

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd June, 1954.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., C.M.G., Q.C., (*Premier*) Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*) Hon. M. E. Cox (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*) His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs. F. C. GODDARD, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., J. C. MOTTLEY, E. ST. A. HOLDER, Hon. C. E. TALMA (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), and Mr. L. A. WILLIAMS, LL.B.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready for confirmation.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have been commanded to lay Messages from His Excellency the Governor as follows:—

Message No. 18/1954 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly submitting a list of Acts assented to in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

MESSAGE No. 19/1954.

*His Excellency the Governor
To*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that plans have been made in consultation with the other Governments concerned for the establishment in Barbados, on land belonging to the Government near Seawall, of a Police Training School to serve the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands, in addition to Barbados.

2. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has stated that he will be prepared, if the Governments mentioned are prepared to support the scheme, to provide the capital costs of the buildings to house 60 recruits, staff and equipment, amounting to an estimated figure of \$273,600, from the General Allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

3. The estimated annually recurrent costs of the scheme, to be borne by Governments, will range between \$45,242 and \$53,107, of which the Barbados share will be between \$17,232 and \$20,228. This contribution is based on the respective strengths of the Police Forces of the Governments participating and forms the basis of the numbers from each territory that will enter the School.

4. To offset this recurrent expenditure there are estimated savings from the closing of the present Police Training School amounting to \$10,125 minimum, and it is proposed to effect further savings in other respects amounting to \$2,296, leaving an excess of \$4,811.

5. Drawing attention to the extremely inadequate training facilities that are at present available, Superintendent Calver recommended the establishment of a Police Training School, but the annually recurrent cost of his proposals is estimated to range between \$30,000 and \$34,000. In addition, Barbados would have to meet from its own allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds or from its own resources considerable capital charges for buildings and equipment.

6. From the foregoing it will be observed that the proposal for a combined Police Training School is the most economical way of providing adequate and up-to-date training facilities. It is also the most efficient method as, with larger numbers to be trained, specialists in the several fields can be chosen from a wider area.

7. It is contemplated that recruits will undergo a course of six months' training and during the rest of the year the School will be open for much needed residential refresher courses.

8. The Scheme has been considered by the Governments concerned and has been accepted by all of them, with the exception so far, of the Government of St. Lucia.

9. His Excellency accordingly seeks the approval of the Honourable the House of Assembly of the scheme, on the understanding that the capital cost of the School will be borne from the General

Allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
22nd June, 1954.

PAPERS LAID

By command of His Excellency the Governor the following Papers were laid:—

Hon. M. E. COX: Statements of Post Office Advances for Payment of Money Orders to 28th February and 31st March, 1954.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have the honour to lay the following Replies to Questions tabled by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy:—

Reply to Question No. 50 regarding the selection of jurors for Coroners' inquests.

Reply to Question No. 55C regarding the taking of statements by the Police.

Reply to Question No. 55D regarding prosecutions by the Traffic Branch of the Police Department.

PETITION

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker:—I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. Philip praying the House to pass a Bill authorising them to pay a gratuity to Gilbert Vaughan retired Sexton of St. Philip's parish Church. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition was taken as read.

Mr. VAUGHAN entered the House and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$3,912 at disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1954—55, Part II—Capital, as shown in the supplementary Estimates 1954—55, No. 9 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921, and to make certain provisions relating to the income of charities and to gifts made to charities.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Estate and Succession Duties Act 1941, and to provide for certain exemptions in case of charities.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to consider the money Resolution of which I have just given notice.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S NOTICE

A Private Member's Notice was given as follows:—

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the Vestry of Saint Philip in this Island to pay to Gilbert Vaughan a gratuity of two hundred and forty seven dollars and fifty cents out of the Parochial Funds of the said parish.

QUESTIONS

Mr. VAUGHAN: To enquire of the Minister of Housing:—

How many applications within the last two years have been received from the parish of St. John for Housing assistance from the Labour Welfare Fund?

2. How many, if any, have been rejected or refused assistance?

3. If any have been so refused or rejected on what grounds have they been made?

4. How many applications have failed to receive any answer or attention within six or more months after their receipt by the office concerned?

5. Will the appropriate Minister endeavour so to simplify the language of the form of application as to be readily intelligible to a labourer of average literacy?

Mr. SMITH and Mrs. BOURNE entered the House and took their seats.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

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

Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921, and to make certain provisions relating to the income of charities and to gifts made to charities.

Bill to amend the Estate and Succession Duties Act, 1941, and to provide for certain exemptions in the case of charities.

On the motion of Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. VAUGHAN, the Bill intituled an Act to authorise the Vestry of Saint Philip in this Island to pay to Gilbert Vaughan a gratuity of two hundred and forty seven dollars and fifty cents out of the Parochial Funds of the said parish, was read a first time.

ORDER POSTPONED

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to postpone Order No. 1 which is the resumption of the debate of the Report of the London Conference on Federation.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 5 ORDER, 1954."

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1954."

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—As honourable members will see this Resolution is to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 5 Order, 1954," so as to create the post of Farm Manager at the Mental Hospital at a salary of \$2,280 x 120—3,000. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: In seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, I should like to say that the present position is that there is a Farm Superintendent who is in charge of the Farm at the Mental Hospital. During the consideration of the Estimates the sum of \$33,000 was voted by this House for the improvement of the Farm, for the purchase of additional stock and to make provision for irrigation so that more vegetables might be produced for the use of the Institution and probably for the use of other Institutions as well and also to build a residence for the Farm Manager. An officer of a higher calibre than the one

who is there is required at this Farm and we have in mind a man who has been attached to Agricultural Stations and who is in possession of more technical knowledge in the running of a Farm. The present holder of the post of Farm Superintendent is an Ex-policeman—I do not know how he got there—and we are taking the opportunity of getting a man of a higher calibre to run this Farm.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—As you know I do not agree with the method of handling these Civil Establishment (Amendment) Orders. I would just like to know if the honourable member can say how this salary compares with that of someone who is in charge of an Agricultural Station. In respect of these Orders there must be a state of chaos; I am continually asking the Government to collect these Orders which have been made since 1949 and have one consolidating Order so that an honourable member could say "This is how these Orders stand and these are the salaries which are being paid."

The next thing is this; whether the person who is at present looking after this Farm is an Ex-policeman or not, if he is not giving satisfaction he should not have been allowed to take money out of the Treasury and not do the job. I am not condemning him but if he has been rendering some sort of faithful service, I hope he will not be discarded or put in an absolutely inferior position just because you want to raise the status at this Farm by bringing in somebody who may not know as much about looking after the Farm as this present person, somebody who may have some scientific training which he cannot put into practice but who will draw the salary on the certificate which he may have.

Mr. GODDARD: I am glad to see that there is going to be an extension, or rather an improvement, at the Mental Hospital where the Farm is concerned. This is an administrative post and I hope that the person selected for it will be considered according to his administrative ability. We should be able to make the selection for this post from among the Officers at the Agricultural Stations. I wish this scheme well; if it is properly run it may be the nucleus of a good central dairy industry.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—In answer to the first question raised by the honourable junior member for the City I would like to say that the object of creating this post is to secure an officer of a proper calibre and with the necessary academic qualification. The post has been upgraded in salary so as to correspond with that of the three Senior Agricultural Instructors whose salaries are on a similar footing, that is to say, \$2,280 rising to \$3,000. This officer will be expected to have the necessary knowledge and skill to make a success of the Mental Farm and cause it to show a profit and not a loss as heretofore.

As regards the point made by the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the selection for this post will be made by the Director of Agriculture who is the fit and proper person to make such appointments; in fact the appointments will be made by the Civil Service Commission on the recommendation of the Director of Agriculture.

