICES

A Private Member's Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Bill to amend the Vestries Act 1911-5.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911 as amended by the Act, 1948—14.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Bill to amend the Parochial Employees Pension Act, 1944 as amended by Acts of 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Bill to amend the Vestries (Cost of Living Bonus to Employees) Act, 1947 as amended by Acts of 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1953.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. Michael to raise a loan to enable them to purchase the Church Village Girls' School.

Mr. SPEAKER: No notices of Questions or of Addresses will be allowed today; it is my ruling that such notices must reach the office of the Clerk at least a week in advance.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motions of Hon. G. H. ADAMS seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:—

Bill intituled an Act to amend the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1949.

Bill intituled an Act to authorise the payment of a gratuity and pension to Marjorie Lee Haynes.

On motions of Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. F. C. GODDARD in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:—

Bill to amend the Vestries Act 1911—5.

Bill to amend the Vehicles Act 1911, as amended by the Act, 1948—14.

Bill to amend the Parochial Employees Pension Act, 1944 as amended by other Acts.

Bill to amend the Vestries (Cost of Living Bonus to Employees) Act, 1947 as amended by other Acts.

Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. Michael to raise a loan to enable them to purchase the Church Village Girls' School.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED WITH AN ADDRESS

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, — I ask leave to move the passing of an Address in reply to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 6/1954 relating to the erection of a new Fire Station. I think it is a pretty straightforward matter and we would like to get the green light so as to proceed with this matter. Copies of the proposed Address have been circulated and I am asking leave to deal with it.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am objecting to leave being granted to proceed with this Address. Honourable members will recall that this House has already dealt with the question of purchasing a property in Passage Road as the site of the new Fire Station, and it is not merely a question of the Government putting forward this Address without honourable members being given an opportunity of going into the matter carefully. I am asking the Opposition to agree that at least a Committee should be appointed to go into the matter; I feel that we are entitled to go into the matter carefully whether there is a Message from the Governor or not. We have already been asked to vote money for the purpose of acquiring the property in Passage Road, which has been converted into accommodation for the Police Band, and now we are asked to pass an Address immediately without being given any opportunity of going into the matter. I feel that honourable members would do well not to reply to the Message until we have had an opportunity to go into the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: I am objecting—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member objecting to the question being put?

Mr. LEWIS: I am objecting to leave being granted the honourable member to proceed with the passing of the Address.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to move the passing of the Address was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. HOLDER, Hon'bles R. G. MAPP, C. E. TALMA, G. H. ADAMS, Dr. CUMMINS and M. E. Cox—7.

Noes: Messrs. SMITH, MILLER, BARROW, LEWIS, F. L. WALCOTT, WILLIAMS, CRAWFORD, J. C. MOTTLEY, VAUGHAN, HAYNES, E. D. MOTTLEY and GODDARD—12.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, — I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 6/1954 relating to the erection of a new Fire Station.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I have the honour to appoint the following honourable members to serve on that Select Committee.—The honourable junior member for St. George (Mr. MILLER), the honourable senior member for the City (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. CRAWFORD), the honourable senior member for St. John (Mr. ALLDER), the honourable junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. WILLIAMS), the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Hon. Dr. CUMMINS) and the honourable senior member for St. George (Mr. BARROW).

Mr. VAUGHAN: Am I in order, Mr. Speaker, to make a motion to the effect that the honourable junior member for the City be included as a member of that Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can make a motion to that effect.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I beg to move that the honourable junior member for the City be included as a member of that Select Committee.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for the City has been accepted to serve on that Select Committee.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to postpone the consideration of the first three Orders of the Day.

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

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to take Order No. 4 as the first Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day therefore is to resume debate on the second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1901.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Honourable members will remember that just a few weeks ago when this Bill, having for its object increasing the emoluments of the Registering Officers, was discussed, an error was drawn to the attention of the Government by the honourable junior member for St. John, and the further consideration of the Bill was postponed. The Bill was referred back to the Government and that error has been corrected. It was always intended that this increased pay should be retrospective as in the case of all other employees who profited by the Dos Santos Report. There are two amendments to the Bill which I want to offer today; one amendment is in Clause 2 of the Bill. This Clause deals with the emoluments of these Officers; honourable members will see that in this Clause mention is made of "Registering Officer for the rural parish of St. Michael". That is an error because Bridgetown has its own separate Registering Officer, and in order that the position should be made clear, I am asking leave to insert after the word—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can do that when the House goes into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: At any rate, there are two amendments to be made to the Bill, one dealing with the retrospective aspect of the remuneration, and the other is to make it clear that the Registering Officer for the City of Bridgetown is separate and distinct from the Registering Officer for St. Michael.

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

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

Clause 1, the title Clause, was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: As I was saying just now, Mr. Chairman, this Clause deals with the emoluments of the Registering Officers, and mention is made of the "Registering Officer for the rural parish of St. Michael....$900.00 per annum." I am asking leave to insert after the word "rural" the words "part of the", so that the paragraph will read "Registering Officer for the rural part of the parish of St. Michael.... $900.00 per annum."

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I am asking leave to insert a new Clause to be numbered 3. It reads as follows:

"This Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on the first day of April, 1952." That is the Clause which will establish beyond doubt that these emoluments are retrospective as from the first day of April, 1952.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee, with amendments.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (AMATEUR TRANSMITTER) REGULATIONS, 1953

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:— Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Transmitter) Regulations, 1953.

Hon. M. E. COX: This Resolution is to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Transmitter Regulations 1953). Honourable members will remember that some time in 1948—I think it was in February—temporary licences were issued in respect of persons operating these wireless sets. At that time it was made clear that these amateurs would have to qualify in order to receive permanent licences. From 1948 until now these amateurs were allowed to continue their operations, but recently it has been decided that permanent licences should be issued; as a result of that decision these Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Honourable members will see that the fees which are charged are less in some respects than those which are in existence in some other islands. It has been drawn to my attention that quite a number of persons have made use of the facilities offered in so far as taking out permanent licences is concerned, and many more persons have applied for licences and they are only awaiting tests. I know it is felt by some honourable members that a hardship will be created by the institution or enforcement of these Regulations; but I have gone into this question very carefully with the Electric Inspector and from what I have been able to gather, I am convinced that no hardship can be experienced in calling upon these amateurs to take out permanent licences. These Regulations were in force for some time now and some licences have already been issued.

I hardly think it necessary for me to say anything more in connection with this matter, but if honourable members want to have any more information about the matter, I shall be quite willing to give any further information which lies in my power to give. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker,—The honourable senior member for St. Michael has moved that this Resolution do now pass, but he is wrong and I am asking that he be corrected. These Regulations which have been laid on the Table of this House are already law, so that the honourable member cannot move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Clerk has made the correction.

Mr. BARROW: These Regulations have been placed here for our approval or disapproval.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a Resolution to approve the Regulations and the motion is that the Resolution to approve the Regulations do now pass.

