

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 26th January, 1954.

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

Present:

His Honour, Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Mr. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., C.M.G., Q.C., Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., Mr. M. E. COX, Mr. R. G. MAPP, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Mr. C. E. TALMA, Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, Mr. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc. and Mr. L. A. WILLIAMS, LLB.

Prayers were read.

Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BRYAN and Mr. BRANCKER entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting which was held on the 15th December, 1953, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 31st December, 1953.

MESSAGE FROM THE OTHER PLACE

Also, a Message from the Other Place returning the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Bank Holiday Act, 1905.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Message No. 5/1954 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly conveying for the information of the Honourable House a schedule setting out in detail the portfolios allocated to Ministers on the introduction of the

Ministerial System with effect from the 1st February, 1954.

In connection with this Message, I am asking honourable members when they wish to refer to the Ministers that they refer to them in accordance with the portfolios that have been set out against them.

The Message reads as follows:—

MESSAGE NO. 5/1954

His Excellency the Governor
To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to paragraph 8 of his Message No. 25/53 and to append for the information of the Honourable the House of Assembly, a Schedule setting out in detail the portfolios allocated to Ministers, on the introduction of the Ministerial System with effect from the 1st February, 1954, and the departments which will be attached to each portfolio:—

SCHEDULE

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Portfolio</i>	<i>Departments</i>
Premier	Public Finance	Accountant General
	Taxation	Audit(y)
	Banking & Currency	Customs
		Income Tax & Death Duties
	Education	Savings Bank
	Police(x)	Supplies (Currency)
	Ecclesiastical	
	General Purposes	Education
		Police and Fire Brigade(x)
Minister of Trade, Industry & Labour	Trade & Commerce	Labour
	Industry	Petroleum & Natural Gas
	Industrial Power	Supplies
	Tourism	
	Minerals	
	Labour	
	Factory Inspection	

Minister of Agriculture, Lands & Fisheries ..	Agriculture Cooperative Societies Fisheries Irrigation Lands Marketing Meteorology Surveys	Science & Agricul- ture Peasants' Loan Bank Public Market
Minister of Social Services ..	Broadcasting Community Centres & Playing Fields Film Censor- ship Health Industrial Schools Library Medical Ser- vices Old Age Pen- sions Probation Social Welfare	Medical Depart- ments Prisons Government Indus- trial Schools Social Welfare Probation Public Library
Minister of Communica- tions, Works & Housing ..	Aviation Electrical In- stallations Harbour & Shipping Highways Housing Lighthouses Post & Tele- graphs Public Works Telecommuni- cations Town & Coun- try Planning Transport Waterworks	Airport Government Elec- trical Engineer Harbour & Shipping Master Housing Board Highways & Trans- port Post Office Public Works Waterworks

(x) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 14 of the Acting Governor's despatch No. 303 of the 30th April, 1953, and of paragraph 7 of the Secretary of State's despatch No. 334 of the 24th August, 1953.

(y) The relationship of the Auditor General and his department to the other departments is not affected and their complete independence of the Executive in the exercise of their functions will continue.

2. The Chief Secretary will continue to be responsible for the following functions of Government:—

Establishment
Defence
Security
Hurricane Relief
Public Relations and Press Liaison
Arrangements for General Election
Ceremonial (including Visits of H.M. Ships, etc.)

Secretaryship of Executive Committee.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.
26th January, 1954.
(M.P.—8251/S.1.)

Also, Message No. 6/1954 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly concerning the Fire Protection of Bridgetown and inviting the Honourable House to sanction proposals for the erection of a new Fire Station in Bridgetown.

The Message reads as follows:—

MESSAGE NO. 6/1954

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

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to address the Honourable the House of Assembly concerning the Fire Protection of Bridgetown, which is generally acknowledged to be at a dangerously low level.

2. In July, 1952, a Resolution for \$305,700 was sent to the Honourable Legislature for the purpose of erecting a new Fire Station in the grounds of the St. Cecilia Barracks at Passage Road, in place of the present most inadequate accommodation at Coleridge Street. The estimated cost of the building was \$219,300 and amounts of \$17,040 and \$69,360 were included to provide respectively for the erection of a new Fire Station in Speightstown and the purchase of new equipment to supplement the existing fire appliances.

3. The Resolution was passed by the Honourable the House of Assembly but was referred by the Hon. the Legislative Council to a Select Committee, which, after considering several alternative sites came to the conclusion that the most suitable site for a Fire Station in Bridgetown was at Temple Yard, and recommended that, despite the extra cost involved on account of land acquisition, the Station should be erected on that site. Consideration of the Resolution was deferred in order that an estimate of the cost of erecting a Fire Station at Temple Yard could be prepared. In the meantime the Government's Five Year Plan of Development and Taxation was in the course of preparation, and when it was decided to restrict the capital expenditure on account of the Fire Station to \$200,000, the Resolution before the Honourable the Legislative Council was withdrawn.

4. During the past year earnest consideration has been given to the problem of erecting a suitable Fire Station within the limit of \$200,000 which was inserted in the Five Year Plan and for which provision has been included in Part II—Capital Expenditure, Head VII—Miscellaneous, Item 1 of the Annual Estimates 1953/4. The cost of erecting a Fire Station at Temple Yard, and of providing the necessary equipment, was estimated at nearly \$440,000, and this project has accordingly been regrettably abandoned on account of its prohibitive cost. The Government has accordingly considered alternative sites which would entail no, or comparatively little, acquisition of land, and has finally selected the site at Probyn Street, which was originally earmarked for this purpose, and is much more centrally suited than the site at Passage Road, but had been discarded on account of inadequacy of space.

5. Subject to an exchange of a small area of land, on which agreement, subject to the approval of the Honourable Legislature, has been reached, between the Governor-in-Executive Committee and Caribbean Theatres Ltd., and to the purchase of an area of land from various owners, to the east of the existing Cinema car park, and amounting to about

8,750 square feet, sufficient space can be found on this site and plans have been formulated accordingly.

6. These plans entail the removal of the City bus terminal from its present site in Probyn Street to a site to the west of the offices of the Department of Highways and Transport, which will be enlarged by the removal of the Colonial Engineer's timber yard. Long distance buses will continue to operate from the present stand in front of the wall of the Bethel Chapel.

7. Most careful consideration has been given to the reduction of the cost of the building, and the total expenditure on account of capital works, including the conversion of the Highways and Transport yard into a bus terminus, and a provision of \$5,000 for contingencies, is \$211,300, which, although it exceeds the amount of \$200,000 inserted in the Five Year Plan, compares very favourably with the estimate of \$219,300 in the Resolution sent to the Honourable Legislature in 1952, which was in respect of a building alone, except for a small amount to provide an adequate exit into King Street, and made no provision for a Tower, which is essential for those drying and training purposes. To this sum of \$211,300

must be added the cost of purchase of the area of approximately 8,750 square feet, the exact amount of which must depend on negotiations with the owners, and the cost of new fire-fighting appliances, estimated at approximately \$70,000, which in view of the imperative urgency of obtaining adequate modern fire-fighting equipment with the least possible delay, have already been ordered against the capital provision in the 1953/54 Annual Estimates. The total cost of the Probyn Street project including equipment but excluding the purchase of the area of 8,750 square feet of land, will be approximately \$281,300. This is considered to represent the irreducible minimum required to provide adequate fire protection for Bridgetown. Separate consideration is being given to the needs of Speightstown.

8. An advantage of the Probyn Street site is that it is possible to make an immediate start on the project without waiting for negotiations concerning the purchase of the land required to be completed. Since provision in excess of the sum provided in the current Year's Estimates will not be required during the present financial year it is proposed that a Resolution should not be sent to the Honourable the Legislature at this stage, but that provision for the excess over \$200,000 together with a revote of the provision not expended during the present financial year, should be included under capital expenditure in the Annual Estimates for 1954/55.

9. The sanction of the Honourable the House of Assembly is sought to the proposals set out in this Message, in order that an immediate start may be made on this urgent project.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.

26th January, 1954.

M.P. 2326/T.1

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to lay the following Orders:—

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1954.

The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

Mr. ADAMS: On behalf of the honourable junior member for St. Peter, I beg to lay the following:

Quarterly return of transactions in Rum to 30th September, 1953.

Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to consider ways and means of reducing the incidence and of preventing the spread of cane fires throughout the Island.

PETITION

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from the Esso Standard Oil S.A. praying the House to pass a Bill to allow the Company to construct and maintain a Petroleum Oil Storage Station in the island. The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petition was taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Mr. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1954.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

Mr. ADAMS: (for Mr. F. L. WALCOTT) Resolution to place the sum of \$28,000 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. 37 which forms the Schedule to the resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: This last resolution is to provide for the possible eradication of the mealy bug pest. I shall be asking leave of the House to move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 to deal with it in all its stages today because of the circumstances.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Esso Standard Oil S.A. to construct and maintain a Petroleum Oil Storage Station in the island.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. GODDARD seconded by Mr. VAUGHAN, the Bill to authorise the Esso Standard Oil S.A. to construct and maintain a Petroleum Oil Storage Station in the island was a read a first time.

STATEMENT BY MR. COX

Mr. COX: Before the business of the day be proceeded with, I am asking Your Honour for permission to make a statement relative to the expenditure of \$7,000 which was passed by this House at its last meeting to provide for the completion of the erection of the Post Office and Library at Oistin.

When this question was discussed, honourable members asked at that time for a breakdown of the \$7,000 and with Your Honour's permission, I shall read the statement for the benefit of honourable members.

It must be understood that the \$7,000 is not above the estimate submitted by the Colonial Engineer for the new building. The Colonial Engineer submitted to Government, after preparing the plans himself on the requirements of the Departments concerned, an estimate of \$25,000. The figure was accepted, and as \$18,000 had been provided, it was arranged to provide the balance of \$7,000 in the

1954 Estimates, but work proceeded before time. Therefore, the \$7,000 does not represent over expenditure on the new plans prepared, the building being considerably larger than the project envisaged in 1950, and labour costs higher.