Mr. VAUGHAN: On the question of the appointment to this post I am forced to recognise that certain officers who have given lengthy service in the Department of Agriculture and who must have experience in the control and running of certain Agricultural affairs, have been completely ignored when new posts are advertised for, and rank outsiders have been chosen to fill these positions. It is all very well for the Ministers to say that they do not make appointments, but I think that they are in a position that when an appointment is glaringly unjust to officers who have given service for years, they can

look upon that with disfavour; it is within the province of a Minister to make a protest when any glaringly unjust appointment has been made. The Public Service Commission makes appointments but the Governor has the final say, and in case any representations are made to any Minister who is satisfied that a glaring injustice has been done to any officer, that Minister must make representations to the Governor. The Ministers must have some say when unjust appointments have been made; I know of several instances in which an officer has served the Department for years but he has been overlooked although there is nothing against his work or his character. People in high places can be as unjust as those in low positions and even more so; injustices can be done and they are done to certain people in Government Departments, and when representation is made to a Minister certain officials get highly offended and go so far as to want to victimize the person who made the representations to the Minister. When we ask for justice, there should be no question of victimisation; there is no offence in asking about an injustice when you are overlooked. The Ministers cannot abdicate the entire responsibility for an appointment; where a Minister is satisfied that an injustice has been done it is his duty to make representations to the Governor.

Very often a Minister shelters behind saying that "So and So" has no qualifications for a post and the person who is appointed to that post has no pretention to qualifications. I know the case of a person who has been in the island for several years and he has been appointed to a position for which he had no qualifications at all. That is an injustice which cannot be tolerated by any right-thinking person and the officer who legitimately protests against it should not be looked upon as an enemy of the particular Department. If we cannot do justice to an officer who has served a Government Department faithfully and conscientiously and with ability for several years, then we have no conception of what justice is. These appointments are rapidly becoming appointments of unadulterated nepotism and I raise my voice as a warning to the Ministers in charge of Departments that they are not going out of their province if they express to the authorities concerned an opinion when these unjust appointments are made or state that such and such an appointment has been made an express dissatisfaction with it.

The Ministers are in a superior position to any Head of a Department; I have said that I would support the Ministerial set-up to the hilt, but I want the Ministers to take their rightful place in the institutions of the country and not be afraid to do so. Do not let any official get offended because certain Ministers of colour have drawn to their attention something which seems to be unsatisfactory; the Ministers are within their right to do so and if they do not do it, they will be very wrong indeed. When this particular appointment comes to be made let them see that they promote some officer who has efficiently served some Government Department and not bring in an outsider, so long as they are satisfied that this officer is a competent officer and there is no proof that he has been incompetent throughout his long years of service to the Department. There are those who cannot read or write properly and you will find that one of them through some favouritism or the bestowal of some favour is pushed over the head of another who richly deserves an appointment; that is a state of affairs which will arouse the ire or anger of anybody who has a sense of justice about him. I draw to the attention of the Ministers that a stop must be put to such a state of affairs.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat while Mr. VAUGHAN was speaking.

Mr. ALLDER: I do not know what explanation was given by the honourable introducer of this Order; but for some time I have been trying to appeal to the Government to see after the proper utilization of the Farm at the Mental Hospital, and I notice from this Resolution that something is about to be started down there. It would be a waste of time if we are only creating offices without extending the existing capacity of the Dairy Farm at the Mental Hospital so as to make the Institution as self-sufficient as possible. I have visited the Mental Hospital on a few occasions and I have noticed that there is a large area of land down there, there is a staff, but the number of cattle was too small for the capacity of the Farm; I have always said that I would like to see this Farm made a paying concern.

There has been a Farm Superintendent down there for a number of years and I presume that he has been giving satisfaction otherwise he would not have been there; therefore I am hoping that if there is any promotion to be brought about, this officer will not be overlooked. For some years he has been working under very trying conditions; he was responsible for the running of the Dairy and he was supposed to be on duty away from his home to see that if any illness took place among the cattle they would be attended to. I am told, however, that his quarters were too closely associated with the patients' Ward and the position was made very inconvenient for this officer. I notice that provision has been made for the erection of new quarters and I am hoping that inasmuch as this present officer has been rendering yeoman service in the past, he will not be overlooked when this appointment has to be made.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART-TIME OFFICERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1954"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1954."

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: As honourable members will see this Resolution is to approve the Order to make provision for the appointment of a part-time Tuberculosis Officers at a salary of \$2,880 per annum. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I beg to second that. Hon. members will remember that during the consideration of the plan for the extension of the Hospital a certain number of beds were allocated for Tuberculosis cases. This Resolution is to secure the services of an Officer to take care of these cases and probably other cases at the Health Centre and one or two Almshouses which house cases of Tuberculosis.

Mr. GODDARD: This officer will be attached to the Health Centre and his job is to provide treatment for Tuberculosis cases which will be housed in the compound of the General Hospital. We have argued from this side of the House that the Tuberculosis Hospital should be outside the compound of the General Hospital; however, this officer is to be attached to the Health Centre and he will have to perform duties at the Hospital and at the Almshouses.

It seems strange that he will be attached to the Health Centre in one way but without the Hospital proper.

Mr. LEWIS: There is something about this Resolution which I would like explained. The Addendum says:—

"This Resolution is to give legislative effect to the Order which provides for the creation of a Tuberculosis Officer (Part-time) on the staff of the Health Centre which it has been decided to establish in St. Michael." That is the Addendum to the Resolution which we are considering. We have heard today that this Officer will be attached to the Almshouses—

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: On a point of correction. I said that this Officer will probably cover the Almshouses as well.

Mr. LEWIS: If this is a Tuberculosis Officer, he will assist wherever there are Tuberculosis cases. I am only saying that that should be put in the Addendum to the Resolution so that honourable members will know exactly what are the duties of this Officer. If reference is made to this Addendum you will not see in it what the honourable member has just said; the information should have been put in the Addendum.

The next thing is this; on the face of it, this Officer will be attached to a Health Centre which is in the process of being established and yet you find that section 3 of this Order says this:—

"This Order shall be deemed to have come into operation on the first day of June, 1954."

Something is introduced on the 15th June, 1954, in respect of a Health Centre which is being built, and it is to come into operation on the 1st June, 1954! The position is that they have either appointed the Officer already and then come to the House or this is absolute nonsense. If it is not absolute nonsense, then it is something bad. This Resolution will be passed on the last day of the month if the Other Place meets, and you are authorized to take money out of the Treasury from the 1st day of June! I say; let this Resolution come into operation in the ordinary process because the Health Centre is in the course of being established. This is something which should be left for other people to do. Why are we backdating this Resolution? Let them explain Clause 3 of this Order; it may be something of which they should be proud, but this is not the way in which they should conduct business.

Mr. ALLDER: In this case I feel it is very necessary for the Government to define the duties of this Officer before he is appointed because I can see that there will be some confusion if the matter is not made clear. We have a T.B. Sanatorium within the compound of the General Hospital, then there is a Department at "Enmore" to deal with the early stages of this disease. I would like to know if this same Officer will be responsible for the duties at the Hospital along with duties at the Health Centre at "Enmore" and at other places. (Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Yes). I would be glad if that matter were to be made clear by the honourable Minister of Social Services. If this officer is responsible for both Departments, the salary does not appear to be very attractive. Having to deal with these two Departments, this Officer will not be working on a part-time basis.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I, too, entertain some fear about this matter. Presumably the Health Centre at "Enmore" will be used for detecting stages of Tuberculosis, and that entails some work. If you are only going to have this Tuberculosis Officer on a part-time basis to do this work, it is an absolute waste of time. A part-time officer will have to work for about two or three days a week dealing with X-ray cases,

if the public is going to make use of his services. There is a friend of mine who has something to do with matters of this sort; he started off with X-ray examinations and followed them up and he had as many as 40 examinations within a short time. To have a part-time Officer at this salary is, to my mind, unsatisfactory; you cannot get this job done well at a salary of \$2,880.00 per annum. I cannot envisage this work being done on a part-time basis and getting the best results. I am not talking about people who are expected to get better in a year or so; I am talking about the early stages of this disease. It appears to me that this Officer may have to work every day.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: It is proposed that this Officer will deal with cases at the General Hospital as well as at "Enmore." In reply to the honourable junior member for the City, the only answer I can give is that the Order, having been made by the Executive Committee in June, the 1st June was chosen. If honourable members think that the matter is so important and they want an answer before they agree to it, we can postpone the consideration of this matter and get on with something else. Otherwise, if honourable members will be satisfied with the answer which I will give in a few minutes' time we can go on with the matter. While I have made that promise, I do not think that the file will help us. Obviously until the Officer is appointed he does not draw any money; therefore it is immaterial whether the Order is dated 1st June or not. The 1st June has been fixed but if the Officer does not assume duties until October he will not draw any money until October. It is immaterial if we say that the Order shall come into effect on the 1st June.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 6 ORDER, 1954"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 6 Order, 1954."