Mr. BARROW: I just wanted to clear up that point. The honourable senior member for St. Michael said that no great hardship has been done by the introduction of these Regulations; I think it would be interesting for honourable members to know that this matter was discussed by members of the Government and my colleague on my right (Mr. Miller) and

the Government members agreed that there were certain anomalies in these Regulations. It may be that the Government Electric Inspector has been made the Authority for the granting of licences when, since the drafting of these Regulations, a superior officer in the person of the Government Electrical Engineer, Mr. Johnson, has been appointed. I think it is an insult to a qualified electrician holding the highest degrees offered in that profession to have a junior in the office, who possesses the passport which is very valuable in this colony but who does not possess any certificates of any kind and who himself has never sat or passed a test in Morse or telephony, made the Authority for issuing the licences and setting examinations under these Regulations. That is something which can happen only in the island of Barbados: it is an oversight which I drew to the attention of the members of the Government and they agreed to do something about the matter, because it was obviously an oversight. After I have taken the trouble *in camera* to point out these anomalies to the Government and then they elect to come on the floor of the House having done nothing about the matter, I feel it is my duty to make these disclosures. If honourable members feel it is within reason to appoint the Electrical Engineer, Mr. Johnson, with his qualifications and that Mr. Cooper, who could only flourish in Barbados soil, should be made the supreme Authority in matters coming under these Regulations —well, I say that that is something which honourablle members should see rectified.

I raise this question because these Regulations were law and they have been law long before they came before this Chamber; these Regulations are in force and they are law at present. The wireless amateurs in this colony are a body of young men and also members of the opposite sex who should be encouraged in carrying on pursuits of this nature, and they have been warned off the air by the Government Electric Inspector, and certain dispensations have been made in favour of a few elect persons, some of them approved by the Manager of Cable and Wireless, and some of them in their own right. If honourable members want me to call names I can do so; I understand that a certain doctor, a certain druggist and a couple of employees of Cable and Wireless have been granted these dispensations and the "grand old men" of Wireless in Barbados, my colleague, "the phantom of the air," as he is called, and other highly-skilled operators have not had these necessary qualifications which, it is obvious, are external to the Regulations. It appears that the Government Electric Inspector has laid down qualifications on his own devising.

That is the position as regards these Regulations; the most glaring absurdity of these Regulations which have been laid before this House is the stipulation that before a licence may be granted to any operator no matter how long he may have been operating in this area or outside, he will have to pass a Morse test at a speed of twelve words a minute. Anyone apart from the Government Electric Inspector, who has the slightest acquaintance with the modern practice and development of amateur wireless telegraphy, will realise that it is now the exception rather than the rule to find any amateur using Morse over the air. I have a rather human story to give to members of this House. There is an inmate of a certain institution in this island who is a most skilled operator and who has been granted a special licence; when the Inspector threatened to drive people off the air this operator was teaching amateurs to get the qualifying speed. This lonely operator has done a great service, and very often I have thought of him, poor fellow, rendering service to his fellow amateurs by trying to get them up to the necessary pitch in Morse Code. He is one of the few people who, because of his disability, has had the time to devote to the acquisition of great proficiency in Morse Code. The reason for the lack of speed in Morse Code on the part of most of our amateurs is a simple one; most of the broadcasting which is done among amateurs all over the world is done by radio telephony. In the 1880's before radio telephony had been developed, they used Continuous Carrier Wave, what is called C.W. because that was the most efficient method of transmitting messages through the ether. Having regard to the night effect and all the other effects with which the operators have to cope in recent years, radio telephony has developed to such a pitch that nightly in Barbados we speak to persons in Australia and other parts of the Antipodes.

Apart from the stipulation as to the speed which must be attained by applicants, there are certain other anomalies which are not really relevant to the local conditions under which operators have to work in this island or in the Caribbean area, and I very much regret that the honourable senior member for St. Michael who introduced this Resolution, was so content to hear only one side of the story, and did not consult, to the best of my information, a body substantially representative of the amateur wireless operators of Barbados. I, personally, feel that the person who is least qualified to advise the honourable Minister on a matter of this sort, is the gentleman to whose arrangements he succumbed.

The more technical aspect of these Regulations I will leave for my colleague to deal with, but I do feel that some qualifying period should have been inserted in the Regulations with respect to those amateurs who are at present operating, or who at the time of the introduction of the Regulations were operating wireless broadcasting stations, and these amateurs should have been allowed this period which could be ascertained quite easily by consultation with those members of the public who are interested in wireless broadcasting. I, myself, would have suggested, for want of better information, a period of six months or more. Within that time all those persons who have spent thousands of dollars on erecting broadcasting stations would have been able to import the necessary equipment and get the necessary amount of practice to enable them to qualify for the licence which is to be granted by the Government Electric Inspector's Department. I am therefore suggesting that in their present state the Regulations are unacceptable, and even at this late hour I am asking the Government to consider the points which I have raised about the qualifying period and the point about making the Government Electrical Engineer the Authority for the issuing of licences and kindred matters, rather than a junior member of his staff about whose qualifications I have no great inspiration, and I am not singular in that respect.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House go into Committee to consider these Regulations for the simple reason that it would not be proper for me or any other honourable member to deal with them seriatim at this juncture.

Mr. MILLER: I have my own point of view on this Resolution. Most of the radio amateurs were agreed to have the licences arranged by test and otherwise.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no motion before the House except the motion for the passing of the Resolution approving these Regulations.

Mr. MILLER: I am seconding the motion made by my colleague. As I was about to say, in the

first place I do not know that the sole authority in respect of these Regulations should be the Government Electric Inspector. The main point about these Regulations is that all the amateurs are agreed on having, and are willing to have some form of licence, and they are also agreed that there must be some type of Government control; yet I am very unhappy about the Regulations as they are before the House to-day. I am aware that there will not be any surprise on the part of the Minister in charge of this Resolution to-day, because there is some feeling of discrimination, and that is a very awkward thing to say and to know in relation to a newly-formed Government with a Ministerial set-up. We have these Regulations specifically stipulating that you must sit a test and you must have the ability to read Morse Code at the rate of twelve words a minute, but you have the Manager of Cable and Wireless just writing a simple letter to the officer responsible for the authority of issuing the licences, to have all the members of that concern exempt from the stipulation in these Regulations; that is reducing the whole thing to a farce. I say that with some measure of strength. You have a junior aboard a naval craft, who may have reached such efficiency in the particular job of wireless operator that the officer in charge would leave him to handle a shift; but if he is transferred from that ship to another one, he must sit an examination! On board a ship a youngster may have served for five or six years in the operating room and he is required to get a licence before he can be qualified as an operator.