As a matter of interest, the cubic cost of the building at the estimated cost of \$25,000 works out at some 25% reduction on the estimates of previous buildings erected, less site, works and paths.

The breakdown must therefore be given on the whole of the estimated and actual cost, \$25,000.

Materials			\$14,000
Labour			11,000
			\$25,000

Comparative areas of building—

1950 Plan			1,676 sq. ft.
1953 Plan			2,335 sq. ft.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I take it that this statement will be circulated to honourable members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

AMENDMENT TO BANK-HOLIDAY ACT BY OTHER PLACE AGREED TO

Dr. CUMMINS: Under Rule 262, I am asking leave to proceed at once to deal with an amendment by the Other Place to the Bill intituled an Act to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1905.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: Honourable members will remember, especially the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, when the Bill dealing with the Bank Holidays Act which makes provision for the selling of fruit and vegetables on Bank Holidays that there was a sub-section which was lettered "C" and that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy drew to my attention that it was an error. It has proved to be an error as the letter should be "L".

In dealing with the Bill on that occasion, under Section 1, sub-section "C" was amended to bring in fresh fruit and vegetables. That proved to be wrong as it should come under "L." As I have said, the honourable junior member for St. Lucy drew it to my attention and I promised him to look into the matter and as a result, this letter was amended in the Other Place. I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the amendment be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I was not in this Chamber when the Bill was considered, but I think this is another instance when it is regrettable that this House should have to be put in order by waiting for the Other Place to correct what it has done.

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

On motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the amendment was then agreed to.

LEAVE TO DEAL WITH ORDER NO. 4

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking leave to deal with Order No. 4 as the next Order of the day.

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

RULES 88 AND 89 SUSPENDED

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am moving that Rules 88 and 89 be suspended in order to deal with the resolution for the sum of \$28,000 for the control of the mealy bug pest of which notice has just been given. I am also asking that instruc-

tions be given to the Committee at the appropriate time to deal with the resolution.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the House go into Committee of Supply and that the instructions of the Committee be to deal with the resolution of which notice has just been given.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION FOR \$28,000 TO CONTROL MEALY BUG PEST

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I shall deal first with the resolution for \$28,000 which is to make provision for the control of the mealy bug pest. As I understand it, notices of this resolution have been posted to honourable members with the permission of Mr. Speaker. I do not think if honourable members read the addendum which explains the resolution fully that I need to say anything more because I am almost sure that there could be nobody in this House who would want to hold this up for a minute considering the extreme importance of it. It is perfectly true that the implications of what has to be done, plus what has been done are tremendous, particularly when it is borne in mind that through it, we have had to give up lands which were used for food production in order that more sugar cane should be grown. I do know that is a very serious matter but Government has been informed that the mealy bug peril is so great that it would be necessary to take that comparatively drastic step, and this step which is not so drastic, the use of this particular form of insecticide in the fight against the mealy bug. I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the real serious danger of this pest, especially when it has reached the height that we have to abandon land for the production of food. However, in doing so, I am not satisfied that we are doing the right thing. Within the last few years, we are getting more tonnage from cane per acre than formerly and it may be possible for us to produce a fairly average crop because of that without sacrificing the areas of land for the production of food, which is very essential especially in the latter months of the year when cheap food, very often, contributes to the prevention of starvation.

Sir, unless Government can assure us that it will make plans for the importation of cheap food-stuffs to compensate for the loss in the growing of less food crops we certainly cannot be satisfied with this abandoning of land for food crops to the greater production of cane. When Government takes such a serious step, it should have plans for the importation of cheap food so as to ensure that in the "hard months" when most of the population is unemployed, the people will not face starvation. Sir, this is a serious risk. I am no agricultural scientist, agronomist, entomologist or anything of the sort, but I trust that this new insecticide, Agrocide, will be effective in destroying the mealy bug. I however do think that some thought should be given to the suggestion of prohibiting the ratooning of canes

beyond the third crop because as far as I have heard—and I can reasonably suspect that it is so—this mealy bug has become the pest it is as a result of persistent ratooning year after year. Again, I do not speak as any expert or even amateur agronomist, but it is true to say that a layman can accept things which are reasonable. If experts can differ as to the cause of certain things or diseases, we as laymen can have a healthy doubt as to an expert opinion. As far as I have been made to understand, this mealy bug pest has been the result of the absence in the soil of certain elements which it formerly fed on and these elements have been extracted by over ratooning, therefore, this mealy bug has nothing to feed on but the roots of canes. I therefore think that the right way to go about this thing is to try and supply this element back to the soil in order to ensure that the mealy bug does not take destructive effect on the cane plant.

Sir, after all, the land is our only hope and anything we can do to make it retain its productivity should not be left undone. I understand that one of the means of combatting this pest is the supply of stake manure to the land. Over recent years, the supplying of this type of manure to the land has been more or less abandoned by several estates. We have to save the land, and we should do so if it means the compulsory introduction of legislation to import cattle for this purpose. The importation of cattle will serve two purposes, the supplying of fresh milk to the population which sadly needs it, and (2) as a means of ensuring the richness and fertility of the soil. Our common sense leads us to think—and quite rightly—that the repeated use of foreign manures which are so prevalent and popular nowadays for increasing the tonnage of canes per acre, and consequently, the increase in the production of sugar, coupled with repeated ratooning of canes, might possibly have endangered the richness of the soil. As far as I understand, all soils have a certain amount of animal life living in them, although we do not always see it with the natural eye. This animal life in the soil must feed on something and if that something is taken away, it must feed on something else and that something else must be the plant.

Sir, the supplying of insecticide is not enough to control the mealy bug pest. If necessary, we should introduce legislation to compel estates to keep more cattle. We are near starvation point now owing to our population increase. Our crisis is actually here and we should leave nothing undone to ensure that the soil is in a position to provide our food crops. I repeat, if Government is allowing estates to plant former food areas into canes now, it should alternatively ensure the importation into this colony of cheap food during those months that the population is accustomed to having locally grown cheap food.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I think we have to be very careful whenever we are dealing with the mealy bug and ratoon stunting disease. Ever since I was hearing of these two things, they were made to appear as one and the same thing and they were brought into this House as one—not two things. I got so confused with these two matters in this House that I was obliged to go to the head of the spring about them and I have found out that the two things are separate from each other but had got mixed up. When lectures were given by people who are attached to the Department of Science and Agriculture, the two things were linked. I hope now that this House know that they are two different things that it will treat them as such. As far as I have been made

to understand, the mealy bug has been here ever since we had the sugar cane and the only thing about it to-day is that there seems to be more mealy bugs.

Sir, I was one of the first persons in this House to say that you are ratooning and ratooning and leaving the old cane stumps in the land and leaving the trash covering the land all the time. You are not taking it up from off the land so that the sunlight would penetrate to the earth and because of that you are leaving a habitat undisturbed for the mealy bug and the ant. I think that is all that has happened. Instead of planting canes at regular intervals, you are cutting down costs by ratooning and ratooning and that is also a reason why this state of affairs has been brought about. As far as cane stunting disease is concerned, that is appearing elsewhere and the experts have recommended the getting away from ratooning for any length of time for that disease. The experts have also discovered that if you use the same knife that cut a plant with cane stunting disease with another plant that has not the disease, you will transfer the disease to the other plant. All these things are known. What strikes me is that despite the knowledge of all those things, we are still so much confused about these two things.

Sir, we have had very many resolutions before this House to remind us of the mealy bug and the ant. There have been many resolutions which this House has passed for money to fight these two things. I suppose some were for experimental purposes. I was not in here on the last occasion when an honourable member reminded the Sugar Producers' Association that it was a Trade Union and I suppose that body will soon get something to come down here for their share also.

What I notice in this resolution is that although some of it is to set up a revolving fund, there is not a word in the resolution to say that accounts of this fund will be presented to the Legislature periodically. It does not matter if all or a part is used in the course of a year or six months; at least, arrangements should be made and the members of the House should get an undertaking that accounts of that fund will be laid on the Table of this House periodically. Sir, there are many amounts that Government has turned into revolving funds which have never been heard anything more about. I can bring to your memory one and that is the one to set up operations at the Cassava Factory. I do hope that in the new system of Government that accounts of these revolving funds will not only be sent to the Government but also to honourable members so that the public will have the opportunity of seeing how these funds are working. I think it will be something to the credit of the new system of Government if this is done. I do not think it is a good thing to take the taxpayers money out of the Treasury to create a fund and then nothing can be shown to give members of the public or members of this House any knowledge of it.

Sir, the Department of Science and Agriculture has a mysterious way of going about things. Years ago, we had an outbreak of mosaic disease in this colony and that Department had mosaic inspectors to make regular inspections for that disease and they were dismissed by that department without anybody knowing anything. Now, we have this problem of the mealy bug pest which has been created that the planters themselves, for it can be said that the very year that it was discovered was the year that they got the best crop of canes. I am firmly of the opinion that the persistent ratoon-

but as the honourable junior member for St. Andrew intimated that in the absence of compulsion, the peasants who should be purchasing it, particularly if they live in areas where the mealy bug is rampant, may not do so because in their working out of the cost of £10 per acre for this Agrocide insecticide, it may prove to be rather disadvantageous to them to make it a matter of compulsion in one way or the other to use the insecticide.

Mr. ADAMS: Let me correct the honourable member. The recurrent expenditure of \$17,000 is based on the mixing of 2,000 tons of insecticide mixture which is enough to treat 6,000 acres. Honourable members should agree that if this is so, the cost of this insecticide is \$8.50 per ton and a ton of this mixture would be sufficient to serve three acres.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am hoping the honourable Leader of this House is right in his calculations. As I was saying, the figures he has given are not the figures that were given to the Sugar Producers Association. I accept the figures given by the honourable Leader of this House. If this insecticide is as cheap as what the honourable member said, it may be all well and good and peasants may acquire it for use on their holdings; but if it is in the vicinity of what is intimated to me by the honourable junior member for St. Andrew, I would say that it strikes me that it would be very great wisdom to distribute it free to the peasants. The reason for my saying so is that at the figure of £10 per ton, the members of the Sugar Producers Association would be in a position to acquire it and would do so in order to eradicate the pest from their holdings, but the peasant would be in the unfortunate position of not being able to buy it and therefore would not be in a position to eradicate the pest from his holding and as has been said by the honourable junior member for St. Andrew, in the course of time, the pest will be again spreading all over the place. I hope the honourable junior member for St. Andrew has misunderstood the information given him in this respect. I would therefore like to get an assurance from the honourable Leader of this House that his figures are correct.