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution is similar in nature to the one which has just been passed. As honourable members will see from the Addendum to the Resolution and the Order in connection with it, the Resolution is in connection with the appointment of Medical Officers in respect of the Health Centre. The Resolution is pretty straight forward, but if any further information in connection with it is required, I will get that information from the hon. Minister of Social Services. The Addendum to the Resolution says this:—

"The proposals contained in the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee for the erection of a Health Centre in St. Michael have been accepted by the Legislature and the object of the Order is to establish the posts which will be required for the operation of such a Centre."

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: In seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, there is not much more that I can add to what the honourable member has said. With the opening of this new Health Centre—the conversion of which is expected to be finished in about six weeks' time—we will want the staff which is set out here; namely, Medical Officer of Health, Senior Health Nurse,

Junior Health Nurses, Radiographer, X-Ray Assistant, Stenographer-Typist and Messenger.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—I am always drawing attention to the difficulty which is connected with this method of passing money out of the Treasury in relation to the establishment of offices. I have said since 1949 that some procedure should have been laid down so that the rights of honourable members might be preserved. We get up and talk on these Resolutions and then we cannot get any answer in reply to what we say. We are passing money out of the Treasury and no honourable member, except the honourable member who has introduced the Resolution, can speak on it twice. That is not the case in respect of a Bill; even if a Bill has only two clauses we go into Committee on it; or if we are in Committee of Supply we can speak more than once. When these matters were dealt with by means of Bills we had the opportunity of discussing them in Committee, but now we pass money in the House and, I repeat, no honourable member except the introducer of the Resolution can speak on it twice. I issued that warning since 1949; it is a serious matter in my opinion.

I would like to say that it is all right for the Executive Committee to consider an Order on the 12th June and date it from the 1st June. In other cases, except it is a matter of giving back pay, these Orders come into operation when they are made and passed by both Houses of the Legislature. When these Orders are backdated, they are backdated for the reason that you are giving back pay. In my opinion these Orders should come into operation on the 15th July when the persons have been appointed. If we get in the habit of saying that we make an Order on the 12th of the month and date it from the 1st of the month, we are saying that we are authorizing the payment of money as from the 1st of the month, which we do not mean. I say; let these Orders come into operation in the process of time. The Act says that the Orders are not valid until they have been passed by both Houses of the Legislature, and still we are back-dating them!

I take it that these posts are in order, but I wonder if we cannot make a separate Head for this Health Centre in St. Michael. It might be dealt with perhaps in the manner in which we deal with the Mental Hospital and the Maternity Hospital but we merely have the Head "General Service". I would have preferred if we had a proper distinction in the Civil Establishment Order in respect of the Health Centre.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—That concludes Government business for to-day. We are not going on with the Federation debate to-day because I understand that there are some West Indians who are attending a Conference in this island, and they have asked the honourable Premier to postpone this debate until next Tuesday so that they will have the opportunity of coming to this House and hearing the debate. It is out of courtesy to these West Indians that we are postponing the debate on Federation which is Order No. 1 on to-day's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ADDRESS RE ALLOWANCE TO THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to take Order No. 27 under the Head "Private Members' Business", as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John;—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the salary of the Chaplain of the House of Assembly.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker,—this Address reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that the present salary of the Chaplain of the House of Assembly is inadequate, and the House respectfully ask Your Excellency to send down legislation to grant an allowance of thirty dollars per month for the said Chaplain, in addition to his present salary.

I think that this Address will meet with the approval and sympathy of the whole House. As is well known, the salary which is paid to the Chaplain of this House does not cover his expenses in attending this House. I think the public will be sorry to realize that we are only paying the Chaplain a salary of \$12.00 per month. This is something which honourable members have been discussing privately; I do not think it requires any long argument to show that this Address deserves the sympathy of the House. I do not propose that the Chaplain's salary should be increased, because I do not know whether the House will have a Chaplain in the future or not; therefore I have asked for an allowance instead of an increase in his salary. I understand that the Dos Santos Commission was in sympathy with bringing the salary of the Chaplain to the amount which the pension of a retired Vicar would be at present. Without any further ado, I ask honourable members to agree with the passing of this Address of which I now beg to move.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. In this material world we still have to regard things spiritual and I think we, in this Chamber, do feel that we are very much inspired by the prayers of the Chaplain. Whatever we might feel about the particular Sect to which the Chaplain belongs, it is a fact that we must pay high regard to the Chaplain of this House. As regards the terms of this Address, the total amount for the Chaplain would be \$42.00 per month; I am sure that the Executive Committee, constituted as it is, will not be parsimonious and they will not allow it to appear that they disregard the office of Chaplain. Since I have been in this Chamber on three different occasions officers of this House and Government employees have been given increases in their salaries but, for some reason or other, we have not taken any notice of the Chaplain whose salary is \$12.00 per month which can hardly pay for his transportation to this House even if he came by bus; and it must be remembered that sometimes during the month of March we sit twice or more a week. The last person whose salary we dealt with was the Messenger; we have increased the salary of the Clerk, we have increased the salary of the Marshal and why then should we fail to give consideration to the Chaplain?

I do not think we are unmindful of things spiritual because we find the Honourable Premier attending various religious functions and I saw the Honourable Minister of Communications taking his

religion seriously. (A MEMBER: Where?) I saw the Honourable Minister of Social Services worshipping in a City Church during the year, and you, Mr. Speaker, are a very strong Churchman and I am sure that you will use your good offices to persuade honourable members of the Government to grant this increase to the Chaplain. In this matter I know that I can rely on the honourable Minister of Agriculture for his support.

To be quite serious about this matter. I say finally; let it not be said that we have increased our own salaries, on three different occasions we have increased the salaries of other employees of the Government, but we have not paid any regard to the Chaplain. I would suggest that we should not only grant this addition to the Chaplain's present salary but that this proposed increase should take effect as from the first of April this year. That will put the Chaplain in line with other officers who have been given increases in their salaries.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I could not allow this Address to be passed without contributing my quota of support to it. There are facts which all of us should know and accept and appreciate. The fact of having a Priest in our midst demonstrates that we are religious and we are a civilized people. I expect that all honourable members will agree to this proposed increase for the Chaplain who is a Minister of the Gospel. There are certain paramount issues which come within the purview of each and every one of us as representatives of the people, which we are forced to advocate in this Chamber; and in subscribing to this increase for the Chaplain I think we are doing our bounden duty.

As the honourable senior member for the City has said, in this material world there should not be any lack of interest in things spiritual. I want to say, irrespective of our material aims and achievements, the spiritual aims and aspirations of the people will still eventually count. Without any further ado, I beg to give my whole-hearted support to the passing of this Address.

Mr. SMITH: Really and truly the amount of \$12.00 per month sounds very small for the Chaplain's salary but I would like to ask: what effect do the prayers which the Chaplain reads here on afternoons have on some honourable members of this House? (Laughter). I believe that the prayers corrupt some honourable members; they behave so badly, Mr. Speaker, that they give you and me a lot of trouble.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member must not cast any reflection on honourable members of this Chamber.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you know that I have to call you to the Chair at times; if the prayers read by the Chaplain used to take the effect which they should take on honourable members of this House, you and I would have a rosy seat in the Chair. However, the salary of the Chaplain is inadequate, but the Chaplain must be paid for coming here. I am in favour of giving our Chaplain an increase because everybody has got an increase in his salary and it is not fair to pay the Chaplain \$12.00 per month. We should not try to encourage inadequate payment for anybody at all. This Address will have my blessing but since we are about to pay our Chaplain an increase we must adhere to the prayers which are given us.