I remember that in 1938 some authority from the Police Department took away all my equipment and I have never really got it back. After a period I received a letter from the Department asking me to apply for a temporary licence; I did that and I was allowed to go on the air. Now that we can have a licence for which we, as a body, have been agitating for some time, because you must have some form of control and some procedure would have to be brought about, what is disquieting about the whole affair is that there is an atmosphere of discrimination. When the honourable Minister first laid these Regulations before the House, we had a consultation and I suggested that one or two things should be adjusted; I thought to some extent that he was in agreement with the idea. A week later a notice appeared in the Press that amateurs are expected to go off the air and apply for licences; and suddenly you find that all the radio amateurs employed by Cable and Wireless, by a simple letter from the Manager, are given the necessary qualification. I say: that is not a decent thing to do. You have a body of people who have been functioning as radio amateurs; to-day because the Manager of Cable and Wireless sees fit to write a letter to the Government Electric Inspector's Department and say that this group of boys are to be kept on the technical side, they are exempted from these Regulations! That sort of thing does not take place in any other part of the world. In the United States of America you have English operators being given temporary licences, but under these Regulations you must be of British Nationality in order to get a licence; that is not good enough.

I am told that we cannot have any amendment to these Regulations; I think it is unfair for the Minister of Communications to bring this Resolution before the House knowing what we had already discussed. I think that at least he should see my point of view; I am asking for a simple amendment granting people temporary licences. These are not Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations which would involve life and death; you are controlling a hobby. Every movement, every advance in radio within the past eight years has only been made through the experimental work of the radio amateur; when it is necessary to create a state of Emergency, it is always to the radio amateur that you can go and find yourself with relief. The American Government has spent fabulous sums for the advancement of radio amateurs; you have several stations financed by the American Government for the advancement of radio. To-day we have Regulations which will stifle the aspiration of the radio amateur who is willing to continue a lovely job purely and simply because it is thought necessary to re-act like a ball to a bat, thinking in terms of International Convention. In Barbados we do not enjoy what is enjoyed in England, for instance, and it is unreasonable to think that you would introduce in our little colony something which would be applicable in a big country. I say that it is very regrettable and uncomfortable to think that we should be saddled with these Regulations as they are, providing the Government Electric Inspector with the right to discriminate. If you are prepared to say that the test is simple, there is no reason why you should want to exempt people from Cable and Wireless. I feel that that is an undignified thing to do; I regret that there is nothing we can do about the matter.

I do not think it is necessary to bring about any undue embarrassment in this matter; I am saying that there has been some discrimination shown and if the Minister gives an assurance that it will be brought to an end, that is all we want. We are willing to have licences issued, and we are anxious as a body to have Regulations controlling this matter; but on behalf of other radio amateurs, who are helpless to do anything about the matter, we want to stop this form of Regulations. To amend the Regulations does not change the desire of the amateurs to have licences at all; the decision of the Government Electric Inspector to issue licences and have Regulations is because he has been persuaded by the radio amateurs to do so. The least I can say is that the Minister is aware of the dissatisfaction existing among the radio amateurs in so far as discrimination is concerned; but as far as the issuing of licences is concerned, we want that. To throw out these Regulations would not be doing anything for the amateurs because they want Regulations brought before the House; but the attitude of the Minister is that you cannot amend them, you must throw them out. That attitude is one which borders on vulgarity. I am asking that this discrimination be brought to an end. If the Minister maintains that attitude I will move that these Regulations be thrown out.

The honourable Minister was prepared to discuss the matter and now we are told that the Regulations must be thrown out. I am not concerned about any personalities; I always think in terms of a principle and I will continue to school myself in that way even when the desire to go into personalities has shown itself. I think that this discrimination must be brought to an end or the honourable member will be made very uncomfortable; I want to be assured that this discrimination will be quickly brought to an end. I would like to have an assurance that those members of the fraternity who now enjoy exemption from the Regulations by letter from Cable and Wireless, be asked to sit the test inasmuch as they themselves agree that the test is a simple one. We came into this House to stop privilege; we were elected by the masses to bring privilege to an end, and any Minister who attempts to give privilege the opportunity to live and flourish is destroying the principles which we were elected to carry out. This is an evil to democracy itself; by some Authority you exempt ten people and subject the others to the cruel treatment of taking an

examination and I would like an assurance from the honourable Minister of Communications that these people who, by letter and otherwise have been exempted, be asked to sit the test. If the honourable Minister is willing to abide by that, I would be quite satisfied. I will withdraw————

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member withdrawing his seconding of the motion that the House go into Committee on the Resolution?

Mr. MILLER: I do not think it is necessary to shout at me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not shouting at the honourable member; he must address the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member can take his seat too. Your Honour need not shout at me. It would be well if, with a nod of his head, the honourable Minister would indicate that this discrimination will be brought to an end and that those who have been exempted will be made to take the test.

Mr. LEWIS: There is a motion before the House that we go into Committee on this Resolution. The honourable senior member for St. Michael is given the opportunity to answer the honourable junior member for St. George before I speak; he knows that honourable members can only speak once in the House. I would like to know if the honourable member is going to reply to what I am hearing.

Hon. M. E. COX rose to speak.

Mr. LEWIS: I will not give away my turn now. If the honourable member says anything with which I disagree, the only alternative for me to adopt is to vote against the Resolution. The delay in regulating this very important hobby has prevented this Government from collecting quite a tidy sum of money in licence fees. Some years ago I took the trouble to interest myself in this matter on behalf of the radio amateurs of this island, some of whom eventually went to other islands and got licences to operate; but through the stubbornness and pigheadedness of somebody occupying the position of the Head of a Department of this Government, nothing was done. It was only through the pressure of continual visitations to the Colonial Secretary's Office that temporary licences were ever issued at all. The Government has lost the opportunity of letting people know what qualifications they wanted and on what band they could operate; I think it is a disgraceful state of affairs.

Here are Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under the Act; even the granting of exemptions may be provided for in the Regulations. Here you have a matter which has been unattended to for a number of years, Regulations are placed here for the approval of the Legislature and do you mean to tell me that whereas for all these years this matter has not received the attention of the Government, a person should take a mean advantage of the Legislature of this colony and start ahead acting on Regulations before he hears one word from the people's representatives? We cannot grant concessions to people who are of this type; all things are lawful, but all things are not expedient. If the Government is willing to place Regulations before us and hear what we have to say, why should any Government official grant licences or exemptions before an expression of the people's will is made on the Regulations? This is not a question of any epidemic; before the people's representatives have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on this matter, the Government official responsible in this matter says: "This is the law before it gets to them; I will grant licences and exemptions." That is the attitude of a Government official in a matter of this sort! If it were a question of a terrible disease, that would be a different matter. The honourable senior member for St. Michael has just had Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations before this House and before they were approved by the House, the expressions of opinion in here caused him to bring forward amendments and the amendments and the Regulations were more or less brought together. Do you mean to tell me that the Head of this Government Department—of course you do not know who is the Head of the Department; we were creating another office, the office of Electrical Engineer, which was something to do with the electrical machinery at the Waterworks Department; we did not know that the officer was going into the Government Electric Inspector's office. Therefore the non Head of the Department is given the power to do this thing.

