

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1953—54

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 11th March, 1954.

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

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. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*) Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*), Mr. L. E. SMITH, (*Chairman of Committees*), Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*), Messrs. T. O. BRYAN, E. St. A. HOLDER, V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), Mrs. E. E. BOURNE and Mr. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc.

Prayers were read.

Messrs. E. D. MOTTLEY, WILLIAMS and F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE ON THE ESTIMATES FOR 1954—55.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume Committee on the Estimates for the financial year 1954—55.

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

HEAD XXIX—MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Head XXIX—Miscellaneous Services — was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXIX stand part.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: As regards item 42, "Maintenance of Speightstown Community Hall", honourable members will remember that a heated discussion took place in respect of that item when we

were dealing with the upkeep of the Speightstown Branch Library. Since the word "Community" is causing some confusion in the minds of honourable members. I propose that we revert to the old name "Assembly Hall" as the building was called. I am therefore asking leave to delete the word "Community" in order to insert the word "Assembly". While I am on my feet I will say that no Head of any Department will have anything to do with this Committee as some honourable members seem to feel; this Hall will be run by this Committee in the interest of the cultural needs of the people of the area.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: There is one thing which I would like to ask: The honourable member says that this building will not be run as a Community Centre for the people of St. Peter; if it will be carried on as it has been carried on before, why are they asking for \$500 now when it was run for much less before. What is this \$500 for?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: This \$500 will be the provision for cleaning, electricity and so on. It is for the running expenses of this Assembly Hall.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am speaking in connection with items 6, 12, 54 and any other item as I go along. As regards item 6, "Lighting of Wharf," I would like to take the opportunity of saying how deplorable it is to find that where the Government is paying for lighting the lights are so dim that you need not have any lights at all. I would like to know if better lighting accommodation will be provided especially where public funds have to be expended: I would also like to draw this matter to the attention of whoever it concerns; I happened to go to the Fisheries Officer yesterday morning and a boat-owner told me that last week a fisherman lost his boat while he was coming into the moorings behind the Public Market. That is because the Government has refused to install a light at the back of the Market for the convenience of the fishermen; if you are spending so much money on the fishing industry it is but a small expenditure to provide a proper light at the back of the Market.

As regards item 12, "Compensation and charges under Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943." I would like the Government to take steps to have the Workmen's Compensation Act amended, just as the British Government has amended theirs. It would be a good thing for the Government to go into this

matter because thousands of dollars are exported from the colony and the matter could be dealt with if a proper scheme could be devised. This is an Act which has become unwieldy to be administered by the Assistant Court of Appeal; it is an Act which should be administered by the Labour Department. In many instances, if this Act were administered by a Labour Department and not by the Court a simple method could be used.

With regard to item 54, "Expenses of Oil Adviser," I am wondering if this matter should not be a Head by itself. This item deals with the Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas; there are separate Heads in respect of very small amounts in these Estimates and I think that this item should not be dealt with under a separate Head. You will find that "Contribution From Revenue" is a Head by itself; it has not been put as an item under the Head with which we are now dealing.

In respect of the item "War Service Credit," the sum of \$2,500 was voted last year. I have received complaints from people who have served in the War that they have not been credited with the services which they performed during the War. I know that there are in this colony expatriate officers who have received War Service Credit allowances; as there is no provision made in this respect for this year, I would like to know if it is the policy of the Government to pay War Service Credit allowances to those who have rendered services on the same basis as that on which expatriate officers have been paid. Some policemen have been paid these allowances but other people have not been paid and I would like to know if those who have been paid, have been paid with a clear understanding of what was intended. This is a question of giving credit for the years of service which people have rendered in the Caribbean Regiment. I would not like to hear of any cheseparing policy in connection with this matter; I feel that every man who has served in the War should be given War Service Credit allowance and he should be given that allowance from the time he has served. There should not be any subtraction.