Sir, I am sure that this House would be willing to agree to the granting of the necessary expenditure, for the giving of this insecticide to peasants should it be found that it is beyond their means to obtain. The honourable junior member for St. Andrew said that it is going to cost £10 per acre which is very expensive. The honourable Leader of this House said that it is going to cost \$8.50 per acre.

Mr. ADAMS: Not \$8.50 per acre but \$8.50 per ton which is sufficient to cover three acres.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not mean to say that the figures of the honourable Leader of the House is incorrect. I am suggesting that if the facts are contrary to what he has said that it would be a wise thing to give the insecticide to the peasants because the prevalence of this pest is something which is striking at the economy of this island. This insecticide should be made available to all because it is something for the good of the sugar industry which benefits the island as a whole.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS: The point which I wanted to find out is the one which the honourable Leader of the House has given some information on. As it strikes me, from the information given, I am still wondering whether sufficient thought has been given to controlling this pest by a compulsory order to use this insecticide and that point interlocks with what the honourable junior member for the City said. It

may be all well and good without a compulsory order if the figures given by the honourable introducer are correct, but if that given by the honourable junior member for St. Andrew is correct, one would have to bear in mind whether it would not be of high capital cost to the poor peasant who has a holding from two to five acres. Certainly if the figure given by the honourable junior member for St. Andrew is correct, the cost of this insecticide would be a high figure for the peasant to expense himself with in the growing of his cane and as it appears to me, we would have to find some means of subsidising the peasant with it. I sincerely hope that the figures given by the honourable introducer of this resolution are correct.

The only other matter is whether the voluntary method is enough for the scheme to receive the co-operation of all so that the disease can be brought under some form of control. I hope it would be sufficient to tackle this problem without a compulsory order. In the meantime, I still think that it would be wise to get as much information as possible from the outside world about propensity of this pest.

Mr. ADAMS: Perhaps I did not make this matter as clear as I should. Plantation owners are paying for this insecticide through the Sugar Producers Association. This resolution is purely for small holders. While the plantation owners are getting their orders through the Sugar Producers Association, they are sending along the money for the cost of Agrocide with the orders. At present, they do not know what the extra cost of supplying this insecticide in this new way will be, but after a sufficient quantity of this stuff has been made and the cost found out, the balance of the price will be billed to plantation owners. As far as the Department of Agriculture has been able to calculate it, the figures which I have quoted are what the cost of the insecticide is likely to be for 2,000 tons of it. As I have said that amount will be sufficient to spread on 6,000 acres. I think I have also said that they will have to do some modification with the stone crusher in order to get this dust very fine. I do not know where the honourable junior member for St. Andrew got his figure from but that is far from what I see here. Let me again say that we are saying to the peasants: "If you need money to purchase the insecticide you require; go to the Peasants Loan Bank and we will lend you." At the present moment, Government does not consider the figure for the purchase of this insecticide is too much for the peasants to pay. Obviously if it were £10 we would have to make a gift of the insecticide to peasants. As I have said, the figures which I have quoted are those which were supplied to the Executive Committee at its meeting last Thursday.

Mr. LEWIS: It seems to me that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph has become a little confused about this matter. The honourable member now says that this resolution concerns the peasants. There is no such thing in the resolution. It is recoverable; that is what the note to the resolution says.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member were listening carefully to what I said, he would have heard how I said the insecticide would be tendered to plantation owners as it is ordered by them. He will see that the \$17,000 for this recurrent expenditure is based on the purchase of a stock of Agrocide for small holders to the amount of \$5,000 and on that amount is based the cost of mixing it, which brings the total cost to \$17,000. In this form it will be tendered to the plantation owners. The capital expenditure of \$11,000, as I have said, is for modification of the stone crushing plant, transport of the mixture, construction of a shed at Prospect, purchase

of wheelbarrows and platform scales, elevator and bin for bagging mixture, hand distributors and contingencies. Surely it must be clear by now that part of this amount is for capital expenditure and part would be recurrent expenditure.

Mr. LEWIS: The amount of \$17,000 is put down here as recoverable. Who is it going to be recoverable from but from the people to whom this insecticide would be sold? As far as I can see, the sum of \$17,000 will enable you to manufacture 2,000 tons of this mixture.

Mr. ADAMS: That is not true, I said the recurrent expenditure of \$17,000 is for the supplying of 2,000 tons of this insecticide mixture for small holders.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I was not in my place when debate on this resolution began, therefore I do not know if any honourable member has raised the point which I am going to raise now. I notice that the percentage of land allocated for the purpose of growing foodstuffs has been considerably reduced and I am warning Government to be very careful as to how much of this land is taken away from that for the growing of food crops and put to that for growing canes. I am told that sometime ago it was 35% of the average acreage in the island of agricultural land that was set aside for the purpose of growing food crops. It is now reduced to around 11½% and if there is a continual reduction in the portion of land for this purpose, there might be some difficulty in the future as regards the procuring of cheap food for the population. There are some people who seem to feel that people dislike to use sweet potatoes, yams, and such local food-stuffs that are grown but I do know that most of the population must depend on such commodities for their existence and I do hope that the Government would not allow those who would prefer to see importers prosper to cause it to feel that it is quite safe to reduce the land which is set aside for the purpose of producing food.

Sir, this is a very serious question and while it is true that the sugar industry is important to the well-being of the community, yet you cannot do everything in the interest of the sugar industry alone. I quite agree if the sugar cane is attacked by this mealy bug pest or other disease that it is necessary to do something to stave off a disaster, but there is the possibility of your going too far and thereby creating a greater danger than a calamity—if it can be called a calamity—of the sugar industry. I hope Government will pay some attention to this matter because I have noticed that in other colonies, rather than reduce the land for food production, large sums have been spent in reclaiming lands which would be added to that set aside for food production. In that way, they would be increasing the acreage of land for the purpose of guaranteeing that the population does not suffer from any short supplies.

Mr. Chairman, you will be surprised to see when breadfruits are scarce locally, how many housewives rush to get one. Last year, hawkers had to cut breadfruits in half so as to make one serve two customers. Because of that, I cannot see the reason why Government should take away some of the acreage for food production and, put it to that for cane growing, so as to make the population depend more on importation of foodstuffs. I think it is false economy. I see no reason why we should disregard using our yams and sweet potatoes to purchase English potatoes which are sold sometimes at 14 cents per pound. They may be cheap now, but that is not always the case. The food values in English potatoes and such items are no more than the food values in locally grown food.

If you make it difficult for people to get a sufficient supply of local food, the only alternative would be to substitute some imported articles which might not be as valuable as we would be able to produce but which would be dearer. I will again close with the warning to Government that it should be careful that those who advise it on this matter are not interested in the sugar industry alone, but also in the importation of food. It is going to bring more profit to those who import foodstuffs. Sir, the question is whether we should permit this reduction in percentage of land for food crops to continue or whether we should show our disapproval at this juncture so that harm cannot be done.

Mr. CRAWFORD: There is no doubt about it; in consequence of the presence of this disease there has been a reduction in the amount of land available for food production, and because of that, there must in time to come a reduction in the amount of food crops available. This is a point which cannot be emphasized too much. We must bear in mind that we have permitted planters to utilise land which consequently would be used for food crops to plant canes and that means that sooner or later, we will feel the effect of the decreased food production; therefore, in my opinion, coincidently with this agreement to eradicate this insect pest and to permit the planting of cane in land which consequently would be devoted to food production, there should be an attempt on the part of the Government to utilise every available acre of land in every part of the country which is now lying fallow for food production in order to make up for the decrease in that which was normally cultivated. I say that with especial reference to the land in St. Philip which the Government has recently acquired from the Admiralty. It is understood that a certain proportion of that land would be devoted to agricultural purposes and other portions to other purposes. If the deed has been effected and the land is now in the hands of Government, there is no excuse for not having started preparation of the land for agricultural purposes.

This is a time when planters think of planting sweet potatoes and if Government starts at once to prepare that land, it will be ready in time to plant sweet potatoes or cassava or other food crops which would help to meet the loss in food crops. There can be no reason for permitting that land to remain fallow if we are faced with increased food shortage in consequence of the attack of the mealy bug on cane plants and the necessary measures we have had to take in order, on the one hand, to eradicate the insect and on the other hand, not to decrease the production of sugar in the island. As previous speakers have pointed out, we cannot afford to decrease the amount of land we have devoted for food production. It is therefore the duty of the Government to endeavour, as far as possible, to compensate whenever and whatever possible by bringing land which is not used into cultivation immediately for the growing of food crops.

I speak with a certain amount of knowledge with regard to the land in St. Philip, but presumably, there are other areas in the island in other parishes which are in a fallow condition and which could be brought into use. These can be brought to the notice of the Government by other honourable members who should have an intimate knowledge of such lands in their constituencies. Sir, it is the obligation of Government to pay particular attention to this phase of the matter and to leave no stone unturned in its effort to maintain food production. As the honourable senior member for St. John pointed out, it is false economy to spend a greater

amount than we do now on imported food because there is no food which we import, with the possible exception of rice, which can be obtained cheaper than local food crops. It has been said that English potatoes are sold quite cheaply now but the honourable member who said so *sotto voce* has not good memory to recall that a few months ago, they were sold at 18 cents per pound.

I do hope that the Government will impress on the Department of Agriculture the urgent necessity for ensuring that our local food production is maintained at the maximum level.