Mr. LEWIS: If the prayers of the Chaplain had the effect which the honourable junior member for St. Joseph would like them to have on honourable members, no doubt an Address of this sort would have come from the Government Bench: the prayers would have the effect of preventing us from criticising things which we regard as being wrong and when

we receive inadequate answers the Government members would get enthusiastic about what is necessary. Therefore I sincerely hope that we will take our prayers in the way in which we should take them and not let them make us neglect our duty towards our constituents. We either want a Chaplain or we do not want a Chaplain; the idea of this salary of \$12.00 per month must have arisen in the past when we usually chose for the post someone who was in a job already and drawing money from the Treasury and we seem to regard that as something extra for performing the duties which entailed coming to the House once per month or less frequently than in these days. If we must appreciate the post of Chaplain it should carry a salary attaching to the dignity of the position. If this office is to play any important part at all, it should have a salary attaching to the importance which we attach to the office, and \$12.00 per month would make us feel that we have had some kind of trapping when we did not want it but, as the law is there already, let us appoint somebody to this office..

I see that the honourable member has not gone the full length and asked for an amendment to the Act; now the Chaplain of the Other Place gets the same salary as our Chaplain and it is only because he is still in the full employment of the Anglican Church that we are ignoring him today. I am wondering if we are not putting up a one-sided case; we are merely asking that, in the circumstances of the case of our Chaplain—we are only asking that an allowance of \$30 per month be given him. I am willing to agree that consideration should be given to this matter: I support this Address in the hope that it will cause a revision of the salaries of the Chaplains of the Legislature. While I have no doubt that this is a duty which could be performed by a panel of Ministers of various denominations, we prefer to appoint a single person to the post and we grant him leave and so on. If we expect him to come out regularly, and we seem to think that Barbados needs a meeting of the House every week—I do not know what is the meaning of that—we are thereby inconveniencing our Officers and we should pay them for it. In view of the fact that this job has been done in the past as a part-time job by somebody who is drawing money from the Treasury, it is now thought that this \$12.00 per month needs some revision: I think that if we do not pay this office some regard by way of monetary reward for the inconvenience of coming here it would be better for us to abolish the office altogether.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, the amount of \$12 is so inadequate that I can hardly think any honourable member would not willingly grant the increase. I do not wish to add much because I know that members are of that mind. What surprises me is that some honourable member did not think of moving an Address before now. These matters although they appear small are very important. If we put some one in an office, we should see to it that the salary is adequate. Sir, twelve dollars today is very inadequate for Chaplain of this Assembly; and it cannot pay the gasoline bill of the holder of that appointment to leave home to attend this House whenever the occasion arises, far less to hire a car to do so. The increase which has been proposed in this Address seems to me to meet the case.

I will throw it out to the Executive that when they send a bill down to implement the terms of this Address, they will see to it that the Chaplain of the Other Place is also given some consideration. I think the rate of salary of the two officers is on the same basis. I think these two officers are entitled to an increase in salary because of changed conditions. I have great pleasure in supporting the Address.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker, I did not anticipate this Address would have got so much support. I must say that honourable members of this House have lived up to the reputation of this island for being a very religious community by the way in which they have so readily supported this Address. I have a slight amendment to make to this Address and it is that the allowance should take effect as from the 1st April, 1954.

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

Hon. THE SPEAKER: I will call on the honourable junior member for St. John to present this Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. VAUGHAN: As Your Honour pleases.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 5.30 p.m.

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

ON RESUMPTION

On re-assembling,

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, when I moved the adjournment for tea, I did so with the understanding that on resumption the honourable senior member for the City would proceed with items of Private Members' Business in his name. The honourable member is unable to do so today and, as far as I know, there is no other business before the House. I am going to make a motion that this House do now adjourn until this day week at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, this is a sad commentary on the business before this House that we should have 29 items under Private Members' Business and on invitation by the Government to proceed with some of them, you cannot find one thing to do.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: It may seem strange for me to say this, but it is a fact that the Government is often accused of not giving honourable members the chance to proceed with Private Members' Business; yet when the chance is given them, they then give the Government chance to go home at 5.30 p.m. Do not blame the Government.

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

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, and Mr. LEWIS.—3.

Noes: Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Mrs. BOURNE, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. VAUGHAN, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY.—13.

LEAVE TO TAKE NO. 29 OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Item No. 29 of Private Members' Business as the first order of the day.

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

ADDRESS RE LOANS BEING MADE TO FISHERMEN

Hon. THE SPEAKER: Order No. 29 stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip: To move the passing of an Address

to His Excellency the Governor relating to loans being made to fishermen.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Address does not need very much discussion because it is almost self-explanatory. Under the existing legislation, the maximum loan to which fishermen are entitled from the Government is \$500. This amount is insufficient to assist them in purchasing motor equipment for a fishing boat as the minimum cost of a motor is £300 (\$1,440) and the cost of installation is roughly around \$200; so that if we are to assist fishermen by way of loans so as to enable them to motor power their boats, the amount which they are allowed to borrow under the existing legislation is manifestly insufficient. It is true that a fisherman can borrow more money now, providing he has the collateral security. If he has land or property, the authority would advance him a bigger loan but as this House is aware, fishermen, generally speaking, have very little besides their boats—all their savings are generally invested into a fishing boat—therefore, you are not going to find many fishermen with security apart from their boat.

I think honourable members would agree that it is highly important that all assistance possible should be given to the fishing industry since it is economically advantageous to the country to do so. I shall not tire the House by quoting figures relating to the amount of fish we are still importing into the country; I do think it is sufficient to say that honourable members fully appreciate that the more fish which can be brought into the island by our local fishermen, the less we will have to import and the greater would be the contribution to the health of the community. To put it briefly, the greater the extension of the fishing industry, the greater would be the extension of the national income and there would be an improvement in the health of the community. I am asking honourable members, therefore, to support this Address bearing in mind the brief facts which I have enumerated.

The Address reads as follows—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House desire to draw to the attention of Your Excellency that under the provisions of the Fisheries Act, 1952/23 the maximum loan which fishermen are entitled to borrow without collateral security must not exceed \$500.

2. The House are of opinion that in view of
 - (a) the economic necessity for expansion of the fishing industry,
 - (b) the fact that the minimum cost to provide motor power for a fishing boat is in the vicinity of \$1,600,

that the Act under reference should be amended in order to permit the granting of loans without collateral security which more approximates this amount."

Now, it is my opinion that in other parts of the world, the Caribbean area and in other countries, governments have granted loans for similar purposes as we would like to extend to fishermen in a greater degree without collateral security. In this island, we ourselves know that originally we only made loans to peasants under the Peasants' Loan Bank Act who possessed free title deeds for their holdings. Within recent years that legislation has been amended to enable all, even renters of land or people who have leased land to borrow money for cultivation of their holding and even to purchase livestock and manure. What I am sug-

gesting is that what we are doing to-day is simply following a practice now being adopted in other advanced countries where greater loans are advanced to fishermen by the government concerned without collateral security, and in the second instance, we are doing for the fishermen what we have really done for the peasants, that is, giving them the chance to borrow money without their having to provide evidence to the effect that they own enough property to cover the loan.

I am not in a position to say what is the incidence of repayment by the many fishermen for loans which the Government has been advancing so far. This item of information would not be hard to get but I am not armed with it at this stage because I did not think I would have had the opportunity of dealing with this Address to-day; but I do know that the experience with regard to peasants, especially since the Peasants' Loan Bank Act has been amended, is such as to warrant our extending similar concessions to other industries in Barbados. In other words, the incidence of repayment on the part of the agriculturist is very heartening and justifies the faith which we had in them when we agreed to advance them loans to assist them in the cultivation of their crops over and above the amount for which they could provide proper security. I make bold to say that in view of that experience, the Government might be induced to extend similar facilities to fishermen, and I feel reasonably sure that they will not be any less straightforward and anxious to repay their loans than the agriculturists have demonstrated. Of course the Government would recover against loss of the boat by the insurance on the boat itself.