Mr. WILLIAMS: In connection with item 4, "Purchase of Safes for Government Departments," the note says: "Provision for the purchase of a safe and stand which can immediately be made available when required for the safe custody of Government funds." I see that this is a new item. I do not know what circumstances the Government is contemplating but, to my mind, you would have to keep a certain amount of liquid cash in the Treasury; I do not see how it could be considered safe to keep any outstanding amount of money there. What eventuality does the Government contemplate to make them have this safe for the safe custody of Government funds?

As regards item 12, "Compensation and charges under Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943," I heartily support the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. Peter; it is about time that this Act be amended. I have been reliably informed that this Act should be taken out of the jurisdiction of the Assistant Court of Appeal and placed in the hands of the Labour Department. There are many employers who are not insured under the Act and it has been found that when employees have to make charges there is no money with which to pay them. That aspect of the matter should be gone into; sometimes the only remedy on which an employee has to fall back is the Workmen's Compensation Act.

In respect of item 20, "Rewards under the Cane Fire (Prevention) Act, 1949, I would like to know the reasons for the increase of the amount

from \$50 to \$2,400; I presume it is in keeping with the recommendations of the Cane Fires Prevention Committee. Is this amount in respect of the payment of rewards to a vigilance squad? To my mind, prevention is better than cure; it has been said that when a cane fire breaks out people are rather unco-operative.

Relative to item 33, "Acting Allowances, payment of Substitute," I see that these allowances are now costing \$40,000 and you can well see what the Civil Service is costing us to run it. We have to try and keep the position under review as much as possible; we cannot allow people to come from abroad and pay them fantastic salaries. That is a matter which has to be kept under review at all times. As regards the selection of masters for Harrison College somebody had been talking about increases being made in England, but we cannot afford that in Barbados. That position has to be made perfectly clear.

In connection with item 53, "Actuarial Investigations into Widows & Orphans Pensions Scheme," I would like the Minister in Charge of this matter to get the Actuarial Report relative to the investigations into this Scheme because it is causing the Civil Servants a lot of headache. The money which is put into this Scheme might be used for housing instead of the Civil Servants having to borrow money for this purpose.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am asking leave to insert a new item—5 (a) "Expenses of Standing Cane Fire Board, \$1,710." As honourable members know, a Cane Fire Prevention Committee was set up to deal with the question of reducing the incidence of cane fires and as a result of their Report, a Standing Cane Fire Board has been set up. They are really trying out an experiment in setting up a watch tower post near the District "C" Police Station in order to see whether their recommendations can be of any benefit. The amount of the item is made up as follows; Wages and Cost of Living Allowance, \$1,355.64. Holidays with Pay; \$54; Contingencies, \$52.00 and Expenses of Board \$250. It was not though advisable to incur any capital ture at this stage since the matter is regarded as being just an experiment.

Mr. LEWIS: With reference to item 42, "Maintenance of Speightstown Community Hall." I see that the hon. Minister is merely changing the name. I would like to assure the honourable member that I have nothing against the name except that it was drawn to his attention that the Assembly Hall might get confused with the Community Centre. I am not concerned with what Head of Department is associated with this matter; I am not concerned with what I heard about some gratuitous insult having been offered the Trustees of the Library and, perhaps, the Librarian. I have been informed that some difficulty was experienced by people in St. Peter in getting the use of the Hall; I understand that in a matter like this, it is necessary to hear both sides of it and we are only hearing about some difficulty in getting the use of the Hall but we do not know if the people applied late for the use of it or what. However the person whom I have heard blamed for the handing over of the keys is an active member of the original Board.

I would like the honourable member to say whether complaints have been made to the Trustees of the Library as to getting the use of the Hall and what explanation has been given. There is a rumour to the effect that this changeover has taken place without the Trustees of the Library having been informed about it; that would be a very ugly feature about a transaction of this kind by responsible peo-

ple and I hope that it is not true. I would like to know if some proper official communication was sent to the Trustee of the Library to the effect that this changeover was taking place. Somebody must be recognised by the Treasury as one who must sign the vouchers for the payment of this \$500; and who will this person be?