Am I hearing correctly to-day that this person who has to set the examination under these Regulations—am I hearing correctly that he himself has not got the qualifications? Is that the position which the Minister of Communications is encouraging at the very first meeting of this House after the introduction of Ministerial Status? A matter has been drawn to his attention and he introduces Regulations without making any reference to it at all? The honourable member knew that this objection existed before; this is a bad start. I welcome Regulations dealing with this matter because it is something of importance; it should be put on a proper footing and the Government should have been collecting something from it, whatever it is. The hawkers have to be registered and we have to get somebody to monitor these radio amateurs for security reasons and that sort of thing. During the last World War these people rendered yeoman service to the fighting forces by being able to do this thing; they erected their own apparatus and they were of great service to their country. Their service was recognised and therefore Regulations must not be made to crush these people; Regulations should be made to encourage and regulate the work they are doing.

I am distressed to find that objections to Regulations are brought before a responsible person who has now taken up a full-time job to look after the interests of the people, and he has allowed a sub-Head in an office to act on these Regulations which are before the Legislature merely because he knows that we have given permission for Regulations to be made and become law before we see them. That is a privilege which can only be given to decent people, if you find that state of affairs existing, then honourable members of this House should see that Regulations are brought here before they become law. I think it very inexpedient for a sub-Head of a Department to act on Regulations before giving the two Houses of the Legislature an opportunity to express their opinion on them; and then the Government sets up an examiner who has not got the qualifications to pass the examination himself! That is placing people in a very embarrassing position; if the real Head of the Department has the qualifications, an amendment should be brought in to save the sub-Head of the Department such embarrassment. An awkward position will be brought about by these Regulations.

I myself have asked radio amateurs to let me know if they find anything in the Regulations detrimental to the interest of this valuable pastime; I did not hear from them and I enquired if they had any objection to the Regulations and they had no serious objection to them. But I have heard to-day that the two persons with whom I got in touch were fortunate enough to get exemptions. I do feel, whether we can amend these Regulations or not, that it is to the benefit of the honourable senior member

for St. Michael to agree to the House going into Committee on this Resolution so that he can place his argument in a democratic way before the House, and let honourable members ask that the matter be clarified or something like that. That is the democratic and the best way to deal with this matter. We pass some Bills which are comprised of just a page and we go into Committee on them, but these Regulations are comprised of several pages and we are asked to speak just once on them. If it is a Bill with one Clause we go into Committee on it. We want the Ministers to respect people's views and not pin people down to the operation of the law.

Mr. VAUGHAN. Mr. Speaker, — I think the honourable member's argument is more fundamental than he realises, but what he is doing is questioning the validity of administrative law and that being so, I am in sympathy with him. Administrative law is always a challenge to democracy. You must realise that under the Acts of this colony, the administration has the power to make regulations which are immediately binding on certain institutions, and that there is only one of two things which this House can do with regulations and that is either to reject or accept them. There are restrictive clauses in the regulations before this House and the correct thing for this House to do is to reject the regulations. We cannot amend them. This whole argument is really questioning administrative law and that is very controversial.

In these regulations, although a certain number of them are absolutely essential, there are a certain set of them which will create a pressure on certain small groups of people. That is why regulations like these will always be a danger to democracy. This House has the power. It can either accept them or reject them. There are certain clauses under these regulations which are so very evil to certain groups of the community that the only thing which this House should do is to prevent them from coming into force. This House should reject them. I am counselling honourable members not to quibble about them any more. There is only one course to take in this case and that is to reject the entire regulations.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker,— In the first place, I wish to reply to the honourable senior member for St. George. It is true to say that this question was discussed by a group of members of the Labour Party before coming to this House with it and the honourable member did attend one or two of the meetings and suggested one or two amendments. The first amendment suggested was to delete the word "Inspector" and insert the words "Electrical Engineer". I went into that question thoroughly and I found out that it would be a mistake on our part to have that word deleted.

My only reason for suggesting to the honourable junior member for St. George that we should not go into Committee on these regulations is because, as all honourable members know, we cannot amend regulations. It would only be a waste of time if we go into Committee on them. If I may refer again to the question of the deletion of the word "Inspector" and substituting "Electrical Engineer" in its place, I would say that I found out that it would not be in keeping with the terms of the appointment of the Government Electrical Engineer.

The honourable junior member for St. George also raised the point that the regulations should be postponed for six months so as to give amateur operators the opportunity of qualifying for a licence to operate. I have already countered that proposal when I said that all amateur operators were given temporary licences in 1948 and it was told them at that time that they would have to qualify in the course of time for the licence. It is now six years since that time and it cannot be said that those individuals have not been given a reasonable time to qualify.

The Government Electrical Engineer was appointed under these terms which were agreed to under the amendments of the Civil Establishment No. 4 Order, 1952. They are as follows:—

The Government Electrical Engineer will have complete control over all Government electrical installations and will be independent of departmental control. The duties of his office are as follows:—

(i) to advise the Government on all matters connected with Electrical Engineering;

(ii) to be responsible for the purchase, installation and maintenance of all Government electrical equipment subject to the provisions of Section 4 (d) of the Electricity Act, 1936;

(iii) to act as electrical adviser to the Governor-in-Executive Committee in any dispute arising under the Electricity Act, 1936;

(iv) to ensure that the provisions of the Electricity Act, 1936, are properly carried out.

As can be seen, under the provision of the Electricity Act, 1936, the Government Electrical Inspector is appointed to see that the provisions of the Act are properly carried out. I will say that if honourable members know that the holder of this office is not properly qualified, I do not know anything about that. All I would say is that he must have some qualifications to give him the opportunity of getting the appointment of Government Electrical Inspector.

I do not for one moment believe that the Government Electrical Inspector wants to be hard on anybody. As I have said, he has overriding authority. Clause 5 of the Electricity Act is stated as follows:—

"No electricity shall be supplied to any electric installation completed after the passing of this Act or to any extension or installation in existence before the coming into operation of this Act until the Inspector shall have granted his permission in writing to the person seeking the supply of such electricity. Provided always that if the applicant for the supply of electric energy or his representative is dissatisfied with the decision of the Inspector, he may appeal to the Governor-in-Executive Committee who shall thereupon enquire into and decide upon the matter, and the decision of the Governor-in-Executive Committee shall be final."

It therefore can be seen from that clause that if the Government Electrical Inspector may have acted harshly in any case, he is not the beginning or the end of the law; he has overriding authority.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,— I rise on a point of correction. I do not know if the honourable Minister for Communications got me wrongly. I never said anything which would even insinuate that the present Government Electrical Inspector should not be the officer to hold that post.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, — I was not referring to the honourable member when I made that remark. I was referring to remarks which were made by the honourable senior member for St. George and junior member for the City. The point which was made by the honourable junior member for St. George was relative to discrimination with regard to exemptions made by the Government Electrical Inspector.