One more point I would like to make with regard to the use of Agrocide insecticide and it is this: Unless there is going to be inspection of the use of that insecticide to eradicate the pest, I feel the scheme will not be as effective as it should be. There are many small holders who through financial difficulties or for other reasons, perhaps, less excusable, would not be inclined to bother themselves to treat this mealy bug pest which may be on their property. Although some of their areas are small, they will remain as breeding grounds for this pest. Our success in getting rid of mosaic disease has been due to the inspections that were carried out by the agricultural authorities. Today, the mosaic disease is almost non-existent in the island, but it did not reach this stage by leaving it to the whims and fancies of the capitalist and land owners to do as they like in the matter. There were rigid inspections of affected areas throughout the island. Whether the landowner be small or big, the presence of the mealy bug pest in this island must be considered by all of them as a pest and something which would decrease the economic value of his land. Of course, human nature being what it is, I think we cannot afford to leave the control of this pest entirely to the voluntary decision of landowners to take the necessary steps to treat their lands. Making the insecticide available is only a beginning. We should see that it is used, and should be used by all landowners. It should be no less the obligation of one than the other. If this Government has taken the first step by making the insecticide available, then the next and logical step is to see that it is used by all, otherwise the eradication of this pest will take a much longer time than we can either afford or desire.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Chairman reported the passing of one resolution in Committee and asked for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

On the re-assembling:—

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. Smith in the Chair.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman,— The next Resolution is as follows:—

Resolution to place the sum of \$20,000 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. 36 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

As the addendum shows: Included in the allocation in the Five Year Plan of Development and Taxation is provision for the deepening of the existing coral and sand bar at the entrance to the Careenage from about 12 feet to 16 feet to enable all intercolonial craft to enter and leave the Careenage at any state of the tide, thus reducing the congestion in the Careenage. It is expected that this work would also be of great benefit to the molasses industry by making it possible for tankers of a larger capacity than before to enter the Careenage for the bulk loading of Fancy Molasses for shipment to Canada and the United States of America.

This Resolution seeks to provide the necessary funds for carrying out the work which is estimated to cost \$20,000 and in respect of which tenders have already been received.

Sometime ago, sir, I think it was in May, 1952, the Harbour and Shipping Master represented to the Government that the bar of the Careenage had been presenting some difficulty in so far as the movements of intercolonial craft are concerned. As a result of that representation the Government decided to put the sum of \$10,000 in the Five Year Plan to do that work. It has not been proceeded with before, but since we have agreed to ship molasses in bulk the urgency of getting on with the job has more or less increased. Government is therefore asking that this sum be voted.

When the work has been done the present craft and even larger craft will be able to enter the careenage and to leave without the difficulties which they encounter at present. The Exporters' Association has represented that the Canadian tanker which is supposed to take this molasses is capable of carrying 300,000 wine gallons; but as the careenage stands at present it can only take 220,000 wine gallons, which they claim is uneconomical. They are therefore hoping that at an early date the bar will be widened and lengthened in order that such craft will be able to enter and leave without difficulty.

I move, sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. Cummins seconded.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that this Resolution—

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—There is something that I would like to know.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, is not a division being taken?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A division is not being taken.

Mr. ALLDER: This is what I want to know, Mr. Chairman. It has been said that the bulk shipment of molasses is inevitable. Since it is inevitable we will probably have to accept it. But the change over must have repercussions as far as the earning capacity of workers in this branch of the Sugar Industry is concerned. A certain percentage of the workers gave permission for the change over, and we demanded a guarantee from the Government, which fortunately is comprised of officials of the largest trade union in the colony, that the change over would not work out disastrously as far as the earning capacity of the workers is concerned.

It does seem to me, sir, that this Resolution has something to do with that. This Resolution is to give permission to deepen certain parts of the careenage for the purpose of allowing tankers of larger dimensions to come inside and load molasses in bulk. It is said that such a development is inevitable. Be that as it may, I feel that this is an opportunity to get a guarantee from the Government that pro-

vision has already been made, or that provision will be made to give security to those hundreds of workers who at present depend on the puncheon system to eke out their livelihood.

The reason why I have raised the point is that during the past week or two some of those who have something to do with the shipment of molasses in puncheons have expressed their fears, and have expressed their desire to hear the question raised and an explanation or guarantee given in this Chamber on the matter. The honourable member who is so quick to twist the rules of this House in order to stifle debate knows that while he was giving in one quarter permission for preparation to be made for bulk shipment of molasses, he was, in another quarter, telling the workers, "We are having no such practice and therefore the rumours that you have been hearing are not true." I hope that the honourable member from the point of view of his position of responsibility to the workers on the waterfront and elsewhere, and from the position which he holds as Leader of the Government would give some promise, some guarantee that these workers are well provided for, or tell us what alternative action Government is proposing to take in this respect.

Mr. COX: I do not wish to prolong the debate. I am sure the honourable member will agree that the question as to the position of the workers whom he mentioned has been thoroughly discussed in this House some time last year when the Bill was before the House which Bill provided, among other things, for a cess on the molasses shipped in bulk—a cess of seven cents per gallon to be put at the disposal of the Government for advertising molasses in Canada and finding alternative employment for the people who were displaced as a result of bulk shipment. The Bill was passed and is now an Act on the Statute Book. This Resolution is nothing to do with that. Whether we ship molasses in bulk or not, it has been represented that the bar of the carenage prevents ordinary schooners which have been trading in this island for many years from coming in and going out freely, so to speak. Anyone who knows anything about the movement of these craft will know that when the tide is low certain craft can neither come in nor go out. That has been the case for many years. It is nothing to do with bulk shipment of molasses.

It has been represented to the Government that this bar can be deepened in order that craft can come in and leave when they want to. It is nothing to do with finding alternative employment for people who are put out of work as a result of bulk shipment of molasses. That question was gone into thoroughly last year.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I would like the honourable senior member for St. John to know that he is not alone in the questions that he has asked. The passing of legislation is only half of the answer. After you pass legislation there must still be administration to carry it out. Part of the Addendum states that the provision is necessary for deepening the carenage bar to enable intercolonial craft to enter and leave the carenage at any state of the tide, thus relieving congestion. The second reason for the Resolution is that deepening the bar of the carenage would help the molasses industry from the point of view of the tankers being able to come inside.

The second aspect of the matter that I want to touch on deals with the same point that was raised by the honourable senior member for St. John. Recently, sir, a six-man delegation came to my office and asked the same question that has been asked by the honourable senior member for St. John. Two were from my constituency; two from the cooperage in the Ruins and the other two were connected with the molasses industry.

It is true, sir, that we have passed an Act changing up the constitution of the Board and providing that a cess be levied for advertising expenses and providing alternative employment etc. But at that time we were given no details as to what sort of scheme would be worked out for people who were displaced. I at that time, was one of the people who made no bones about it. I asked the same thing that the honourable senior member for St. John has asked; the same thing that two members of my constituency have asked me—what rights do they have under the Fund? What are their prospects? All that I could tell them was that I had no information as to what developments the administrative machinery had decided on.

I was minded to ask to-day the same question that the honourable senior member for St. John has asked. I know it would be folly to ask what recommendations have been made by the Deep Water Harbour Committee. We are not on that now. But I would be glad if the honourable member in charge of the Resolution could tell us what is happening as regards the Bill which was passed, and which had among its provisions the securing of the interests of those people who would be displaced as a result of bulk shipment of molasses.

The sugar producers and those who are connected with the export of molasses and the Barbados Workers' Union must have made some arrangements as regards the allocation of money for advertising purposes and for finding alternative employment for displaced persons. If an amount of money has been allocated to those people in what form will it be dish-ed out? Will it be in the form of a dole, or will it be used to create an industry so as to find employment for them?

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for St. John has raised a very important point. We in this Chamber have been led to understand, and the public has been led to understand that the savings from bulk shipment will be utilised, for among other things, the provision of economic assistance to persons displaced by this bulk shipment. I think that it is full time now for some statement to be issued for the enlightenment of the people concerned. Government members owe a duty to the people concerned to make such a statement. It is not that we want information simply because we are curious. The people concerned have approached members of the Assembly asking for such information. No one expects a detailed recitation of the Government's decision on the matter, but some brief statement could be made to the effect that something is being done; or that the Government has made a promise which it does not intend to carry out. People have approached those whom they regard as their representatives for information on this matter. What are those representatives to do? They must ask questions of the Government, or must the workers follow their example and hold a parade through the streets of Bridgetown with banners bearing the words "Displaced Workers! We want Redress"? If the matter is approached in a constitutional manner, merely asking the Government for information, that information on the part of the Government should be forthcoming as far as is possible. If the matter is still under consideration the Government could say so. Do not leave us in such a position that when our constituents ask us for information we have to tell them, "We are just as ignorant as you are: go and ask someone else." Whom else can they ask?

This is not a matter that has arisen in the last three or four weeks. Over three years have elapsed since this issue first arose. The report on bulk shipment of molasses is over three years old. It is high

time that the scheme presented to the Legislature be put into effect or that we be told why.

Mr. COX: I did not anticipate that this question would have been raised to-day in view of the fact that the Resolution merely deals with the deepening of the harbour bar. All that I can say at this stage is that I will try to get the information and pass it on to honourable members.

Mr. ALLDER: This is what I want to say:

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member would give way I would say that what the honourable senior member for St. Michael said about not having the information is perfectly correct. I am merely replying to the usual type of insinuation which some honourable members make. I was at pains to point out on a former occasion that the Government considered this question the most important where the cess was concerned. We put it first even in drafting the Bill. But does any honourable member who want to oppose the Government have in mind a scheme that he can put up which will take care of every displaced cooper overnight; or something which will please every cooper? Some may want to go in for carpentry; some for shopkeeping etc. Do honourable members expect that this is the sort of problem that can be solved overnight?