On the question of getting quick action as to the use of this Hall, no Committee could be as quick in action as one person who would know the use to which the Hall is being put and the purpose for which it is being used and who would make arrangements for looking after the Hall while it is being used: I cannot imagine any Committee being more accessible than a single person. The authority in this matter should rest with the Librarian. It appears to me that the authority for the use of this Hall could have been very well left where it was so that the rest of the property could be protected by one and the same person. It is strange that employees of the Trustees have been put on the Committee and as far as I know, the Trustees are not told of the change until they see it probably just as a member of the House would see it. That sort of discourtesy makes one suspicious of the arrangements.

The Committee will eventually discover that they have done wrong; if the money for running this Hall is coming out of the Treasury and not from the people of St. Peter, anybody from St. Michael or any other parish who wishes to use this Hall should be allowed to do so; otherwise the Committee should look for the money for running this Hall themselves. Since this matter has been talked about it seems to me that many people know more about it than I know about it; there are many more aspects of the matter. I am sure that the Trustees of the Library are not aware of any difficulty being experienced as to applying in a proper way for the use of the Hall; as a matter of fact, I should imagine that the Trustees would be able to appreciate 100% the benefits which the use of a Hall like this would confer on the community.

As far as the insertion of item 5 (a) is concerned, the matter relative to the Fire Board is something which the planters could well take care of for themselves in co-operation with the Police Department; we are wet-nursing these people in every little matter which comes up. This Cane Fire Prevention Committee has been set up, it makes a Report and the Executive Committee has adopted the Report and has put this item in the Estimates; that is an unsatisfactory method of dealing with the Report. The Legislature is the one Body who must say: "I will put an item in the Estimates." Putting this item in the Estimates at this time is not treating the Legislature with the courtesy which should be extended to it and on that score alone objections should be raised. I believe that the planters could well pay for this item and the matter could be dealt with in co-operation with the Police. To create a Board by the insertion of an item before proper notice is given of it in the Legislature is not the proper way to deal with this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Relative to the transfer of authority in connection with the running of the Assembly Hall at Speightstown from the Trustees of the Public Library to a local Committee, perhaps I should not say very much on that subject since it is proposed that I should be Chairman of the Committee; but I am surprised to find that the hon. junior member for the City is imagining that certain difficulties will result from the transfer of this authority to such a Committee. The hon-

ourable member is so much out of touch as to the use to which this Building has been put that he foresees difficulties which I do not foresee at all. We have to submit a syllabus to the Librarian in Bridgetown and when we convince him that we would have to meet the cultural needs of the parish, then we will be given licence to use this building.

This building will be used by cultural groups or associations in the parish; any association which needs the use of this building will now apply to this local Committee instead of the Librarian. Much difficulty has arisen in the past because very often when contact was made with the Librarian on the spot it was difficult for her to transmit the notice to her superior in Bridgetown. The honourable member seems to think that one individual will not allow this building to be used by people; any association can use this building but it has to present a syllabus to the satisfaction of the local Committee. If the honourable member knew more of the use to which this building will be put, he would not sense or imagine any inconvenience or the sort of inconvenience of which he has mentioned taking place. There are other phases of the matter of which I would not attempt to speak because I am entirely ignorant of them; but as far as the use of the building for the benefit of the residents of St. Peter is concerned, I am in authority to speak because I know of what I am speaking.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not want to join issue with anybody in a matter of this sort; I do not think that this arrangement for a Hall in Speightstown is any different from that for the use of a Hall in any other part of the island. You have to put forward your syllabus in the same way; if the question of putting up a syllabus would be an inconvenience was that made known to the proper quarter and did they object to it? This matter has not been done in the way we expected it to be done; to tell me that this arrangement about a syllabus has to be taken to a particular part of the island is asking me to accept nonsense as reason.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member does not know the purpose for which this building will be used; it is obvious to me that the honourable member wants to associate with the transfer of authority for the use of this building something of which I have no knowledge. The honourable member is absolutely mistaken as to the *ad hoc* use of this building; having regard to the use to which this building will be put, the authority for the use of it cannot be obtained at a moment's notice. That is not the idea at all.