Sir, to motor power fishing boats will enable fishermen to remain for a longer period at sea and to go further which ought to result in the bringing in of greater catches of fish; therefore, if the fishermen are enabled to make more money, certainly they would be able to repay their loans faster; therefore, Government would get a larger amount of its money back in a relatively short space of time. In some of the small West Indian islands, especially the Leeward Islands, I know the Governments of them are considering the granting of assistance of this sort to their fishermen. In the U.S.A. and other parts of North America and certain parts of Europe, fishermen can now borrow money without any collateral security but the boat. I feel sure if you take what may be regarded as a risk in supporting the terms of this Address, you can rely on our fishermen to prove themselves worthy of the generosity which the authorities have reposed in them. Of course, it will be a matter for some discussion whether we can extend the ceiling from \$500 to the figure of \$1,600 which is the minimum cost of putting in a motor in a boat. I am willing to admit that the gap between \$500 and \$1,600 is not very small and I am not asking the Government indiscriminately and in an unbusinesslike fashion to pick up the money of the taxpayers and invest it or lend it out without a reasonable chance of getting it back because, we cannot as sensible people suggest any such course of action by the Government but I think there is sufficient leeway for Government to extend the ceiling and still rely on the good character of our fishermen to fulfil their obligation without any risk. I also feel that if the Government adopts this suggestion, the willingness on the part of the Government should cause the fishermen to exert themselves further into the direction of enabling them to make up any deficit between what the Government would advance and the actual cost of putting a motor in their boat.

There is one further point, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Government might be well advised to consider the possibilities of ordering these motors through the Fisheries Department at cheaper cost. No firm in Bridgetown is expected to invest £200 or £250 in a motor without making a reasonable profit on its investment but in a matter such as this, no harm can be done if the Government itself undertakes the importation of a limited number of motors for fishing boats and the deduction of the profit which the private businessman is entitled to make would permit the Government to supply those motors to fishermen at a much cheaper rate.

Secondly, I will deal with the question of insurance. It has already been drawn attention to in this House of the high rate of insurance for fishing boats. The underwriters claim that in view of the great risk involved, it is impossible for them to make the premium lower. If fishermen must carry this high rate of insurance for their boats, they would be forced to pay a higher premium on the increased value of fishing boats because if you put a motor in a fishing boat, it means that the boat would cost around \$3,000 and at current rates, the insurance premium on \$3,000 is going to be fairly high. I am not saying that it will be beyond the capacity of the fishermen to pay because if they are catching more fish and making more money they will be able to undertake more expenses but I do feel that Government should investigate the possibility of undertaking the insurance of these fishing boats at cheaper cost or explore the possibility of getting the insurance reduced. Current insurance rates and repayment of the loans will constitute some burden to fishermen and while we want to help them, we do not want unduly to burden them.

Sir, I have within recent times personal experience of the need for increasing the maximum loan of \$500 to fishermen. I have been told by fishermen with whom I have discussed the matter, including some of the fishermen who lost boats as recently as last month, that as the matter stands now, they are prepared to find part or all of the money to replace their boats if the Government would help them with the motor. No doubt, all of us must be deeply concerned with the continuous loss of life of fishermen. Within the last six or eight weeks, there have been quite a few cases and for the whole year I understand that the figure is eleven boats which have been lost apart from this serious loss of life which we deplore. There is the added dread that young people are getting afraid to go to sea. Two boats overturned in St. Philip within recent times and some young men lost their lives and one of the owners of a boat that overturned said that he was willing to replace the boat, but that he was finding it difficult to get fishermen to man another boat which he now has. He said further that his own son who used to go to sea before is afraid of suffering the same fate as his brother and has said that he is not going back to sea unless his boat is fitted with a motor. Sir, there is greater security in fishing boats with motors. Regardless of the wind, people feel they have far greater hope of returning to shore with a motor powered boat than with one depending on sails and the wind. Sir, if this continuous loss of life at sea is going to have the result of preventing our people from following the calling of the sea, for no other reason than that, considering the importance of the fishing industry to Barbados, we as responsible people must do all we can not only to encourage them to go to sea but to make it safer for them to do so.

I sincerely hope that honourable members will not feel that I am suggesting that Government should indulge in any irresponsibility or should foolishly and recklessly throw away the taxpayers' money but

after giving careful consideration to this matter honourable members should recommend that Government can take the risks suggested in this Address. I am quite prepared for the matter to be reviewed further in the light of developments at any given date from now. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Address do now pass.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this Address and in so doing I feel that it is one of the most praiseworthy addresses that have come to this House for a long time. This address is in the interest and the promotion of the fishing industry of this island. We all are aware of the fact that to-day the tendency among fishermen and fishing boat owners is towards motor powered boats instead of sails. The old custom of having sailing boats with a lot of iron in them which fishermen have to remove from side to side every time they make a tack has been responsible for the untimely cutting off of many lives of this island. Because of that, I feel that the time has come for a change in the type of fishing boats now used; they should be motor powered.

We cannot get away from the fact that the aeroplane has taken the place of the steamship in so far as passenger traffic is concerned just as the steamship took the place of the sailing boat. I feel the time has come when Barbados fishermen should not be risking their lives in tedious out-moded sailing boats but should use motor powered boats and I think it is the duty of this Government to assist those aspirants, who are determined to continue their calling in spite of the hazard, with obtaining motor boats. Sir, these motor boats will not need any iron to balance them and fishermen will be able to go out to sea in more inclement weather than they do at present with sail boats. Even if motor boats get waterlogged, it is not so easy for them to sink as sail boats with the amount of ten to twelve thousand pounds of ballast in them.

I suggest to Government that a motor boat would not need so high an insurance rate as a sail boat because it would be less risk. I feel Government would be considerate if it helped fishermen to procure a motor for their boats and it would be a means of increasing the fishing industry. I think this island has between two and three hundred fishing boats and if we can get half of them fitted with motors, fishermen will be able to go further out to sea in them and catch more fish.

Sir, I take great pleasure in seconding this Address, and I am hoping that honourable members will see the necessity of supporting it and that Government will see its way of implementing its terms as early as possible. I know that in St. Philip, people in the fishing industry have started setting down the keel to build motor boats because they anticipate that Government is going to help them to get these motors I hope Government will rise to their aid. As I have said, I think by so doing, Government would be doing the right thing. I too think that there is more chance of Government getting these motors cheaper from Germany. I am speaking subject to correction but I think that motors for small fishing boats from Germany are not only giving good service but are a bit cheaper than those of British manufacture. I therefore think that the Government would do well to make an investigation into that matter to see whether that is so. Above all, Government must get to work on this Address immediately and see to it that this fishing season would be the last that we would hear of fishermen losing their lives through using these out-moded sailing boats.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I must first of all congratulate the honourable members who have spoken on the subject matter of this Address which is now before the House, but in doing so, I will refer honourable members to the date on which this Address

was tabled in this Chamber and will draw their attention to the fact that since the institution of ministerial status this matter has been engaging the attention of the Government. From the inception of ministerial system various schemes in agriculture and fisheries have been engaging the attention of the Government and I am happy to say with the result that they have not only reached the stage of discussion but of action. In other words, I am suggesting and bringing to the attention of this Chamber the fact that as from the institution of ministerial system, matters such as this, which fall under agriculture and fisheries but of which nothing had been done about before the institution of the system, have been worked on and have not only passed the discussion stage but are at a point where action is being taken on them. I can assure honourable members that practical benefits will result from them in the not too distant future.

However, Sir, this Address is still very timely and helpful because it has enabled Government to know the frame of mind of honourable members. Government can have the assurance that when the necessary resolution is brought down it will receive the full support and backing of even honourable members of the Opposition.

I would like to remind the honourable senior member for St. Philip that admirable as his points are, yet in so far as the future development of the fishing industry is concerned, the question of cold storage must necessarily precede the question of equipment of fishing boats. At the present during the flying fish season, there is a quantity of gluts and as a result fishermen are only catching flying fish at certain times and selling them at prices which are not remunerative to them; therefore, the question of cold storage must also be considered with the question of power driven boats—the two things go hand in hand. We have to serve a dual purpose; we have to proceed with the necessary cold storage so that when these fishermen catch large quantities of fish, they will be sold at a price which will serve as an incentive to them to catch more. Even now, without power driven boats, there are such great gluts of fish at certain periods that fishermen cannot bring ashore more because they want to catch the day's market. It is true to say that with power driven boats fishermen would be able to stay out to sea until 2 p.m. and still be in time to catch the market for their fish at 3 p.m. or 4.30 p.m.

Sir, I want to emphasize that the cold storage scheme, the selling of fish and the canning of fish, are points which have been considered by Government along with the implementation of power driven boats.