I am not trying to bolster up the honourable member who is in charge of the Resolution. He has no information because there is no exact information to be given.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What does the honourable member mean by "overnight?" The honourable member knows that he should be the last person to refer to this matter as an overnight matter. It is over three years that this has been before us. In any case the honourable member is on very slippery ground, and if he falls he will hit hard. This is not what we were led to expect and what the coopers were led to expect by Government members. The complicated issue of trying to find individual jobs for individual coopers is a matter for the Government; but the coopers were led to expect that as soon as they were displaced this fund would be used to do something for them economically. (A MEMBER: who says that that is not so?) It is quite beside the point to raise the issue of finding individual jobs for individual coopers. That is the Government's baby that they have to carry.

The promise that the Government made was not to consider the individual qualifications of each displaced person, but to use the entire amount of money obtained from the saving gained by shipping molasses in bulk to assist all the people who found themselves out of work. We would understand that it is not an easy task to rehabilitate everyone. Members of this House have been asked for information, and we have in turn asked the Government to enlighten us. All that the Government has to say is that they had been asked so and so, and they are doing so and so; or that they hope to implement their promises soon. Do not leave us in mid air so that it will appear that members of this Chamber can be treated with such offhandedness when they ask for information from the Government.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not replying to the honourable senior member for St. Philip now. He will say anything. There is no cooper who is a member of the Barbados Workers' Union who does not know where he stands in this matter. The experience that the Government is having with the coopers is the same experience we had when we tried to rehabilitate members of the armed forces who served in the last war. It is a mistake to think that a body of men will all fall into one scheme. A lot of them wanted money to

open rum shops. Some wanted employment of one kind and others wanted employment of another kind. You offered a man a certain job and he refused it point blank.

From the time that the Molasses Committee made its report the matter was put to the Union and to the men themselves. The Trade Union Council held a meeting about it. The whole matter was threshed out before the Council agreed. Unless you only have a half dozen men dealing with you cannot find one scheme or even two or three schemes which will take care of everyone. Some will want to be carpenters; but not all will want that. There is a scheme which will not come into operation within the next six months to be considered by the Government, and I am hoping that that scheme will help more than any other scheme. It is not possible to say more at this stage. Another aspect of the matter is that some of these men may not be displaced for another six months; some may not be displaced until next year. The full bulk shipment scheme is not taking place this year.

You have to have statistics. You have to find out what each man is capable of doing. You cannot say put ten coopers on a housing scheme, put two on another scheme etc. Do honourable members think that the Union could live if it ignored the workers on the waterfront? Do you think we could allow a scheme for bulk shipment of molasses to come in without finding something alternative for the coopers? I say for the last time that the Act says (a) coopers; (b) advertising. It was put like that specifically. I made that clear when the Bill was before the House. The original drafting of (a), (b), (c) and (d) had to be changed to make sure that the coopers came first, and that policy was translated into law.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman—I agree with the decision to deepen the carenage. What I am worried about is the fact that I see only \$20,000. When you think in terms of under water blasting equipment \$20,000 is only a drop in the bucket. Am I to understand that the people who will carry out this job will be using the Government's equipment? Government has just ordered diving equipment for the Harbour and Shipping Master's Office; that is the very kind of equipment needed for this job. I do not know if this is another case of Harriman and the Airport. If they are not going to use Government's equipment you may have to multiply this vote by ten.

Another thing is, sir, that this job could be handled by the Government. How anyone could ask for \$20,000 to do this job I do not know. I want to make it quite clear that the job could be done by the Government. It seems to me that it will be a case like Harriman using the concrete mixer which was imported into Barbados. It was released on loan for Harriman to use at Seawell. I am afraid that that will be repeated. I repeat that this is a relatively simple job and could be handled by the Government.

Mr. CRAWFORD: All that I want to say is that there is a radical difference of opinion apparently between the Government and the people whom this provident fund was designed to benefit. How great the difference is will be very much in evidence if and when the scheme to which the honourable member referred is put into operation. I only want to say this in reference to the statement that has been made by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. He said that every single member of the Union knows what the position is, that every cooper who belongs to the Union knows what the position is. That, manifestly, is not true; because coopering is a closed shop. To be a cooper you must be a member of the Union. The honourable member said that there was a meet-

ing of the Union Council and that they told the coopers what the position is. Do you mean to say that in spite of that coopers are still going around asking what the position is? It is not true to state that every cooper who belongs to the Union knows what the position is. All coopers are members of the Union.

Anyhow, sir, we have been told that there is a scheme forthcoming. We shall all wait and see when this scheme will be put into operation and along what lines it will operate.

Question that the Resolution do now pass was put and agreed to without division.

DEBATE ON COMBERMERE RESOLUTION RESUMED

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, — The next Order is as follows:—

To resume debate on the Resolution to place the sum of \$20,700 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part II Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 23 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

This Resolution is one which I started sometime ago. It is in connection with repairs and alterations to Combermere School. At the time when consideration of the Resolution was started it was adjourned for two reasons. One was as regards insurance, and the other was that some honourable members asked that the Report of the Board of Survey be laid before them.

As regards the question of insurance I can tell honourable members that the Government has sent in a claim to the insurance company and the latter have forwarded the claim to their principals. One of the conditions of the insurance company is that either party can undertake to rebuild or to repair as the case may be, and that the Government must notify the insurance company when they propose to make these alterations. As I have said, sir, the Government has sent in its claim and the insurance company has sent the claim on to their principals. All has not been finally settled.

As regards the report of the Board of Survey honourable members will understand or should understand that at this stage it would be inadvisable to say more publicly, or to lay a report or to give any more information to anyone at this stage than you would give to the insurance company. That is for obvious reasons. I therefore hope that honourable members will not press for this report. I said on the last occasion, and I repeat it now, that the new Colonial Engineer who up to now has proved himself an able man has advised us that if we remove the upper storey of the school there is a reasonable chance that there will be no further deterioration. On his advice the Government is proceeding with the Resolution.

The sum asked for is to take off the upper storey of the main hall and to convert the main hall into class rooms and provide a science laboratory, and also to furnish the laboratory. Government is anxious to get on with the work because the present arrangement is not the best either for the pupils or the school. The Governing Body of the school is anxious that these arrangements be soon terminated, so that those children who are being educated at other places will be able to return to Combermere. Consequently I am again presenting this resolution and I hope that honourable members will see the point of view of the Government and act accordingly.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—On the last occasion that the House discussed this matter I suggested a postponement because I wanted more information. I think that that was the wish of the

entire House. We have got a very lame excuse to-day, nevertheless there are one or two things which I want to ask the honourable member who is in charge of the Resolution. He says that the Government has made its claim on the insurance company, and as I take it, is pressing its claim as a result of the earthquake. He has said that it is advisable to get on with the work now; and I must admit that I can quite see that that is advisable rather than to keep Combermere standing there while the children are sent to other places and are not under the general supervision of the Headmaster.

There are however one or two questions that I would like to get answered before I can decide whether or not I am in favour of this Resolution. The Resolution is for \$20,700. Can the honourable member tell this House—and the House is entitled to know—what is Government's claim for? I do not think the Government would attempt to bleed the insurance company. If you are spending \$20,000 you may be spending more money than you anticipate as a result of your claim. You may be doing wrong. On the other hand, you may be spending money to make improvements at the school which are necessary. I think the honourable member should be able to tell us whether the actual condition is to the effect that the insurance company admits liability and decides to allow them to expend money on repairing up to a certain amount or what is the case. Up to now the honourable member has not told us that the insurance company has admitted liability. That is really one of the reasons why we adjourned this debate on the last occasion.

On the other hand, Sir, there are occasions when it is in the best interest of a country to withhold reports from the general public. I admit that; but whether this is one of those occasions I do not know. As a matter of fact we were told about several reports in connection with this matter and the honourable member has told us to-day that it is not advisable to lay the report before the House at this stage. Is the honourable member asking us to believe that there is some controversy between the Government and the Insurance Company and that to make the report public will prejudice the Government's case? The only reason that I can see for not laying the report would be to withhold information which might be of use in a Court of Law against the Insurance Company if they contested their liability to the claim. If that is the reason it would be very unwise to press for the report. No one would like to know that the Government had a claim against a big Insurance Company and you press the Government to give information which the company could use against them. If the honourable member says that the information is being withheld from the House for that reason he is admitting that the company has not admitted its liability but is contesting the claim.

The reason why I have raised the question in this light is that there are some agents of Insurance Companies in this island who seem to want to pay in some cases where accidents occur and not in other cases. I have had to threaten some companies because they were paying some people when accidents occurred and not others. It was bordering on prejudice. When you get a company refusing to pay even in the case of Government it is well that it should be exposed because if they oppose the claims of Government what would they do in the case of a private person?

As I said in the last occasion certain parochial bodies put in claims as a result of the earthquake and they have already collected, and part of the money has been already expended in making repairs. In cases of private owners I know that people have already collected as a result of the earthquake and settlements

have been arrived at. If the honourable member says that the reason for withholding the report is that they do not want to give information to their opponents it means, as I have said, that the Insurance Company is not admitting their liability. If that is the case the company should be exposed for the simple reason that if other insurance companies carrying on business in the island saw fit to pay for damages sustained as a result of the earthquake, there must be something wrong with this company; because it is an admitted fact, as the honourable Deputy Leader has told us, that the Government has put in a claim. I do not think that the Government would have put in a claim unless they had information from their expert advisers which led them to put in the claim.

I am sure that the honourable member will be able to tell us what was actually arrived at. I do not want this House to be led to believe that the Government is claiming \$20,000 when the damage is only to the extent of \$10,000, although as I have said, I appreciate that the Government might be taking this opportunity to carry out improvements. I am hoping that the Government will actually give us further information as to their claim. I do not think the Government could be so insane as to withhold information in peace time when it comes to the spending of money. The only reason that I can see for not giving the information is that they do not want to prejudice their case by allowing the Insurance Company to know the findings of their committee. As a reasonable person, if I were in the Government's place I too would withhold that information although that information could be given if you had confidence in the opposition. An honourable member is laughing. I hope he is not so stupid as to believe that a survey like this could go on and I would not know anything about it. A man sits and makes a report, but before he makes it he has to go and get various opinions.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going into any Noot affair or anything like that. The most important thing is if the honourable member can tell us that the Government has agreed, although their claim is for a certain amount to expend more than that amount.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman,—The honourable member has told us that since the Government has put in a claim with the Insurance Company it would not be advisable to say more than necessary. I take it that since they have put in this claim it would not be in their best interest to divulge more than is keeping with the matter being *sub judice*. I can quite appreciate the anxiety of the Government to get Combermere School in good working order. I know the inconvenience that the present arrangements are causing. Some parents have been forced to purchase bicycles for their children.