Mr. BARROW: Judging from the manner in which His Honour the Speaker has attacked this particular question, it seems to me that the good people of Speightstown are in for a very good regime in so far as this Assembly Hall is concerned. I hope that the Assembly in Speightstown is not subjected to the rule to which this Assembly is subjected from time to time. What has surprised me is that no date has been given as to the time from which this new system will be functioning and His Honour can speak with such authority as to the cultural use to which the Hall can be put at reasonable notice: I can only come to the conclusion that there is some grievance at the back of the minds of some people, which they want to stamp out. We have been asking since yesterday and I still want to know why Speightstown has to be singled out for this treatment while in the parish of St. George and in the parish of Christ Church the particular buildings are controlled by the Vestries. This building is not a Community Centre and there is no Act setting up Assembly Halls

in Barbados; this is something which belonged to the Public Library and it was put to a very useful purpose. To expect people to form fairs and salute and go through a lot of red tape when they feel disposed to hold a mock trial, or a debate or concert is against the whole spirit of community activities; the idea of a cultural centre is that it is easily accessible and available to the community which it serves. Now that His Honour the Speaker has been made Pope he thinks it is incumbent on him to push out members of this Assembly because we happen to disagree with the whole principle underlying this vote of \$500.

This building is not a Community Centre; it should be a place to which people can have free and full access at any time except on such occasions when they might be restricted by by-laws and regulations. I hope that the honourable junior member for St. Peter is listening to what is happening in his parish. We are now trying to set up a tribunal to decide whether this Hall should be used one night a week or something like that; however, nobody can say that the people of Speightstown have lodged any complaint as to the use of the Hall under the old dispensation.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has been asking about complaints or difficulties which people have been experiencing; I can say that it is obvious to me that a Committee on the spot will be more easily accessible to the ratepayers of Speightstown than having to await notice from Bridgetown.

Mr. BARROW: I would like an answer to the questions which have been put by members of this House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: This particular item caused a lot of debate yesterday afternoon and today the honourable Minister for Social Services asked that the name of this building be changed from "Community Hall" to "Assembly Hall;" he has said that this building will be used by the people of St. Peter alone. Having heard His Honour the Speaker, I learn that it can be used by other people. When the honourable Minister for Social Services sat down, I was inclined to say; "Let us try it out," but now honourable members seem to be afraid to say something which is within their knowledge. There must be something wrong; however this debate is reported in the Press, unless the facts are brought out to the public, I feel that we are doing something to shelter somebody; if somebody did not say what was brought to his notice, we would be a bunch of mice.

The Government of this colony established a Branch Library in Speightstown and not very long after this Branch Library was established, this particular Hall which is apart from the Library was used as a place where people met for cultural activities and the sum of \$50 was put in the Estimates for running it. Suddenly a change has been made in the Estimates this year; I believe that education should be the foundation of some culture. It is a fact that the present Librarian is a Barbadian of African descent and Mr. Haskell has referred to this young man as one of the brightest scholars he has ever had. It is within my knowledge that the Social Welfare Officer—I have no axe to grind—was having a row with the Librarian. As soon as a colonial talks back to an imported official, he is considered to be rude; and the Social Welfare Officer is one of those people to whom you cannot be rude. I do not know if it is rudeness in the Librarian talking back, but in the usual way the Social Welfare Officer who reports on every other officer, re-

ports this matter to the Colonial Secretary and without the Librarian even being called in, you have this item put in the Estimates; you have the name of this building changed and we are asked to vote this \$500. I might be mistaken, but I do not believe that the honourable Minister for Social Services really knew what was happening. I heard His Honour the Speaker talking about the difficulty of getting in touch with the superior in Bridgetown; that is nonsense. (Mr. SPEAKER: It might be nonsense but what I have said is correct.)