Sir, I took time off to get this information which I am about to give relative to the individuals who have applied and received licences because I knew that the honourable senior member for St. George had raised some points with regard to the matter

already. With regard to those exempted from examination — a point which the honourable member made — I have here in my notes that Mr. W. Sayers was exempted from examination, he being the holder of proficiency certificates. The honourable junior member for St. George is a technician in Wireless Telegraphy and as such, he is able to say whether the certificates held by Mr. Sayers are sufficient to exempt him from the examination. Another individual who was exempted from taking the examination is Mr. L. H. Nicholls because he also holds proficiency certificates. According to my note on those who were exempted because they hold proficiency certificates are also the names of Mr. Sugars, Mr. T. A. Marryshow, Mr. T. O. Roachford and Mr. F. Grant.

I think the honourable senior member for St. George said that a druggist was granted a licence although he had no proficiency certificates.

Mr. BARROW: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I never mentioned the name of a druggist or any other person. I said I heard a druggist was granted a licence.

Hon. M. E. COX: I want to assure the honourable member that no druggist was granted a licence. A druggist did apply for a licence but he did not satisfy the examiner and he was not given a licence. As I have said, opportunity was given to all amateurs to get qualified so that they could be granted a permanent license. Some have received their licences already but some have not and some are still awaiting their examination results. Let me again assure honourable members that there will be no discrimination in the granting of these licences for the operation of these amateur sets. Great care will be taken to see that there will be no violation of the policy which has been all along enunciated.

I appeal to honourable members to agree to the passing of the resolution. As the honourable junior member for the City has said, these regulations should have been passed long ago. The individuals concerned should have undergone the various tests already and should be qualified. In so far as those who hold certificates, I can assure honourable members that they have not gone through the normal test simply because the qualifications which they have, are far above the tests which amateurs operators will be called on to undergo.

Mr. BRANCKER entered the House and took his seat.

The question that the House go into Committee on the resolution was then put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. E. K. WALCOTT, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. GODDARD.—5

Noes: Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. HOLDER, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BRANCKER, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLDER and Mr. HAYNES.—16.

The question that the resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of Mr. SPEAKER, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. HOLDER, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, and Mr. BRANCKER.—11.

Noes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. VAUGHAN, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. E. K. WALCOTT, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. GODDARD.—11.

His Hon. the SPEAKER: The question has resolved in a tie, eleven honourable members voting 'Aye' and eleven voting 'No.' I will vote with the "Ayes."

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Unheard of, Mr. Speaker.

His Hon. The SPEAKER: The honourable member is disorderly; I will name him if he persists in his behaviour.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE WIRELESS TELEGRAPH (SHIP STATION) REGULATIONS, 1954

His Hon The SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael: To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the regulations entitled the Wireless Telegraph (Ship Station) Regulations, 1954.

Hon. M. E. COX: This resolution is similar to the last. It is to approve of regulations entitled: "The Wireless Telegraph (Ship Station) Regulations, 1954. For some time now, owners of ships and people interested in this business have been asking that regulations be made so that ships would be able to carry wireless sets and also that they be given opportunity to get a licence to operate such sets.

There are approximately twenty-four ships registered in Barbados, but some of them do not really come to this port. As a result of their being registered here, they are desirous of getting licences to carry these wireless sets and as a consequence, these regulations are made. As honourable members will see, there is nothing compulsory about these regulations. I think honourable members will agree that they are however necessary, because whenever schooners and other such vessels put out to sea, they should have some means of communicating with the nearest port, but it is a fact that there is very little communication among several of them and as a result when any of them get into difficulties, no assistance can be rendered to them. As I have said, this resolution is to approve regulations to allow these ships to carry sets and to have licences for such sets. I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very short in putting forward a point of view of mine. This resolution to approve Wireless Telegraph (Ship Station) Regulations has may greatest approval. I think it is only six months ago that we had the unfortunate disaster of the "Lady Joy" lost to sea and although one may say that a Federated West Indies is yet far away, yet the more we can do to promote safety at sea to intercolonial craft, I think we should do so.

The only thing about these regulations that I am worried about is Clause 8 of the Conditions. It is stated thus:—"The station shall be worked only by operators holding certificates issued by the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom or any duly recognised authority."

It is true to say that most of these things — like these regulations — are made out according to some conventional pattern, but there is always some difficulty when colonial countries follow English conventions too strictly. Owing to the fact that a colony may only reach a certain type of development due to lack of capital, or the lack of the know-how, it is impossible to enforce conventions practised in the United Kingdom too strictly. I think that can be said of this matter. It can also be said that a person in the United Kingdom gets more money than the average Barbadian, therefore, he can qualify in these things more easily. We therefore should think on these matters from that point of view when fram-

ing regulations like these and should not try to frame them according to every word of the text from which they are taken. The danger about the drafting of this clause is that in the United Kingdom there are the resources, the technical know-how and all the other things which can afford a person to aim at that high standard, but all these things are not available to the person in the West Indies. I just wanted to bring this point to the notice of this House. I give my whole-hearted approval of the resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: I rise to make an appeal to the honourable Minister for Communications. These regulations were given notice of on the 5th January as far as I can make it out. As can be seen, that is the date when they were laid on the table of this House. But while that is so, I have only come into possession of a copy of them a day or two ago. These regulations as I have heard are compelling small craft to carry wireless sets and to obtain licences for carrying and operating them and as I reason it out, some of these small boats will have to pay somebody $200 or $300 to operate these sets. I am therefore asking the honourable Minister for Communications to oblige by postponing this resolution for a week during which time I will endeavour to conduct myself in a knowledgeable way about them. I will hear from people who will be affected by them, but allow me to state that the fact that some person may tell me that he is affected in some manner will not affect me in my attitude towards these regulations. When I am asking the honourable member for a postponement of this resolution, I think I am voicing the feeling of other honourable members. I do feel that there are other honourable members who would like to have the opportunity of going through these regulations more fully and discussing them with someone who will be affected by them. Let me repeat that I have not had the opportunity of going through them as I would like owing to the fact that I only received a copy of them a day or two ago.

I therefore am making a motion that further consideration of this resolution be postponed. I do so because at the present moment, I am in no position to be of assistance in the matter, either from a technical or commonsense point of view. If these regulations are going to affect people, I do not know. It is a fact that a copy of them was laid on the table of the House on the 5th January last, but it has taken more than a month to circulate them to honourable members.

Allow me to say that I do not believe in accepting motions. If a motion is made for the postponement, I think the House should agree to it. However, if the honourable Minister for Communications accepts my motion, it would give me the opportunity of learning something about the regulations.

Hon. M. E. COX: The regulations were laid on the 19th January last and not in the 5th January as the honourable junior member for the City mistakenly said. What I rise to say, however, is that I have gone into this question carefully and have been informed that these wireless sets are similar to telephone sets, therefore, they need no technical knowledge or great skill to operate. I understand that all one has to do in operating them is to lift a receiver from a cradle and as soon as he hears a hum which will point him to the fact that he is in contact with somewhere, he will deliver his message. I have also been made to understand that a set costs in the neighbourhood of sixty and seventy pounds. I have just stated those things to show that I went into the question carefully, because I anticipated such questions on it. I want to assure honourable members that these regulations are a request by the people who own those ships and that they are not supposed to carry these wireless sets if they do not want to do so. These regulations are merely to legalise the issuing of licences to those people who wish to carry such sets.