The honourable senior member for St. Philip made the point about amending the Fishing Industry Act in order that fishermen be assisted and also that Government should look into the question of securing for them insurance at a cheaper rate. The Government will necessarily have to amend the Fishing Industry Act to increase the loan to fishermen but the question of collateral security would not arise because Government is aware of the fact that with most fishermen the greater part of their property besides their fishing boats is a boarded and shingled house, if as much as that, and the question of a collateral security cannot normally be applied to a chattel house.

I may state that the Government is going to implement a scheme whereby at least twenty-five new boats in which a motor engine will be installed, will be specially built under the direction and guidance of the Fishery Officer. The reason for that is because Government wants a standard type of power

driven boat island wide. Government proposes to build about 25 of those boats each year for a period of years in the hope of transforming the sailing fleet of the fishing industry into a power driven fleet.

Let me again remind honourable members that this question is receiving the attention of the Government. In connection with the question of insurance which was raised by the honourable senior member for St. Philip, I would like to say that the Government is investigating the matter in the form of a Government Insurance Scheme for fishing boats which it is hoped will more than relieve fishermen of paying such high premiums as they are called on now to pay. By way of corroboration of what I have just said, I would just say that when Dr. Hinckling was here on the 5th March last, the various points which I mentioned were gone into very carefully in all quarters and at the highest level. The questions of fitting more fishing boats with engines, making greater use of seine nets, improvement of storage and the better distribution of catches of fish, as well as the questions of cold storage and of salted fish in barrels were all given consideration. These are the very problems which are now receiving active consideration of the Government. In truth and fact, on these various agricultural and fishery development schemes Government just concluded its discussions on Wednesday last week, so, Sir, if you look at the date of the honourable member's Address, you will see that it is very evident that the honourable member has brought to the attention of the Government schemes which have been actively given consideration to by the Government from the institution of ministerial status. The deliberations on them have only been concluded on Wednesday last week which is about a week or so after the honourable senior member for St. Philip gave notice of this Address in this Chamber. Honourable members can rest assured that these matters are receiving active attention and consideration of this Government and that no stone is left unturned not only in the improvement of the type of fishing boats so as to bring greater security and assistance to fishermen, but in providing more fresh fish and less salt fish to the island for the benefit of us all.

Mr. ALLDER: It is very gratifying to hear the statement made by the honourable Minister of Fisheries but what I notice in his policy for the extension of the fishing industry is an approach which I consider to be delaying because he envisages the setting up of cold storage facilities prior to the assistance which we are asking Government to give to fishermen now.

(A VOICE: It will be given in conjunction).

Sir, even if it is given in conjunction it will be unmanageable because according to the recommendations of the expert who came out here some time ago on this question of cold storage, it is a very large scheme. I cannot remember the exact figures suggested by the expert, but the scheme called for a large sum of money and a great outlay, therefore, if these schemes are to work in conjunction it would mean that the fishermen would have to forego for a long time any further assistance than what is given them at present by Government. What I presume the honourable senior member for St. Philip is asking for in this Address is that immediate assistance be given to fishermen so as to assist them in providing motor power for their boats by the time that the next fishing season starts during the month of November. If those schemes as the honourable Minister of Fisheries has said are to work in conjunction

with this scheme, the attempt of the honourable senior member for St. Philip will be negated as a result. What I do feel about the whole matter is that while it is necessary to make provision for the preservation of the catches of fish after they have been brought in by fishermen, it is more than requisite that an early attempt should be made to assist fishermen with the added loans whereby they can purchase motors for their boats. We must bear in mind that it does not mean if these loans are released to-day to fishermen that their boats would be fitted tomorrow with engines or by next week; it calls for a period of construction before these boats can be so fitted and I presume that the engines will also have to be imported. I do feel that it is the duty of the Government to make such provision as to guarantee a generous supply of food to the population. If private business people do not attempt to provide food for the population because of meagre profits, it is the duty of the Government to set up its own machinery to provide such food. The Government cannot stand idly by and see the population getting around without any means of existence, therefore, if a few courageous fishermen decide to face the dangers of the ocean to go and bring in food for the people, it is the duty of the Government to assist them fully, not partially. There are some fishing boats which are worth more than \$500. I have noticed that there are many which are insured for as high as \$800 and \$1,000 and this means if Government intends that more fishermen should own their own boats the amount of the loan which it makes to them should be greater. It can be seen that the present amount which is loaned them is insufficient to give them a reasonably sized boat. I feel in view of the fact that Government has not permitted itself to any great extent to an overall policy of food production that the least it should do is to give assistance to fishermen to a greater extent than it has been doing in the past.

The honourable Minister of Fisheries makes mention of gluts of fish but that occur fairly infrequently. It sometimes happens that sweet potatoes are seen around the City in great quantities but that does not mean that the planters of potatoes should reduce the production. Because there is an occasional glut of fish, it does not mean that you should deny to supply these fishermen with engines for their boats. What I think is the cause of gluts of fish sometimes is the difficulty of distribution in the colony. Of course, I presume that the honourable Minister is also giving attention to this phase of the matter. However, I would say that Government should not wait until it sets up cold storage facilities before releasing an increased loan for fishermen.

As regards the question of insurance of fishing boats, many fishermen have complained to me saying that the premiums which they are called upon to pay are too high. Definitely, it is the general feeling among them that it would be better if Government carry out the insurance of those boats instead of allowing insurance companies to do so. I cannot remember the figure which fishermen have to pay annually for insurance of their boats, but I know it is as much as to reduce their profits to a tremendous extent. I therefore feel that is another matter which the honourable Minister of Fisheries should seriously consider. Of course, here again I am presuming that he is already apprised of this hardship because many fishermen are living and pursuing their calling in his constituency and I daresay that they have notified him of the difficulty of insuring their boats.

Sir, I am quite hopeful of the statement of making provision for the selling and preservation of fish. All these things are necessary to the improvement of the

fishing industry and the scheme to provide food for the population, however, I am going to appeal to the honourable Minister of Fisheries not to allow the bringing forward of these additional schemes to prevent him from paying some immediate attention to the immediate needs of fishermen. I have noticed that the Trinidad Government has just started to assist fishermen with not only motors for the existing size of their boats but it is also assisting them in the construction of larger boats so that they can go farther to sea and even stay out to sea for a number of days. I feel that a fishing industry which is short of these requirements is not a fishing industry at all; therefore, the honourable Minister should aim at all these requirements. Government should construct at its own expense a number of schooners which could be taken out for deep sea fishing just as some which are at present owned by private individuals and which are taken out for a number of days or even weeks before they are brought back in with a substantial catch of fish. At present, we have to depend on a couple of schooners which are taken to fishing banks to bring in deep sea fish. In the same way, Government can acquire its own fishing schooners and some of the same fishermen can be engaged to man those boats. I am sure that an overall scheme such as that would then justify the establishment of any refrigeration set up of the magnitude which the expert has recommended recently as necessary for this island. I still am of the opinion that the one which he has recommended is as large as would freeze New York and its cost is so much that it should be capable of freezing everything that is required for freezing in that City.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of explanation. Two recommendations were made by that expert as regards refrigeration. One for a refrigerating plant of 800 tons capacity and the other of 400 tons capacity. The one of 800 tons capacity would cost in the vicinity of £93,000 and the other of 400 tons capacity, which naturally would be the one suitable for a small island like this and one which this Government would adopt, would cost in the vicinity of \$300,000 or a little less.