It would not take a week or two weeks to let a group of people know that they could use this Hall. I have been told that if you know the truth about this matter, it would be more serious. It is wrong to have Ministers, officials or anybody pimping behind local Heads of Departments and carrying back tales.

Somebody might ask; "Why should you have all this talk about the expenditure of this \$500?" To have an Assembly Hall for carrying out these cultural activities is something desirable, but you must come straight out with the matter. Suppose His Honour the Speaker was one of the Trustees of the Library and the daughter of the Minister of Social Services was Librarian in Bridgetown and they had a row with the Social Welfare Officer; Tell me how they would feel to think that this change is made without anything being said to the Trustees or the Librarian! That would not be decent. As long as we are elected here, it is our duty to offer support, when it is necessary, to Heads of Departments whether they are Englishmen, West Indians or Barbadians; but we must also criticise them where criticism is due.

To carry on cultural activities for people in that part of the island is a worthy object and I am very pleased to see that a Committee has been set up in this connection; but it is the method of approach which matters. I suppose that we will have to vote for this item, but it is correct for my colleagues to ask questions. I regret very much that the honourable Minister is not in a position to answer what has been asked; there is no statutory authority which says that this Assembly Hall must be run by a Board for the benefit of the people of St. Peter. My colleague has asked; "Who is going to sign the vouchers for the expenditure of this money?" The Minister of Social Services cannot sign any vouchers in this connection.

Coming back to the Social Welfare Officer, I say that she is relegating the Librarian to the position of a dirty boy. There is not one member of this Chamber who would say that this \$500 for running this centre for cultural activities for the benefit of the people of St. Peter and the surrounding parishes, is too much money; and in this matter of culture, the Librarian of this colony has more culture than the Social Welfare Officer has. He has shown it every day of his life. It is an insult to make this change and put the matter in the hands of the Minister of Social Services; it is an insult to the Librarian to do that. Now that the honourable Minister of Social Services has heard what has been said, it is his solemn duty to postpone the consideration of this Head and ask whether the statements which have been made in this House are true. If the statements are true, then I say that you have been elevated to power and you should demand an apology or let this woman go. I will say more about that later on. I have been calling names all along and somebody has asked: "Can you do anything to get Mottley out of the House?"

As regards item 6, "Lighting of Wharf," for two years I have been asking that a proper light

be installed at the back of the Public Market. When the honourable junior member for St. Peter said that a boat was destroyed in that vicinity, this must be the third boat which has been destroyed there, because of the absence of a proper light. People have to switch on their car lights so as to assist the fishermen to bring in their boats: putting a proper light there would hardly cost more than \$10 or \$15.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In so far as this vote for this Assembly Hall is concerned, I did not know of what the honourable senior member for the City has said. As to the history of the matter, when the Speightstown Library was renovated before His Honour the Speaker was a member of this House, it was agreed that in the same compound accommodation would be made for the Librarian and the Postmistress. In those days the Postmistress was also the Librarian, but when the Legislature voted funds to renovate the building we agreed to separate the Library from the Post Office. Honourable members will remember that I made a big row in here as to the method which the Government took in advertising for somebody with a certificate for the post of Librarian and somebody with a racial certificate succeeded in getting the post. I made a row in this Chamber but the die had already been cast. It was agreed that the part of the building upstairs would be regarded as an Assembly Hall; if you look back at the Estimates for 1949-50 you will find that the amount of \$960 was voted in this connection, and the note to the item says: "Provision included for upkeep of Library and Cultural Centre." This was not in respect of Labour Welfare Funds, this building was not in respect of Labour Welfare Funds; this building was like the Carnegie Hall having a room upstairs for carrying on concerts and so on. This Assembly Hall came under the administration of the Library and therefore the same lady who was in charge of the Library was also in charge of the Assembly Hall. The Cultural Association used this Hall; we have had some lectures given there, but it was always regarded as a part of the Library. The lady who was there was glad to get some Body like the Cultural Association to take over that part of the building and get something done because she never initiated anything herself.