I think that the point raised by the honourable senior member for the City can be answered. We know that Saeley made claims as regards earthquake damage. Owners of several other buildings did so, and money has been paid out. There is only one reason why the money for Combermere has not been paid out, only one reason that I can imagine. When Mr. Ramsay raised all the questions that he did it would seem as though he had some material facts against the Government. In a matter of this sort you should not try to stifle expression of opinion but to be extremely diplomatic in not regurgitating the past. Mr. Ramsay asked about supervision, wage rates, whether the amount of money was sufficient, whether the building was put up and then the windows cut and put in. I myself have examined the building, and what I do not understand is that all the cracking up to now has gone on in the main hall. I do not know if the Government has been given any

information as to why that is so, or as to whether the building itself is bad or whether it is the soil which is at fault. I do not know if the Government is satisfied that they should make a single storey building instead of a two-storey one. Looking at it with my layman's mind I would come to the decision to take down the whole thing.

There is only one other aspect of the matter, and that is that if the Government takes advice from certain people who come from England they will be led up the garden path. The point I am making is that while it is true that the general trend in education is towards science do not let the Headmaster of Combermere get it into his head at anytime to turn Combermere into a first grade school. Do not let him get the idea that he can start a Science Sixth Form or anything like that. The next thing you will know is that you will be coming down with a Resolution for four specialist posts. The Headmaster has that bee in his bonnet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as this Resolution is concerned we are discussing the building; not the teaching of science.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I am warning the Government most seriously. We have got to watch these things. I am merely giving the proposed Minister of Education a little advice which I hope will not fall on deaf ears. In the Resolution a Science Laboratory is mentioned.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I can assure the honourable member that there is nothing that he is saying that is not being taken care of.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I hope that it is really being taken care of. I hope that it will be the policy that if you have a boy at Combermere who wants to take Science to a certain standard that you will give him a transfer to Lodge School or Harrison College. I only hope that we will be able to benefit from the position that Combermere is now in by getting the school on a proper working foundation. You can make the school a one-storey building; but it is advisable that a test of the soil be carried out, or use re-inforced concrete columns. Spend the money one time and do a good job instead of having to come back with further Resolutions all the time. As far as the soil on which the new Barclays Bank is being constructed is concerned you reach water very quickly. I have seen buildings in St. Lucia and Trinidad put down on sand. I do not think that the Combermere site is worse than any other place. The whole of London is built over water.

Dr. CUMMINS: In reply to the honourable senior member for the City I will say this: The honourable member is a business man. He is a building man and an insurance man, and he knows that where these insurance claims are concerned, naturally the company will want to satisfy itself. He also knows that two or three years ago there was a big debate in which he himself took part concerning the foundation of Combermere School. If therefore, the company is somewhat dilatory in satisfying the claim they are entitled to satisfy themselves. But there is one thing of which I want to assure the honourable member: This Government intends to pursue its claim as far as it can.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS seconded by Mr. Cox the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and the postponement of one. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Dr. CUMMINS seconded by Mr. Cox in each case the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker,—I would like to move that we deal now with Private Members' Business.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I must object. Whenever honourable members tell me that they want to do Private Members' Business I will give time. It is well known that Government will give way for Vestry Bills to be done. There is a rule that Government should be given a chance to discuss a particular matter in Private Members' Business among themselves so as to know their attitude. I do not know what is the attitude of the Government on the particular matter which the honourable member wants to discuss. That is the only reason why I am objecting. Sometimes where a Private Member's Bill is concerned the drafting may be wrong; or Government should declare its policy early. Sometimes Government may intimate that they will support it. No honourable member can say that Government is not prepared to give him a chance to do his Bill. Sometimes I would be prepared to do no Government Business at all and devote the whole of a Tuesday to Private Members' Business. I am merely telling the honourable member that if he gives me notice that he wants the matter discussed early next Tuesday we will give him time out of the time devoted to Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The only rule pertinent to the order in which things like this are to be handled in this House is Rule 60. It reads as follows:—

"The orders of the day are to be disposed of in the order in which they stand upon the paper. Bills not proceeded with when called on in their order, to be ordered to be placed at the bottom of the Order Paper without questions put, unless excuse be offered to the satisfaction of the House."

The permission sought by the honourable senior member for St. John having been objected to, I must put the question.

Mr. ALLDER: Do not put the question, Your Honour. I have accepted what the honourable member has said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Since the honourable member has given approval to what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said, I shall not worry to put the question.

Mr. ADAMS: I wish to assure the honourable member that it is not anything meant to him personally. I do hope that we will come together speedily, if possible, to agree to times for certain things. It is for the reason I have given him that the whole Executive Committee can be provided with notice that I have asked the honourable member not to proceed with that resolution now.

Mr. Speaker, I propose to take No. 7 as the next Order of the Day.

BILL TO AMEND DISTRICT AUCTIONEERS ACT, 1904

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the District Auctioneers Act, 1904, to make better provision in respect of the place and notice of sales of goods distrained on or taken in execution.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Honourable members will see that this is a comparatively simple, yet necessary bill. The Objects and Reasons to it fully explains.

Consequent upon the removal of the District Auctioneer from Police Headquarters to St. Cecilia Barracks, it has become necessary to provide for

sales of goods distrained on or taken in execution other than at Police Headquarters, as provided for in Section 10 of the District Auctioneers Act, 1904. Consequently, it is proposed to amend that Act by providing for such sales to be held either at Police Headquarters or the appropriate police station or at a place to be notified to the debtor.

This arises out of the removal of the District "A" Auctioneer from out of the building aback of the Town Hall to St. Cecilia Barracks. Instead of taking people down to St. Cecilia Barracks for the sale of goods distrained on or taken into execution, the District Auctioneer may have the sale at Police Headquarters or any other police station near to where the chattels were removed. If I may give an instance, suppose the levy was on chattels, in Black Rock, they would be taken to the Black Rock Police Sub-Station and the sale would take place there. Honourable members would see that as long as the District Auctioneer's mart was situated at Police Headquarters, it was quite alright but now that it has been removed to St. Cecilia Barracks the mart may be out of the way. This is a very simple matter. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, before you put the question, I want to make reference to the post of District Auctioneer and the remuneration of it. This office has been more or less in existence for over 50 years and if honourable members refer to the Act, they will be amazed at the scale of remuneration. I have been told that representations have already been made to the Government with a view to the improvement of the scale. I am informed that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has been approached over the matter and, perhaps, he will be able to say whether or not the matter is receiving the consideration of Government. As I have said, the scale of remuneration has been fixed for over 50 years and I think the auctioneers are entitled to some increase. In view of the fact that they have made representations to the Government and it is presumed that the Government has looked into the matter, one sincerely hopes that some consideration will be given sooner or later to their representations.

Mr. SMITH: Relative to the question of District Auctioneers, Sir, I have been told that they have been in existence before I was born. It is a fact that in the country districts, these auctioneers have very little to do and when they have something to do, the amount of remuneration amounts to very little. Because of the travelling they have to do and what it costs them compared with the little remuneration that they receive, auctioneers are very reluctant in getting work done. As a matter of fact, some do not go at all when called upon in their business.

I feel that the Government should take this matter very seriously and at least give them travelling allowance. They have to travel to get to the venue of their business when called upon to do so, and they should get adequate remuneration for so doing. Of course, it is a well-known fact that some who take on this job only do so because they want the name of Government Auctioneer but the responsibility behind it does not worth two shillings. It is a fact, too, that when any of these Government Auctioneers has a place to sell, they do not always get it sold on the first occasion; sometimes they have to go back two or three times. All that entails more travelling. I hope Government would really look into this matter seriously and give them a better travelling allowance.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 9 were called and passed.

Clause 10 was called.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, before you put the question, with regard to the point which you, yourself raised, I wish to refer to it again. As I have said, the schedule of fees was fixed since 1904,—that is 50 years ago. The commission for these Government Auctioneers is fixed at 7½% which is not unreasonable considering that the general value of houses and properties has increased. It is known that a chattel house which was worth \$150 before, which if sold by a Government Auctioneer would net him roughly \$10, would now be sold for \$400 or \$500 and he would get instead something like \$30 or \$35. But the fees on the sale are not advantageous on the old schedule and they do need revision. For instance: Travelling expenses for going to the spot where a board and shingled house may be situated for the purpose of selling it is 4/6; Travelling expenses for serving notice of order on debtor or going to debtor's last known place of abode is 4/6. It is obviously, Sir, very unreasonable to ask a man to attend and take possession of goods under an order of the Petty Debt Judge and check the same with an inventory for only 3/9. So too it is unreasonable to receive and pay out monies where a sale of goods does not take place for 2/3.

(A VOICE: That is remuneration for 15 minutes of work).

The schedule reads: Serving notice of order on debtors, 1/6; for every notice of sale set up by him at the District Police Station, or any board and shingled house respectively, 1/6; for every notice to debtor to produce goods left in possession of debtor, 1/6. The country auctioneer may have to go from one end of the parish to another to effect such notices. I repeat, Sir, that the commission should work out to his advantage, but the old schedule of fees, bearing in mind the fact that it is over 50 years old, could and should be revised.