Mr. ALLDER: Sir, the honourable Minister's statement justifies the point which I was making. I was saying that the Government should not permit itself to the obtaining of a refrigerating plant of 400 tons capacity to cost \$300,000 before it has decided to assist in the setting up of the machinery for the catching of fish to supply the necessary amount of raw material to justify the working of a plant of that magnitude. I hope the honourable Minister has seen my point. It is not that I am opposed to the suggestions which he has made; I am trying to assist him in deciding from which angle the whole scheme should be tackled. The honourable Minister has said that from the time that Ministerial Status was introduced, these things have been engaging the attention of the Government. Personally, I do think that all honourable members agree that all these things have been engaging Government's attention, but we do not want them to remain in the theoretical stage of Government's attention; we want some practical step to be taken to implement the suggestions which have been made and which have not been made now but some time ago. I do hope that the fishing industry would soon be brought up to its required size and that it would result in the cheapening of one of the important items of the people's diet.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I do not represent a parish which is like an island entirely surrounded by water or like a peninsula which is a place partly surrounded by water. Unlike the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, I am not a maritime representative, therefore, I do not want

anyone to accuse me of making an electioneering speech when I speak about fishermen. I remember very well that the honourable Minister before he took up the reins of his office was loud in his condemnation of the aid which Government gave to fishermen and I hope that a new dispensation has arrived for fishermen in the inauguration of his tenure of office. I would like to say at the outset that the Fishing Industry Act as it stands is of such a nature that it must defeat the whole purpose of the Government's scheme to assist fishermen. In my opinion, if a fisherman has collateral security, he does not need to go to the Fishery Officer or the Government to borrow money at all because he can go to people who deal with mortgages and lending money and tie up his property with them rather than tie it up with the Government. There is no necessity if fishermen are in normal circumstances as I have pointed out to go to Government cap in hand, form fours and salute and salaam to get a loan because if their faces are not pleasing to the officers in question, perhaps they would not get it, but when they go to some solicitor on a business-like basis they will get it without any fuss, although some people may feel that the rate of interest in dealing with a solicitor would be more than they would normally have to pay with Government. When a fisherman has to go to Government to get a loan over \$500, not only will he have to mortgage his land but he will have to insure his boat at a rate which is certainly prohibitive to the average fisherman. The honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries who is usually better informed than any of the other ministers has expressed his dismay at the prohibitive rate of insurance paid by average fishermen on their fishing boats. That is why I say the Fishing Industry Act defeats the whole purpose of Government in assisting these fishermen when it is insisting for collateral security. As it is, Government is entering the money lending business on a purely competitive basis with the commercial undertakings which would normally deal with matters of that kind. I think the reason for the Government's intervention is just like how Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation has been set up by Britain to aid colonial territories and to take risks which private commercial undertakings would not care to take. Perhaps, it is an entirely unselfish motive which activates the Government to do so in this particular matter. It must be borne in mind that the food supply of the colony depends to a large extent on the activities of the Government and those who go down to the sea in ships.

I would like the honourable Minister of Fisheries to give this House some indication as to when the Government research boat, *Investigator*, is going to weigh anchor and leave the port so as to give some good scientific information or a good catch of fish. From my own observation, it is a considerable length of time since that boat has ventured out in the deep. There are only two so-called discoveries which can be attributed to the activities of that boat and both owe their origin to sources other than the *Investigator*. The first is the use of the gill net which was used in Barbados for a number of years before, but which was kept as a trade secret and the second is the discovery that there is one continuous bank and not two banks but which was known by some fishermen before the *Investigator* investigated it with its radio sounding device. Apart from the bountiful amount of fish which it has caught but which is reported to have found its way in the larders of the fortunate people who are directly or indirectly concerned with the running of the Government of this country — without necessarily insinuating anything improper about it—I fail to see that the *Investigator* justifies the substantial contribution which this Government

has to make towards its upkeep. A boat is always an expensive undertaking but the *Investigator* is more expensive than any other boat I know to sustain because of the state of life in which it is placed.

As regards the question of cold storage and a refrigerating plant of the capacity of 400 tons, I consider that plant would be too large for this island particularly when we take into consideration that there already exists cold storage space sufficient to cater for the normal everyday needs of the colony. I consider, Mr. Speaker, that the problem of the fishing industry is not a problem of the volume of fish that is caught, it is a problem of distribution. It is not a problem of how many fish you can catch, it is a problem of getting rid of your fish before it goes bad. To my mind, there is no justification in a small island like Barbados for a multiplicity of refrigerating plants because there is no reason why every man, woman and child should not be able to eat fresh fish if they so desire and if they have the means to do so. We are blessed in this island with good roads by which it is possible for fish to be distributed to all the central points in the island, therefore, if the Fishery Officer would concentrate a bit on the problem of marketing and the problem of distribution all the supplies of fish which nature has bestowed in easy reach of the inhabitants of this island would be sold locally and I feel that the question of spending \$300,000 or \$700,000 on a refrigeration plant would not arise at all. I feel that if you spend some money on a few good motor lorries to take the fish from the fishing ports to the various country districts, you would be able to dispose of the fish easily and you certainly would not have to spend that money on refrigeration. Again Sir, the nature of the fish which we get in most plentiful supply militates against successful refrigeration. It is common knowledge that our flying fish cannot be refrigerated more than once; so long as it has been taken out of cold storage, it cannot be put back in because it becomes dangerous to health and person. Sir, I am inciting the honourable Minister of Fisheries to investigate the *Investigator* and to investigate the problem of distribution of the supplies of fish which we get and not to burden the poor taxpayers of this colony with any elaborate refrigerating plant costing over \$300,000 or any other sum.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I have always regarded it as something that has hindered the full benefit of the intention of this Legislature to fishermen by insisting that loans to them specifically applying to their boats can be made against any property of theirs, say like their houses or any land they may possess. I feel that if a fisherman is willing to build a boat and to risk what he has put in it and his life in providing the island with a supply of fish, if the Government really wants to help him to replace his boat,—especially if he has lost it at sea—that it is frightening to people in such circumstances to also entail their houses and any land they might have in subscribing to any deed of that sort. I think that it is recognition of the necessity of the fishing industry to this country that help is extended to fishermen, therefore, I do agree that the Government should be willing to undertake a greater risk, but of course, I do not see how Government can set about to do so without the consent of the Legislature because after all, the Government is only the trustees for the purpose of making loans to fishermen or anybody else and it must within reasonable bounds safeguard the taxpayers money.

Sir, I have heard of a case in which so far as I remember the Fishery Department, which is concern-

ed with the granting of loans for powered boats, told a particular fisherman that he had built too large a boat. I am glad to hear now that the idea is to have even larger boats. Only this morning I saw an auctioneer in possession of an unfinished motor powered boat to sell out at one of the beaches in the City of Bridgetown and if my memory serves me right, I think it was around that same district a poor chap whom I was trying to help get a loan resides. I am glad that we are thinking of helping fishermen in a more generous way by taking a greater risk in loaning them as much as to enable them to get motor power for their boats.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to say something which I had in mind for a long time but which I had no chance to say before. I sincerely hope that the putting of refrigerating plants in this country does not prevent even fishermen from getting a fresh flying fish to eat at a reasonable price. I claim that it is a matter of distribution as regards the sale of fish. I think private enterprise should come into the picture and lend its assistance in this matter. I have heard of people who have helped fishermen by taking their catches of fish to the country and selling them for them and I predict that the day that flying fish is put in cold storage on a large scale the people of Barbados will be as badly off to get a flying fish as it is to go and buy products of this country such as fancy molasses or to get piece of sugar cane without stealing it or having a friend who grows it and asking him for a piece. Fishermen are one set of people whom the Government helps and thinks do good work for this country and it would be good for Government to follow that up by seeing that fishermen supply the island with sufficient fish and at the cheapest possible price. We must bear in mind that after all, it is the taxpayers money which we lend to the fishermen and it is money that the Government has borrowed at the rate of 5% interest to lend them. I am sure that fishermen are grateful for what we are doing for them by way of our willingness to extend further assistance. I therefore throw that out for what it is worth.

There are other people in this country that need some of the assistance which we are giving to fishermen. Carpenters and masons would like to be able to buy some of the things they have to work with by way of loans from the Government and these are the people who will have to buy flying fish at an increased price from the day you begin to store all of them. I do hope that we will not go on every year in this House to discuss loans for only one set of people. It might be well if we remember that carpenters and masons have to buy their own implements and they are the people who have to buy the fish, therefore, they would need some assistance too. I am hoping that we will not come all the time for aid to fishermen but will come at some times for aid on behalf of the people who buy the fish. If certain people cannot buy the fish it will stay in cold storage and be given to tourists whom we are inviting in increasing numbers. I am sure that in the course of time the inhabitants of this country will not know what is a flying fish. I sincerely hope this refrigerating plant will not have this bad effect. I am quite sure that in times of scarcity of food, fishermen are glad to know that they are bringing in fish and that the fish is sold at a price which they do not lose anything but at a price which will enable many hungry persons to get something good and sustaining for their bodies.