I do not say that the Librarian should not continue to administer this Assembly Hall and the Committee would just be making use of it; if the Government has made this change for the reason given by the honourable senior member for the City, then that would be a deplorable state of affairs. If what the honourable senior member for the City and the honourable senior member for St. George have said is correct, then it is deplorable to have an administrative change like this made at this time when we know that it is not the policy of the Government to take things out of the hands of a Department and put them into the hands of a Committee; it is better to have things centralized and put into the hands of the Executive Committee. I say that common courtesy would be due to the Librarian if this was something with which he was dealing and it is taken out of his hands and put into the hands of a Committee. The original idea was that this Hall was to be a cultural centre and it was to be maintained along with the Speightstown Branch Library; it was not intended that there should be a separate administration divorced from the control of the Librarian. I can speak with authority on this matter because I was in it from the beginning; this Assembly Hall was opened with flowery speeches recalling the days when ships traded between Bridgetown and Speightstown. As far as

I know, this Cultural Centre was to be a part of the administration of the Speightstown Branch Library.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: This debate has been going on for a long time and I do not want to say anything which will cause it to be more extended; but there are one or two inaccuracies which have been made — I am not saying that they have been wilfully made — by the honourable junior member for St. Peter and which I must correct. In 1949 when comprehensive alterations were made to these premises at Speightstown, those alterations were made to improve the accommodation of the Post Office and the Library and provide a Cultural Centre and Community Hall for Speightstown. Therefore it will be seen that the Assembly Hall was separate and distinct from the Post Office and the Library; it is only by accident that the Librarian was put to administer the Assembly Hall and Cultural Centre which was upstairs. Since the Librarian happened to be on the premises it was by accident that she was put in charge of this Assembly Hall. At that time there was no clear-cut decision or definition of the duties of the Social Welfare Officer; the Social Welfare Officer was still an employee of the Colonial Development & Welfare Organisation.

His Honour the Speaker has told us about difficulties which he himself has experienced in trying to get the use of this Hall.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: His Honour did not say that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did say that and the honourable member said it was nonsense. I replied that (it might be nonsense but what I was saying was correct).

The Government has established this Assembly Hall for the particular purpose that cultural activities should be carried on in the Leeward parishes. I can support what the honourable member said that there would be further difficulties put in the way of the Librarian because the Librarian said that he was opposed to the extension of the use of the Library to two nights because it is felt that the extension of the activities carried on at the Assembly Hall would be disturbing to him. As I have said, there were certain conditions which compelled the Government to take over the hall and the Government has done so in all good faith. One honourable member said that the trustees of the Public Library were treated with discourtesy. That is not true. The taking over of the Assembly Hall by the Government has nothing to do with the trustees of the Public Library because it is not part of the Library. It is separate and distinct from the Library and never was intended for the use of the Public Library.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am glad for the disclosure made by the honourable senior member for the City. I want to make it clear that had I not been a very suspicious man which caused me to compare these Estimates with that of the two years previous, I would not have seen that the vote for this Assembly Hall had disappeared from under the Head, Public Library, completely. I therefore proceeded to check the estimates to see if it were accounted for and found it re-appearing under another Head and with the new name of Community Hall. I do not like beating around the bush. I have had reliable information that the information which has been disclosed by the honourable senior member for the City today and which to an extent has been confirmed by the information which had been available to the honourable Minister of Social Services yesterday is correct, therefore, it seems to me as if the honourable Minister of Social Services is beating around the bush and not the honourable senior member for the City. I have been convinced that what has been said by the honourable senior member

for the City is true. The honourable Minister of Social Services has not denied it, because he has introduced the name of the Social Welfare Officer.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I introduced the name of the Social Welfare Officer only to show that she had nothing to do with it.