The question that Clause 10 stand part was then put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

BILL TO REPEAL PUBLIC OFFICERS (SECURITY) ACT, 1910

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: Second reading of a Bill intitled an Act to repeal the Public Officers (Security) Act, 1910.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, This Bill is very simple. It seeks to repeal the Public Officers (Security) Act, 1910. The Objects and Reasons state that under the provision of the Public Officers (Security) Act, 1910, certain officers employed in the public service of the island are required to

contribute to a fund entitled the Public Officers (Security) Fund during such time as they continue in office. In 1948 the Salaries Commissioners reported that, in keeping with the practice of other colonies, this fund should be closed. The Bill accordingly seeks to repeal the Act, and to make provisions for the transfer to the general revenue of the Island of the amount now standing to the credit of the fund and for the refund to all contributors having sums standing to their credit in the books of the fund at the date of the commencement of this Act, of the amounts to which they would have been entitled under the provisions of the Act. I may further state that it is proposed to give back to all the subscribers who apply or their legal representatives, within the next six years around four-fifths of the sum subscribed. This is what I am told has been done in another colony. I think this colony is the last to get ahead with this suggestion by the Salaries Commissioner. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. ALLDER: I must take this opportunity on behalf of the hundred or so Government servants who had to contribute to this fund to convey their appreciation and mine to the Government for at long last giving back to them that which has been taken from them over a period of years, apparently unjustifiably. Up to yesterday, one of those Government servants had been expressing hopes that the Government would grant the request of the Salaries Commissioner and also theirs because they had been making demands for it very forcibly over a year ago. I must say that it is a good venture which this Government is doing in this particular instance and I pass on commendations to it from those Civil Servants who are affected.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Before Your Honour put the question, like the last honourable member, I am also expressing the heart-felt admirations of the Civil Servants for winding up and putting an end to this fund. I will also take this opportunity to ask Government whether it has received any recommendations with respect to the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund. Why I ask about it is because there is a lot of dissatisfaction by Civil Servants over the subscription to that fund. Some of the younger members of the Service would like to put an end to subscribing to this fund, they feeling that they have nothing to gain from it. Of course, the Government's answer to them would be that it is a matter for the Whitley Council and when Whitley Council puts something up to Government, then Government can do something about it.

However, a lot of them feel that this Widows and Orphans Fund has assumed large proportions and bearing in mind that the Government has brought down a Public Officers Loan Fund, they are wondering if it would not be possible to transfer some of that fund to the Public Officers Loan Fund so as to swell that fund which is only in the nature of \$180,000. I feel that is an admirable suggestion and can be done providing it would not deplete the Widows and Orphans Fund so that it would not be able to pay out any charges against it. Certainly, it would prevent Government from going into the commercial market to take out a loan for augmenting the Public Loan Fund. All I think that would be needed to be done is to know from the actuaries what is the position of the Widows and Orphans Fund and the amount that would be necessary to meet the prospective charges to it. I think it is an admirable suggestion and has been backed up by what was told me by a Guianese of a similar operation in British Guiana. He said that British

Guiana had started with five million dollars as a loan fund for housing for Civil Servants and finding that sum insufficient to meet the demands of the people in the Service had taken money from the Widows and Orphans Fund to swell it.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 8 of the Bill were called and passed.

On motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

BILL TO AMEND CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT, 1921

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Peter: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take this item standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Peter.

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

Mr. COX: Sir, as honourable members will see, this Bill is very simple in its construction. The objects read as follows:

The Barbados Knitting and Spinning Co. Ltd. has made representation to the Government to admit rayon staple fibre free from customs duties. This article is to be used in conjunction with cotton for making yarn to be manufactured into knitted goods, which will then be able to compete more favourably with similar imported goods. The Comptroller of Customs is in agreement with this policy and advises that the loss of revenue may be regarded as nil. The aforementioned Company is a local company employing between 80 to 130 persons.

This Bill therefore seeks to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, by allowing rayon staple fibre to be added to the Second Schedule of that Act and thus be admitted duty free.

(A VOICE: How many people are employed now by this firm?)

The honourable senior member for the City has asked how many people are employed by that firm now. I do not know. I cannot really answer that question correctly, but what I do know is that recently, I visited the company's business premises and one of the directors pointed out to me that due to cheap goods coming into the island from Trinidad and elsewhere, he had to close down many of his machines and as a result, many of the people whom he employed, had to be put out of work. This Bill is the result of what was told Government, I now beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I appreciate this move to encourage this pioneer industry but I do not think that sufficient has been done. I think Government should do all in its power so as to aid this Knitting and Spinning Company. Government should see to it that this company does not fail and that its

articles are not undersold by similar articles imported into the colony from neighbouring colonies. I am going further. As honourable members know, Government has a certain amount laid down for the administration of some special Financial Committee and I feel that Government should take a part of that fund and invest in some of these pioneering establishments so as to encourage a greater production of whatever material they may be turning out. It is well known that very often a company may be suitable to produce cheaper articles, but because it is undercapitalised it is impossible to turn out cheaper articles.

Sir, this colony as far as I know is populated at 1,200 to the square mile and there is not a single British Caribbean community with a comparable density of population as this colony yet there are many British Caribbean communities where industrialisation has proceeded very far apace and in its wake has brought a consequent rise in employment, and in most cases, entirely out of proportion to what is taking place in this colony. I do not think we are moving fast enough in this direction. I do not think we are doing enough to encourage pioneer industry in this country. We have an example in Puerto Rico where unemployment was very substantial a few years ago but with the introduction of local industry, the situation with regard to unemployment has improved tremendously. Sir, we should leave no stone unturned in our encouragement of the establishment of all possible industries in this colony. Any establishment of a local industry would be a means of reducing the growing unemployment and we should do everything to encourage it. We have no guarantee from the United States of America or other countries that they would welcome any surplus population from us. As a matter of fact, with all the provisions by United Nations of technical aid, that does not mean much to us. Tomorrow the United States can solve the West Indian problem by admitting so many thousand West Indians, and not only the United States, but England can also solve the West Indian problem by a concerted development of British Guiana. However, we have none of these things taking place; therefore, we have to depend on ourselves and we must do everything in our power to get employment for our people within the colony. We must look at the matter from every angle. We must encourage all pioneering industry even if we go as far as taking an example from Puerto Rico and assisting people by getting manufacturing machinery for them and setting it up and then leaving it to them to run. We can take that step.

I do not think it is sufficiently realised, not only by the present Government but by past Governments, that the progress of the colony depends upon increasing avenues of employment. If I may give an instance, the growing of agricultural products is not as highly developed as it should be in this country. It is capable of higher development and if that takes place, it would reduce the growing unemployment. With a more scientific cultivation of the soil and with concentration on certain agricultural products, that can result in the establishment of certain processing plants for vegetables and such things. Ancillary to those may be the need for a canning plant. As far as I know, Canada has made enquiries about the canning of okras in this colony. Of course, we have not got the cultivation of okras to that extent. Personally, I deplore the fact that the late Molasses Canning Company had to go out of operation. I feel all developments of agriculture which would result in the processing of certain

products should be encouraged. If we can get fifty small plants employing twenty people each, that would mean one thousand people employed. It is not the size of the industry that matters; regardless of the size of the industry, it should be encouraged. If I may give an instance. Government should do everything to encourage the tile industry. There are many great countries which do not grow the items which they have made into a big industry. No cotton is grown in England, yet England is one of the greatest textiles producers in the world. The question of not having the raw material is no argument against the establishment of certain industries. So long as you can make your customs policy liberal enough that it would result in cheapening the product to such an extent as to make it competitive, you should establish the industry. We cannot in view of the growing population afford to ignore any line of policy—customs, tariff or otherwise—which contribute to the establishment of processing plants.

Sir, the manufacturing ability of the country must be increased also. Of course, that depends upon the mass of schooled labour which the island can produce and with the prospective technical training school on which a beginning has been made, it should be so encouraged that its students would be ready when they get the opportunity to work in manufacturing plants to walk into those plants with some degree of knowledge of what they have to do. After all, we cannot expect a manufacturer to come here and only find a mass of unskilled labour from which he must select his requirements.

Let me say that to encourage the practice of birth control is no help to the present problem at all. It may be in the future. We must think of what is going to happen in the next five or ten years and what we must do to help the present population. It is my firm conviction that unless a growth of industry really begins in this country—and it cannot begin until Government makes every possible concession to its encouragement—we cannot solve our problem of unemployment. I welcome this Bill as an example of one of the concessions that this Government is willing to give to encourage industry.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, I cannot say that this Bill is doing very much. I think it is common knowledge that the Knitting and Spinning Company was considering closing up shop sometime last year and if it had been so, it would have been a great loss to this country, industrially and otherwise. This Bill seeks to amend the Custom Tariff Act in order to allow rayon staple fibre to be added to the Act, but we are told that loss of revenue may be regarded as nil. If the loss of revenue may be regarded as nil, then this concession does not mean much to the company financially. What we are doing is only a gesture. We are merely touching the fringe of the problem. With an industry like this, which means so much to the country, what we should be considering today is to protect that industry from outside competition, all things being equal. If this company can produce similar quality articles and at a competitive price as that of outside suppliers, protect it by banning entry into the colony of similar goods. From the bill itself, we can say that we are not doing much. If the loss of revenue is nil, to what extent would it financially benefit the company to take this duty off the company's bill? In the first place, the obstacle under which this company labours is from outside competition and in the second place, the taxation aid to pioneer industry is not as satisfactory as it should be in Barbados. Representation has been made on more than one occasion by industrial concerns that

the taxation provisions, known as the Aid to Industries Bill, 1951, did not afford them the same concessions as the Jamaica or the Trinidad Bills entitled those industrialists who operated in those countries. It is now two years that this company has found it almost impossible to pay its tax bills—either the parochial or the other tax bills.