Mr. MILLER: I do not understand the statement made by the honourable Minister for Communications when he says that this is only a request by the people themselves. Clause 8 of the Conditions reads as follows:— "The station shall be worked only by operators holding certificates issued by the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom or any duly recognised authority."

Hon. M. E. COX: That clause is so worded because this is an international question.

Mr. MILLER: Further, under paragraph 5 of the Regulations, it is stated: "The Inspector may in discretion revoke or withdraw any licence issued or renewed under these Regulations." Therefore, to say that this is only a request by the owners of the ships cannot be absolutely correct. We have a lot of small craft which run to this Island. After bringing in some goods, they are here for ten or fifteen days before they set sail again. According to clause 3 of the conditions; "The station shall only be used to send messages and signals to other stations of the mobile service and to receive messages and signals from other stations of the mobile service." Has provision been made for a mobile station to be ashore? These regulations are according to English Tele-communications Conventions, but while they can apply to English conditions, they cannot apply to West Indian conditions in general. If you are going to stipulate that the owners of these small craft that ply the Caribbean must have a radio according to these regulations, these ships will be bound to carry certified operators to work those sets, because only that type of operator will be able to do what is set out in clauses 9 to 12 of the conditions. The conditions state that the Licensee should not receive by means of the station messages not intended for receipt, and should keep full accounts, records and registers of all messages sent and received by means of the station. Obviously, the regulations must be so worded so as to preserve the right of Messrs. Cable and Wireless, Ltd. The licensee of course, should not be allowed to handle international traffic when out to sea. Again, I say that it is misleading the House when the honourable Minister for Communications said that these regulations are the result of a request by the owners of small shipping craft, because they cannot use these wireless sets unless they carry a certified operator.

Hon. M. E. COX: Where does the honourable member see that?

Mr. MILLER: Read clause 8 of the Conditions. I may say here that amateur radio operators in these parts have been of great assistance to the Caribbean area. I happened to be on the air as an amateur when the hurricane in Jamaica was taking place and I remember quite well that the local station of Messrs. Cable and Wireless collapsed as well as the Electric Company went out of operation and the amateur station which I was operating was the solitary station that handled the entire communications—both private and commercial—to the island for some five days. If some such provision was not provided, the whole island would have been in a blank; therefore, they should be some little provision for these small craft to carry small radio sets. They would help in the saving of lives should a small craft get into difficulties while out to sea. As a matter of fact, a ship is not considered seaworthy unless it is equipped with radio. Unfortunately,

most of the small craft that traverse the Caribbean area are not so equipped.

We should have some such regulations, but I am afraid that because these small craft to be so equipped will have to carry a certificated operator, this condition will kill any hopes of any of these small craft being fitted with such equipment. It must be borne in mind that the average individual who works on board those small craft are not the type that are likely to learn Morse. Before I would vote for this resolution, I would like to hear something further from the honourable Minister for Communications.

The question that the resolution do now pass was resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of Mr. Speaker, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. HOLDER, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. BRANCKER and Mr. VAUGHAN—11.

Noes: Mr. MILLER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. E. K. WALCOTT, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. GODDARD.—11.

HIS HON. THE SPEAKER: During the taking of the vote, I have heard distinctly, voices other than those called by Mr. Clerk. I have had to stop him calling on honourable members on an occasion. I am asking honourable members to assist me in preserving the good order of this House. Should it happen again and I am able to discover any voice I am going to name that voice. Again I am asking honourable members to help me to preserve good order in this House.

The question has resolved in a tie, eleven honourabe members voting 'Aye' and eleven honourable members voting 'No.' I will now vote with the "Ayes."

TEA ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

On re-assembling,

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of a resolution which was not quite ready when other resolutions were given notice of earlier to-day.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to give notice of a resolution to place the sum of $107,418 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part I. Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1953-54, No. 41, which form the Schedule to the Resolution. It is ordinary supplementary estimates to cover expenses by several departments for the last quarter of the year.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1954.

HIS HON. THE 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) Order, 1954.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, This resolution is the result of another of the anomalies that has been discovered when we acted on the Salaries Commissioner's Report. We have been clearing them up bit by bit. This is one dealing with the Senior and Junior Health Nurses at the Health Centre. As honourable members will see from the Addendum to the resolution, the object of this Order is to provide for the grant of free quarters to the Senior and Junior Health Nurses at the Health Centre, so as to bring those posts into line with those of the Nursing Staff in other departments. The Order has been made with retroactive effect as from the 1st July, 1953, the date on which the Health Centre commenced operation.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded the motion.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 ORDER, 1954.

HIS HON. THE 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. 2 Order, 1954.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This resolution arises out of the coming into being of the new Oistin sub-Post Office and Branch Library. The objects of the amendments are:

(1) To increase the staff of the Public Library by the provision of one Library Clerk for the School Library Service and one Library Clerk and one Library Attendant for the new Library at Oistins; and

(2) the reduction by one in the number of Long Grade Clerks in the Labour Department and the substitution therefor of one Stenographer-Typist.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded the motion.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1954.

HIS HON. THE 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 Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, The addendum to the resolution explains as follows:—

Under the provisions of the Teachers (Amendment) Order, 1953, the second Efficiency Bar in the salary scale for Teachers in Schedule A, was reduced, in the case of Men from the eighth point, and in the case of Women from the seventh point, to the fifth point in the respective scales. The object of the amendment is to restore a balanced scale for fixing the second Efficiency Bar at the seventh point in the scale for both Men and Women Teachers.

This is one of the anomalies which has arisen out of the implementation of the recommendations of the Salaries Commissioner and it is proposed that the Order should be of retrospective effect from 1st April, 1952.

I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion.

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

END OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this ends Government Buisness for the day.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNMENT TO GIVE PERMISSION TO DR. JAGAN TO LAND IN BARBADOS.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, As I intimated to you earlier today, I am asking leave of the House to deal now with a resolution requesting this Government to give permission to Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Mr. L. S. Burnham to land in Barbados for so long as would normally be necessary for them to get transport to return to their homeland.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: The resolution reads as follows:—

RESOLVED that in the opinion of the House permission should be granted to the recently deposed Ministers of British Guiana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Mr. L. S. Burnham, to land at Barbados en route from London to British Guiana for so long a stay as is necessary normally to arrange transit to their homeland.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during their stay in Barbados they should not be subjected to any unnecessary personal indignities nor to any infringement of their freedom, as was the position during their entire stay in the United Kingdom, than the circumstances of their case warrant.

HIS HON. THE SPEAKER: With reference to the second paragraph of the resolution, it appears to me as if it is dangerously worded, and I do feel that the House will not be in sympathy with it. Before the honourable member proceeds further with the resolution, I would like him to reconsider that paragraph.