Sir, I agree with the principle of the Address and I am very glad to hear the Government is giving the matter active consideration. I am wondering if it is necessary to pass this Address because of the official advance of the scheme. There is no doubt that

it has already been taken care of by the Government, but probably Government may be glad, if we pass the Address so as to emphasize its necessity.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker allow me to say just a brief word in support of this Address. Unfortunately, I was not in the House when the early speeches were made on it but I am inclined to feel that for some time now, we should have come to the decision of increasing the amount of the loan which we have set down for fishermen to borrow so as to enable them to buy motors for the boats with which they go fishing. The type of boat which they now use is not only bad but out-of-date; it can probably be regarded as obsolete. It is true to say that they are going out to fish in the type of craft which was used by Robinson Crusoe.

I feel that the Government is not only aware of the needs of these fishermen but has shown a lot of interest in them and particular mention must be made of the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries and the Fishery Officer who are always very energetic to do something to improve the standard of fishing boats. What we have seen recently in the fishing industry is a loss of several lives. I happen to know three who have unfortunately lost their lives, and in St. Philip, there has been the tremendous loss of the son of a father who was a very prominent person in the village in which he lived. No doubt, it is very difficult to change tradition in this colony and for that reason, the old type of sailing craft is still used by fishermen up to this day.

I would just like to say a word to the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries about something which I believe requires investigation. There is a type of small engine which can be used with a revamp on the type of craft now used. I am satisfied that if fishermen get this type of small motor craft, they would be able to catch fish in greater quantities because they will not need to come back ashore as quickly as they do now but could travel to another motor craft in the area and transfer the fish they have caught to that craft to bring ashore while they remain longer outside. I think that would mean much to the country.

A lot has been said by the honourable junior member for the City on the question of a refrigerating plant and I appreciate what he said when he said that it was a question of organising the system of selling fish. The reason why fish is sometimes sold at a low price is because it happens to arrive late for marketing. Speaking on this question reminds me of an ugly episode which has been revealed as taking place at one of our almshouses. It was disclosed that it was something like five or six times that the inmates of that almshouse had eaten flying fish over a period of three years. However, I am not prepared to dwell on that point.

I am not altogether sure that the repayments of fishing loans are as good as we hoped but what I would like to say is that I think that the time is ripe when we should enable fishermen to change from the old type of ballast boat to a motor boat. The time is ripe when we should release more money to these fishermen to enable them to buy engines and to build a different type of craft from what they now use. This Address contains nothing of refrigeration but I know it is the policy of the Government to make provision for cold storage of fish. It is unfortunate that I was not in the House when the honourable Minister of Agriculture was making his remarks in connection with refrigeration. I, therefore, at this stage would hesitate to say anything about the matter until I am aware of what is the policy of the honourable Minister in this respect.

Mr. Speaker, I am lending my support to the passing of this Address. What I am unhappy about is the loss of life in the industry recently. I think we have reached the stage when we should definitely change the type of boat which fishermen now use and release more money to them in order that they can acquire boats with engines.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The House has listened with interest and approbation to the remarks of the honourable Minister of Agriculture. He has said that the Government has been actively considering the development of the fishing industry since the inception of Ministerial Status and he has referred to the fact that Colonel Hickling was recently here and participated in the discussions with the Government. The honourable Minister will probably remember that discussions had been taking place by the authorities in this country with regard to the development of the fishing industry almost throughout his political life as well as mine, and he will probably also recall that long before Colonel Hickling came here Dr. Brown was here and made a most praiseworthy recommendation, and if the Government were so minded they could have done a lot for the fishing industry by merely implementing the old Report of Dr. Brown without listening to the latter-day recommendations of Dr. Hickling.

With regard to the cold storage facilities and curing of fish and putting them in tomato sauce, that has been discussed *ad lib* in this Chamber for many years and I myself have initiated a debate on the possibilities for curing and canning fish and what not; these discussions, admirable as they have been, should have been making a mass of information available to the Government for the development of the industry if and when the Government were so minded. I want to refresh the minds of honourable members of the Government that there is already a vast detail of information at the disposal of the Government with regard to all the aspects of the development of the fishing industry; so that unless the latest expert has some extraordinarily valuable information to offer, he can hardly be of any better assistance to the Government than Dr. Brown or any of his predecessors have been. In so far as I am concerned, apart from my own general interest in the improvement of the fishing industry and its expansion, my immediate interest is in the question of extending the amount of loans available to the fishermen. That question did not arise subsequent to the introduction of Ministerial Status; it arose out of the disasters which overtook the fishing boats in St. Philip less than two years ago. When the owner of one of those boats was trying to replace it he came to me and said that he would like to borrow some money in order to replace his boat and that the Government would not lend him \$500.00. He further said that he is sharing the remaining boat with his son and other fishermen are refusing to put out to sea because they are getting apprehensive of the dangers of the sea in using the ordinary sail boats. That inspired my immediate interest in the matter.

I do not know if, running through the mind of the honourable Minister of Fisheries was the possibility that there may be some likelihood of the general public getting tired of the discussion which the Government had with Colonel Hickling and therefore the Government became suddenly interested in this matter. What has aggravated me in the matter is the great incidence of loss of life at sea and the need for further assistance for the fishermen and therefore I regret very much to learn that any action taken by the Government in respect of this Address

will be more in relation to the other aspects of the fishing industry; that the question of cold storage facilities is bound up with the question of making additional loans to fishermen to buy powered boats and that in the Government's plans or discussions or hopes for extending the fishing industry the Government is thinking along the lines that the provision of powered boats must be proceeded with, simultaneously with the provision of cold storage facilities.

It is manifestly unlikely that within the near future the Government will be able to spend \$300,000 on cold storage facilities unless it abandons the idea of erecting new Ministerial buildings and allocates that money for the provision of cold storage facilities. I want to suggest to the Government that with the provision of a few thousand dollars more the fishermen could purchase powered boats and we have to await the decision to provide cold storage equipment. The hon. Minister with his knowledge of the fishermen must appreciate the fact that if eleven boats are lost within five months a lot of people who are now following this calling would be apprehensive of the position and they would feel that the provision of powered boats would make their calling less dangerous. There is a large number of these fishing craft which are so old that people would not think of putting motors in them. For some time at least the Government can rest assured that the demands for assistance by the fishermen in the way of motors would be relatively small. Personally, I doubt whether the Government will have more than two dozen applications for this assistance in any given year. As I said earlier, there are instances in which fishermen hope to get loans in time for the beginning of the fishing season in October; applications have been made in that direction already.

I am sure that the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries will appreciate the fact that when we were extending the scope of the Peasants' Loan Bank in order to give greater facilities to peasants, we did not establish the precedent that there should be cold storage facilities for vegetables before we granted those facilities; nor did it mean that when we made such facilities available to peasants, every single peasant wanted to take advantage of those facilities. There are lots of fishermen regrettably who, if the Government gave them fifty years to repay a loan, would not put themselves in the way to get it; but they would prefer to go on in the way in which their grandfathers had been going on. I am suggesting that the young generation of fishermen who are getting increasingly afraid of putting out to sea in the sail boats should be given a chance to assist themselves with powered boats and also assist the economy of the island by bringing in more fish.

The honourable senior member for St. John has answered the question as to the periodical glut of fish. To judge from the remarks of the honourable junior member for the City, there are the occasions when, to his delight and advantage, the people in the island get a chance to buy large quantities of fish at the cheapest possible rate. If you get fishermen to sell fish cheaply it is just like when you have a glut of potatoes and yams and the price of these commodities goes down; but you do not get a glut of fish every day. Let us not confuse the issue of cold storage facilities with the granting of loans for the assistance of fishermen; I hope the honourable Minister will see the matter in this perspective and will be willing to make a step in the direction suggested in this Address by implementing its recommendation immediately and with due regard to Dr. Hickling, Dr. Brown and all the other experts

who have favoured us with their excellent recommendations.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I ask the honourable senior member for St. Philip to present this Address.

Mr. CRAWFORD: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT

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

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