I do think that the important thing to be done in this matter—it may not necessarily come under this Bill,—is to make legislation to provide for this company complete protection from unfair competition from outside. In other words, without going into details, you should review a principle to endeavour to promote your own economy by assisting industries, not only to the point where they can only operate temporarily, but to the point where they can operate permanently or as permanently as possible. I may say here that it is a mystery to me that the Barbados Knitting and Spinning Company is still operating. I was almost sure from certain facts that were disclosed to me that the company would have been closed down fully. Sir, after this company has struggled on and has asked for assistance, to merely bring in an amendment to the Customs Tariff Act, which you yourself states would not affect you materially; which you yourself states that the loss of revenue may be regarded as nil; is just wasting time. If the country is losing nothing, certainly, it means that the concern is gaining nothing by that offer. If the concern is getting nothing materially, why bother to amend the Act? If you are to progress industrially, we cannot overlook the necessity for making a proper investigation into the necessity when and where possible for protecting local industries. That has been the experience of every industrial country in the world. Finally, I think I am correct in saying that this company made representations to the Government about the unfair provisions of the Pioneer Industries Bill. If this Government is really considering this matter seriously, instead of wasting time on amending this Act before us, we would be amending the Pioneer Industries Bill. We have to bear in mind that so long as other West Indian colonies offer more concessions to Pioneer industries than we do, we are going to be at a disadvantage. I remember quite well that we nearly lost this company to Trinidad before it was started here owing to the fact that when the equipment for it came here, our Pioneer Industries Bill had not yet become law and it was only due to the assurance of the former Financial Secretary, Mr. Petrie, telling the directors of the company that he would do everything he could to see that the duty on the equipment was refunded and everything else that the directors consented to stay here and did not go to Trinidad. Although there is a limit to the number of concerns in the textile industry in any country and although Trinidad and Jamaica are well served in this respect, there are other colonies which can be used for the said purpose. I therefore suggest that at the earliest possible time, there should be an amendment to the Pioneer Industries Bill with regard to the taxation proposals so as to give more ease to pioneer industries on commencement of operations.

Mr. COX: I would just like to say that the wording of the objects and reasons of the Bill is unfortunate. When it says that the revenue may be regarded as nil, that cannot be strictly correct. And it cannot be strictly correct because the Director of that concern, Mr. Saunders, called on me and I discussed the question, and the suggestion he put up is here before the House in this Bill. Mr. C—

ders told me that he wanted to be allowed to import rayon staple fibre, duty free, and he assured me that if this stuff were imported duty free, he would be able to keep his employees at work and his machines running and would be able to compete with similar items imported from Trinidad and other colonies. I then told him I would get in touch with the Financial Secretary so as to put his suggestion before him and after doing so, we put it to the Government as quickly as possible, because we realised that it was in the interest of Barbados to keep that pioneer industry going. Not only do industries like that provide work for the unemployed people, but it also trains people to become technicians in one way or the other. Let me repeat that Mr. Saunders never put up any more suggestions. What is contained in this Bill is all that was asked.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I have not said that the director of the company asked for something more. What I said was that representation was made by that company over a year ago to the Government about the unfair provisions in the Pioneer Industries Bill.

Mr. COX: Sir, I do not know of any more representations but I am sure that whatever had been suggested to the Government, not only by that industry but by every industry, has been carefully considered and sympathetically dealt with. Again, I must repeat that what is contained in this Bill is all that Mr. Saunders, Director of the Knitting and Spinning Company, put up to Government and the Government has acquiesced to his request.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Since the honourable introducer of this Bill has said that the wording of the objects and reasons on a particular clause is very unfortunate so far as this thing is concerned, I will withhold part of what I was going to say, but it cannot be denied that the effect of that clause seems to stress that the company pays negligible customs dues on rayon staple fibre. If that be the case, it seems to me that to solve problems of that concern, it must necessarily look in another direction. We all know that increasing liberalization of trade is bound to come and you can see some signs of it already in the textile industry by the competition which is taking place with the lighter fabrics. It seems to me, therefore, that those concerned with that concern would have to try and find other ways and means of solving their problems.

It is true to say that similar concerns in Trinidad got off to a better start. I also know that when this concern had to move from its first business premises, it was really in danger of closing down. As a matter of fact, it is surprising to me to see that it has kept on operating for all this time. While we should do all in our power to encourage pioneer industries and industries like this company, I do not think we can follow the policy of Mr. Bustamante in Jamaica in respect to encouraging pioneer industries. It is true to say that the provisions of that country are far more liberal than ours, but there may be some reasons why that country's policy may not be applicable here. It is for that, that I agree with a speech which was made sometime ago by the honourable junior member for St. George. He said that the field of commerce in this island was getting wider and was a good field to develop, but we would have to develop it ourselves. If you read the report of the Industrial Trade Mission that visited these parts recently, you will see that the attitude of those experts to the establishment of industries in these parts is one of "I do not think you should bother about them." Aback of their minds, you can see that they are thinking mostly that the establish-

ment of industries in these parts might mean the putting of English workers out of work. It is true that report has come at an unfortunate time,—a time when federation of the West Indies has not yet crystalized. To me that report has been very depressing and therefore, speaking as a Barbadian and probably as a West Indian, I would say that every colony is left to its own destiny as to how best it can get through in this matter.

I think when we are putting the emphasis on birth control and have even gone so far as to have a standing committee to look into the question that we are starting on the wrong foot.

We have not yet heard what the new Industrial Board is going to do in this matter. However, we hope that the Board will bear all the factors which have been mentioned in this debate in mind. We hope it will bear in mind more liberalization of the Pioneer Industries Bill, and give protection to certain industries from outside competition. At any rate, before you can go in for a protectionist policy, you have to be satisfied that you have an industry in which you can cushion up its doors.

With regard to pioneer industries which would suit the Caribbean best, when it comes to the importation of raw material for them, I think the industries which would be more successful will be those which import raw material which is light or little in bulk. It is on the transportation costs mainly that the finished product will depend for its selling price. If the industry imports something which is bulky, the transportation cost must of necessity be high and of course, the selling price of the finished product must be high. Speaking for myself, I think a good pioneer industry that could be started here would be that of making shoes or even sandals. Anything in the leather industry should be a very good prospect because leather is a very light stuff to import and it is only the manufactured product that is bulky. We must bear all these things in mind and more especially so when we realise that our sugar industry is nearing the peak of its production.

I would not unduly tire honourable members any more nor take up any more time, but it seems to me from the report of the Industrial Mission and the whole policy of Whitehall, that it is up to everyone of these colonies as individual units, and until federation is an accepted fact, to think of what can be done by our own efforts to implement new industries. In doing so, we should think of what would be the brighter prospects and when it comes to the importation of raw materials we should think of those industries in which you can import light raw material. We must think of other things than the sugar industry on which we depend. We must bear in mind that the position with sugar may strike back to what it was in 1911.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

BILL TO AMEND VOLUNTEER ACT, 1909

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable junior member

for St. Thomas: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Volunteer Act, 1909, and the Volunteer (Amendment) Act, 1946.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, This Bill seeks to amend the Volunteer Act for the very good reasons that it has been argued — and argued with some success — that under the present arrangement whereby the Commissioner of Police is considered as Commandant of the Local Forces, it is an anomalous position for him, because very often, he is not a military man and therefore knows nothing of military drill and things of that sort. This Bill therefore seeks to obviate that anomaly and to make amendments to the Act so that the Commissioner of Police would only act in his own territory and the Officer Commanding the Volunteer Force would be the person who would be really in charge and responsible to the Governor for that military organisation.

I think it is a happy arrangement inasmuch as the incoming Commissioner of Police, who is due to arrive about the middle of next month is a policeman and knows nothing at all about military tactics, military operations and things of that sort. He would therefore be in a very anomalous position if he were to be styled as Commandant of the Local Forces. I think this is a very necessary arrangement and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

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

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were called and passed.

On motion of **Dr. CUMMINS** seconded by **Mr. Cox**, the **CHAIRMAN** reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of **Dr. CUMMINS**, seconded by **Mr. Cox** in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BILL TO AMEND THE POLICE ACT, 1909.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Police Act, 1909.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, This Bill is really a complement to the preceding one. It seeks to amend the Police Act by repealing the provisions whereby the Commissioner of Police can be appointed Commandant of the Local Forces. As I have said earlier, for very good reasons, it is suggested that the Commissioner of Police should be no longer Commandant of the Local Forces. Subject to the provisions of this Bill, he would command the Police Force only and not the Volunteer Force as heretofore. Section 15 of the principal Act is repealed inasmuch as the titles therein are really military titles and since by the previous amendment, the Commissioner of Police would be divorced from the Volunteer Force, it seeks to divorce him of those titles.

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

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

On the motion of **Dr. CUMMINS**, seconded by **Mr. Cox**, **Mr. SPEAKER** left the Chair and the House went

into Committee on the Bill, **Mr. SMITH** being in the Chair.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 were called and passed.

On motion of **Dr. CUMMINS**, seconded by **Mr. Cox**, the **CHAIRMAN** reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of **Dr. CUMMINS**, seconded by **Mr. Cox** in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BILL TO CONTINUE VARIOUS EXPIRING LAWS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: Second reading of a Bill intituled an Act to continue various expiring laws.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, In moving the second reading of this Bill, I am asking leave to amend it by adding another Act to the Schedule. I am asking that the Schedule be amended by inserting: "Chief Judge and Crown Law Officers (Additional Judge) Act, 1951."

I think honourable members are aware that the Government and the Bar Council have been considering a bill to reform the Judicial organization so as to institute a permanent Puisne Judge or Judges and until that Bill is sent down, Government is suggesting that the "Chief Judge and Crown Law Officers (Additional Judge) Act, 1951, remain on the Statute Book. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion.

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

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

The Preamble was postponed.

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 were called and passed.

The Schedule as amended was called and passed.

The Preamble was then called and passed.

On motion of **Mr. ADAMS**, seconded by **Dr. CUMMINS**, the **CHAIRMAN** reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Monday next, 1st February at 9.30 o'clock in the morning. I do not think it is necessary to say what it is for as I have already told honourable members, but just in case it may have slipped the memory of some honourable member, the object of the meeting is to meet His Excellency the Governor.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave that No. 27 of Private Members' Business be put as No. 1 of Private Members' Business.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Monday next, 1st February, 1953, at 9.30 o'clock in the morning was then put and agreed to and **Mr. SPEAKER** adjourned the House accordingly.