Mr. CRAWFORD: May I point out, Your Honour, that my only reason for including this second paragraph is because I fear that if the deposed Ministers of British Guiana be detained here for two or three days before getting transport to their homeland, they may be held under arrest until the plane arrives. I may recall to honourable members' minds that it was done to the correspondent of the *Daily Worker*, England, when he arrived in British Guiana when this crisis was taking place there. I am merely suggesting, rather asking honourable members to suggest that all due caution should be exercised. However, if the House does not like the second paragraph, honourable members can formally move that it be taken out and I will accept its deletion. I may say further to support my reason for putting that paragraph in the resolution that both Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham stated in London that they understood that they will be allowed to land in Barbados provided that they leave immediately. I interpret that statement to mean that when they land at the Seawell Airport from London, they must have a chartered plane to take them away immediately. In my opinion, that is beyond the financial resources of the deposed Ministers.

Sir, I am profoundly humiliated over the fact that it has become necessary to make a motion like this in Barbados. It will be recalled that in the two deposed Ministers experiencing difficulty to get to England, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph in a debate in this Chamber around that time said it would not happen here. The honourable member said that anybody could come here, even Stalin, so long as he behaved himself. Of course, if he misbehaved himself, the law would take its course.

Sir, this Government calls itself the first and only Socialist Government in the West Indies. Make no mistake about it, Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham have been detained in London not because of any fear over what they would do, but merely because the attorneys and directors of Messrs. Bookers, Limited wish to keep them out of British Guiana as long as possible in order to embarrass them. We all know the influence and the contacts of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Honourable Oliver Lyttelton. Before the Right Hon. Oliver Lyttelton became Secretary of State for the Colonies, he was a big company director, obtaining between £25,000 and £40,000 a year from the big concerns he was associated with. A lot of those concerns have interest in the colonies and there can be no doubt that attorneys would use their influence with him to embarrass Dr. Jagan and his company. Sir, if even we had a Conservative Government in Barbados, as a colonial government, it should not play the game of the United Kingdom capitalist. Far less should this be of a Labour Government. We should not make it appear that in any way we are allowing ourselves to play the same game that Messrs. Bookers of British Guiana wants played. If that company can control Trinidad and British Guiana and also can use its influence with the Dutch Foreign Office to retard those deposed ministers from getting back to their homeland, let its stooges do it, but let us in Barbados do what is expected of us.

Sir, I want to impress upon honourable members one or two facts. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph himself at some stage of his career found himself in the same position as Dr. Jagan. In 1937, the honourable member had occasion to leave this country because he felt certain elements of the community were against him and he sought asylum and assistance in the United Kingdom in the same manner as Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham have done in 1953. The only difference with his case and their case is that Barbados is fortunate in that it has not got any important absentee proprietors, because for instance, if Barbados had a firm like Messrs. Bookers Limited, controlling the commercial interest of the country to the same extent as that firm controls British Guiana, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph may have found it very difficult to get back here in 1937. There were people in this community who felt that the presence of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph in this Chamber was disadvantageous to the country. Dr. Jagan is today in much the same position as the honourable senior member for St Joseph found himself in then. Even if we believe that Dr. Jagan has made mistakes, in our position as colonials we do not know what is to happen to us in the future. We should therefore be ready to lend a helping hand whenever necessary to people like ourselves.

Sir, I am not suggesting that because Dr. Jagan or Mr. Burnham are communists that we should help them. As a matter of fact, they have denied that they are communists. I am suggesting that we must guard ourselves against this communistic hysteria. If we reflect our minds further back, we would remember that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph the other day, was not granted permission to land in the United States of America purely on account of this communistic hysteria. Dr. Jagan would not be permitted to land there for the same reason, therefore, by an ordinary simple mathematical maxim, things equal to the same thing are equal to one another. If Dr. Jagan was not permitted to land in certain colonies because of this communistic hysteria, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was not permitted to land in the United States because of the same thing; therefore if Dr. Jagan is described as a communist, it can also be said that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has been described as a communist.

I am nothing at all to do with the political ideologies of Dr. Jagan. I am just asking that he be allowed to land here and stay until he gets transport to his native land. If when he gets to British Guiana, it is considered that he has broken the law, the authorities can deal with him justly or unjustly. If when he gets there, he gets up and says that he does not like the way the Governor there parts his hair, the authorities there can arrest him and get a special jury to deal with him. Dr. Jagan was born in British Guiana. He is a West Indian colonial and I feel he should not be subjected to any unnecessary embarrassment or humiliation in his attempt to get back to the land of his birth.

I would say this finally, Mr. Speaker. Whether or not Dr. Jagan is a communist, it is my personal feeling that he has done British Guiana a lot of good. They would not be spending that £15-million on the development of that country had it not been for Dr. Jagan and the crowd like him. I am tempted to say that if we had a few communists here, I do believe that we would get similar financial assistance as has been granted to the sister colony. It is a fact that the £15-million or whatever is the amount has been granted to be spent on the development of British Guiana because the so-called communists or socialists in that country have compelled the British Government to focus attention on the country and to take some interest in what is going on there. Sir, if you look around the colonies, not only British Guiana, you will see that most of the countries in which there is this suggestion of communism over-running them that the big democracies are deeply concerning themselves over them and endeavouring to raise their general standard of living in order to offset that threat of communism. I do think that in order to get some attention paid to Barbados, we may have to develop a few powerful communists.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Sir, I am seconding the motion for the passing of this resolution. In doing so, I will say that I am proud that Barbados has not followed the hysterical example of Trinidad in the restriction of freedom of movement of West Indian citizens. Sir, you may recall that Dr. Jagan came to this colony some months ago and we were so proud of our society that we allowed him to hold a mass meeting in Bridgetown. I have no fear whatsoever that if we allow Dr. Jagan to land in Barbados and even to stay a few days until he gets transport to British Guiana, it would upset the social equilibrium of the community. It is my belief that any action of West Indian Governments which results in restrictive movement of British West Indians is most deplorable especially in this period when federation is being discussed. I am no communist, but again, I am a realist. The Communist Party is legal in the two greatest democracies in the world. It is legal in Great Britain and in the United States of America. The Communist Party is legal so these frightful and restrictive measures on alleged communists—Dr. Jagan and Mr. L. S. Burnham deny that they are Communists—are absurd to the highest degree. Personally, I feel that freedom of movement within the area of the British Commonwealth is something which we should be fighting for today. We should encourage those whom we have set up walls against; those whom we have allowed to go to the Iron Curtain. They should have freedom of movement without any restriction whatsoever. If it is necessary, in order for Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham to get to their homeland by stopping off here on their way from the United Kingdom, I see no reason why the Barbados Government should set up objection to it. We, in Barbados, should go down in history as one of the most democratic communities in the Caribbean. We are rated in that manner up to now. The immigration regulations which are in force in Trinidad are not in force here and I hope they will never be. I have lived in Trinidad for six months and I know what those regulations mean.