Mr. BARROW: I am going to accept everything that the honourable members have said. I think it is a disgraceful state of affairs. The honourable Minister of Social Services has said that the bottom floor is vested in the trustees of the Library and the top floor in the metamorphosis body which is presided over by the honourable Speaker of this Chamber. If that is so, how can there be any conflict of opinion between the two bodies? How can there be any conflict between the trustees of the Public Library and the Committee of the Leeward Cultural Association? These are the questions which I would like the honourable Minister to answer. Whose idea was it that there should be a transfer of authority? It seems to me as if the conflict arose because the trustees of the Public Library wanted to use the Assembly Hall two nights in every week. Even if that were so, it would leave five nights for the Cultural Association to carry on its activities. I have never heard that the Cultural Association ever used it four nights in a week yet. Sir, the more I look at this matter, the more I do not like it. I would be beating around the bush no longer. With the attitude displayed by the Social Welfare Officer, I think the quicker we get rid of her, the better it would be for everybody, the happier would be members of this House of Assembly and the less acrimonious would the debates be.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: My name has been mentioned in connection with this matter and I think I would be helpful if I give a brief historical background of the situation as I know it. It has been said that the Librarian was put in charge of this Assembly Hall by accident, but even if it were an accident, it is a fact that he was in charge of the administration of the Assembly Hall prior to this year. In the Estimates for 1952-53, you will see that the sum of \$600 was voted for the Speightstown Branch Library and the note accompanying it is stated as follows: "Provision for upkeep of Library and Assembly Room." This means that the Assembly Room was included in that vote and that it was under the charge of the Librarian. I think it was from 1948 that the administration of the Assembly Room was put under the charge of the Librarian. I am not querying the point about a committee having been formed to run it; that is immaterial to me, but it is inaccurate to say that it was put in charge of the Librarian by accident. The honourable Minister of Social Services has to face the fact that the Leeward Cultural Association was functioning for the last five years or thereabouts and if it were the intention of the Government to take the Assembly Room from under control of the Librarian and to administer it by a Committee it would not have waited until now. I am saying most strongly that it would have been put into the hands of a committee before. So far as the Government is concerned, it did agree that the Librarian should be put in charge of that Assembly Room and did put it into his charge. If anybody wanted to use it, they had to apply to the Librarian. That is all I said; do not say that is inaccurate. I thought I was helpful but now, it seems as if I am being accused of being a liar.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: If the honourable member cares to misconstrue what I said, that is a matter for him. I said that the inaccuracies were due to a lapse of memory; I did not say that they were deliberate.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: The honourable senior member for the City made reference to the absence of a light behind the Public Market and aback of the Fishery Office and that the Government had refused to put one there. I want to tell the honourable member that this statement is beyond my recollection. I cannot remember any recommendation ever made by fishermen or anybody else for such convenience. I am sure the honourable junior member for St. Peter will agree with me when I say that he held the portfolio of Public Works up to the end of 1952. Since then, I have been holding it and in my time no such request was made to me and I doubt whether such a request was made to the honourable member else he would have seen that one was being installed. The honourable senior member for the City having mentioned something about it, I will treat it as an urgent matter and with a view of getting one installed there.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That request was made to the Fisheries Department. It was made about two years ago.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I well remember that the matter was raised during the time I held the portfolio and I took up the matter with the Fishery Officer who stated that he would go into the matter as he regarded that as a departmental matter. I think the honourable senior member for the City did raise the point during consideration of the last estimates and said he hoped he would see something voted for it in this year's estimates.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have two simple questions to ask the Minister of Social Services relating to Item No. 42, Maintenance of the Speightstown Community Hall for which a sum of \$500 is to be voted. I would like to know who is going to sign the vouchers for the spending of this money. I consider that as a very simple question to answer. The next question is: Is the Government, particularly the Minister of Social Services, definitely against the Library in Speightstown being opened for two nights in a week to readers? I am insisting that the Minister of Social Services answer these questions. He said that there was going to be some conflict because the Head of the Library was extending the services of his department to the community.

Mr. BARROW: I would like to say something on Item No. 40, Parliamentary Association. That is a sort of club of members of the House of Assembly and the Other Place.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I see no reference to that under this Head.