I am advising this Government to set an example to other West Indian colonies by allowing Dr. Jagan and Mr. L. S. Burnham to land here so as to get transport to their homeland. This Government should show other countries that those individuals are at liberty to come here for as long as it takes them to get transport to British Guiana. It may not allow them to hold mass meetings. I would subscribe to that not because I have any fear of the consequences. I know that it takes a lot of talk to move Barbadians from certain principles. As a matter of fact, they are the most subtile in the British Caribbean. I have no fear whatsoever that any speech by Dr. Jagan could upset Barbados. I would not subscribe to the question of only allowing Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham the facility of getting off a plane at Seawell and boarding another immediately to take them to British Guiana. The United Nations have just made public a document which is known as "Human Rights." It is a most extensive and comprehensive document on the rights of the person. It states that it is a pity that the liberty of personal movement which existed before the World War of 1914 has been so severely restricted. Before the 1914 World War, the movement of citizens was such that everyone felt that he was an international member of society. It is not so to-day. Mr. Speaker, I do not want Barbados to differ in anything from the outlook of the liberty of the subject which characterises its present policy.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: It is because I am a member of a democracy that I am voting for this Address in part. I do not subscribe to all the views expressed by the honourable member who has just sat down; I have no doubt that Dr. Jagan is a Communist and he has lost respect. If what the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution has said is correct, that Dr. Jagan will only be allowed to land and remain at Seawell, that is as much as saying that he will be allowed to land here.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. What I said was that permission should be given Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham to land in Barbados provided that they leave immediately. In other words, a plane would be waiting at Seawell to take them off.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: If that is correct, it would be stupid; you would not expect that from the Barbados Government; that would be in itself saying

that you are not going to allow them to land. I say that Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham should be allowed to land here on transhipment to British Guiana; I cannot agree with the other part of the Address and I am going to move an amendment to that. I am not as sure of the people in Barbados as the honourable junior member for St. John, because I am wise enough not to be drawn into the web with Dr. Jagan when he was here. He has a lovely personality, but his personality was such that he could not get me up to what he wanted me. Party or no Party, I feel that Dr. Jagan should be allowed to land here; the British or whoever is preventing him from getting home is making a martyr of him. I beg to move that the whole of paragraph 2 of the Address be deleted and the following be substituted therefor:

"And be it further resolved that they should not be allowed to hold or atend any meetings or distribute any literature of any kind."

If you want to see 40,000 people attend a meeting, just advertise that Dr. Jagan is to speak. I am voting for this Address but Dr. Jagan must not be be allowed to hold or attend any meetings or distribute any literature. I am a realist and that is how I feel about the matter. I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Philip to accept the amendment I have moved; we will be doing Dr. Jagan good if we vote for this Address with the amendment I have made.

Mr. ALLDER: I believe that if you intend to give charity it should be given without any restrictions whatever. I am not surprised that most of the honourable members here are willing to share the indulgence of the honourable senior member for the City; the honourable member has not disappointed me in his attitude towards a Resolution such as this. This matter should be viewed not from the point of view that Dr. Jagan is a Communist, but from the point of view that both Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham are West Indian citizens; and we, as West Indians, should be interested in perpetuating the liberty not only of ourselves but of all West Indians.

When I make a statement I have reasons for making it; if any honourable member wants to refer to some former statement of mine, that statement was based on the fact that the presence of a certain element of Indians was, in my opinion, causing an injustice to the colony and the workers whose interest, to me, comes first. Here we have two people from a sister colony, who want to get permission to pass through this colony on the way to their homeland and we see how difficult it is to get the House compris ed as it is of so-called Socialists representative of the interest of the masses, trying to absent themselves from doing to these two serviceable West Indians what they themselves would have liked done to them if they were victimised as these two gentlemen have been victimised in championing the cause of the working classes on whom they depend for their power. That only shows how far the interest of the working classes is at stake; I am sure that it only gives us an opportunity of seeing sincerity or insincerity, so that we can know clearly what our position will be if at any time the masses should make a clamour for the remedying of anything that is wrong; it only shows clearly whether we have sincere representatives of justice or whether we have men presuming to be honest in their politics and honest to their manhood.

The honourable senior member for St. Philip is in fear of not having a sufficient number of members in this Chamber even to form a quorum so that a Resolution of this sort can be passed; I am told that the Ministers will not be here much longer and as soon as they are ready to leave it means that the bottom will be knocked out of this matter. This is a serious matter and it should not be taken so lightly; even if we do not agree with the politics of Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham we still have to realise that there is a system of justice which has to be dispensed when it comes to safeguarding the personal liberty of individuals who set out to champion what is right. I want to make sure that not only are we interested in Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham being given permission to land here, but we are also interested to know that they are permitted to land with the freedom of any normal individual and no suggestion should be made of their movements being curtailed.

While the honourable senior member for the City has his fears and those fears might be supported by the behaviour of other honourable members, yet I feel that if a Government is doing what it should do, it does not need to fear the coming into the colony of two individuals such as Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham. If the British Government was doing what should be done to the colonies and colonials, it would not permit to arise that difficulty which prevents these two gentlemen from getting back to their homeland; and if the Barbados Government was doing what it should do as far as the interests of the masses are concerned, it would not need to worry itself as to how long these two gentlemen should remain in this colony. The masses are interested in any individual whose policy politically and administratively speaking, is in their interest. You can see what is in the minds of the Governments concerned both in London and the West Indies when they set up the fear of the presence of these two gentlemen in their respective territories. I am supporting this Resolution strongly and hope that both these gentlemen will be truly permitted to pass through this colony.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am accepting the amendment moved by the honourable senior member for the City and I merely want to say that I am agreeing to the deletion of the second paragraph of the Address as moved just in order to get this Resolution passed. It would be a good waste of time to press the matter to the vote and lose. My second paragraph merely meant that these two gentlemen should be allowed to land in Barbados and their personal freedom should not be infringed in any way. I expect that they would not be allowed to hold meetings or distribute literature; at the same time I do not expect that because they are awaiting transhipment, they should be arrested or placed under surveillance or be humiliated or embarrassed in any way.

Mr. GODDARD: I do not want to be silent in this matter. I am in favour of allowing these two gentlemen to pass through Barbados on their way home; but I am in entire agreement with the amendment that they should not be allowed to hold any meetings or distribute any literature. I am convinced that these two gentlemen have not cleared themselves of the charge laid against them of being Communists, and we will not have that sort of element in our political meetings. However, as West Indians, these two gentlemen should be given the opportunity of returning to their homes. For that reason I am in full agreement with this Address as amended.

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

Mr. ALLDER: I gather that the Minister for Communications is responsible for handling matters which fall in this category, but he has just remarked *sotto voce* that he is nothing to do with this matter. I would like to know what will be the result of this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member does not need to have any fear; this matter will reach the proper quarter.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, the 23rd instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded the motion, which was agreed to and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.