Mr. BARROW: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I seem to have mixed up Head XXVIII with Head XXIX.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am still making reference to Item No. 42. I said that the Minister of Social Services remarked he foresaw that a conflict was going to arise owing to the proposed extension of the services of the Speightstown Library. I do want an answer to my question. Is the Government against the use of the Library in Speightstown on two nights in a week? If the answer is 'No', how can the Minister of Social Services say what he did as a reason for the change in the control of the Assembly Hall. The other question I asked was: Who is going to sign the vouchers for the spending of the money?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, that matter will be decided. I do not know. I will not go as far as to say whose signatures would be appended to those vouchers.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Minister of Social Services is unable to say who is going to sign those vouchers. He confesses that he does not know how this money is going to be paid out. I am moving the deletion of Item No. 42 from this Head. The vote for the item can be placed where it was before.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

The question that Item No. 42 be deleted from Head XXIX was put and resolved in the negative, the Committee dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY.—3.

Noes: His Hon. the SPEAKER, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. Cox, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. MILLER, Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. VAUGHAN.—11.

The question that the sum of \$464,104 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. Dr. Cummins, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the Chairman reported progress and asked for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. R. G. MAPP seconded the motion which was agreed to and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

On re-assembling,

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, The report of the Hospital Planning Committee was laid a few meetings ago and the Report will be circulated to honourable members in a day or two. I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to report on that.

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

His Hon. THE SPEAKER: I have the honour to appoint the following to that Committee: the honourable Minister of Social Services (Dr. CUMMINS), the honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. BRYAN), the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. LEWIS), the honourable senior member for the City (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. CRAWFORD), the honourable junior member for St. John (Mr. VAUGHAN) the honourable junior member for St. George (Mr. MILLER) and the honourable senior member for St. John (Mr. ALLDER).

RESUMPTION IN COMMITTEE

His Hon. THE SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was in Committee.

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

HEAD—XXX INCOME TAX AND DEATH DUTIES

The Head and the total amount to be voted under it were called.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$221,530 be voted under this Head.

XXXI—LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Head and the total amount to be voted under it were called.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$136,769 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, Under this Head, I would like to draw your attention to Item No. 22, Unemployment Survey, but before proceeding to deal with that item, I think I owe it as a public duty to make a comment on this Head as a whole with respect particularly to the present structure and state of affairs of the Department. As should be the case, the work which the Labour Department carries out should be regarded from the point of view of a Labour Government as a very important service to the community. It must therefore be a source of regret to find that the Labour Department is at present depleted of some of its most senior staff, and it is more to be regretted when it is depleted of those officers who have been sent abroad for training in labour techniques. If I may mention the officers who went out for training and whom it has been depleted of, they are Mr. Niles, Mr. Springer, Mr. Odle, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Parris. The situation today is that Mr. Niles left the Service, Mr. Odle has been appointed Labour Commissioner of Antigua, Mr. Springer has been seconded to a Ministry and Mr. Parris has been seconded to the expert dealing with organisation and methods, and Mr. Lewis has been seconded in the United States as a Liaison Officer. This means that three substantive Labour Officers are out of the department. I draw this to the attention of this Committee because I want honourable members to realise that Acts have been passed dealing with the labour legislation and if you do not have the quality personnel to see that these bits of legislation are not observed in the breach, it would mean that the whole question of your passing labour legislation has become a farce.

I mentioned earlier that the honourable Premier is a member of I.L.O. and as a member of that committee of experts which establishes the conventions and recommendations of that body, the honourable member knows that at one of the conferences of that body which was held in 1950, stress was made on the importance of labour officers being appointed to see that labour legislation is observed. I will read the relevant portions of the conventions which were made to show the importance which that committee of experts attached to this matter. My first quotation is as follows:—

“The Committee is pleased to know that a number of States have been able to ratify the Labour Inspection Convention 1947 (No. 81), and that the Convention will surely come into force. The Committee hopes that the information which Governments will be under obligation to supply in accordance with the terms of that convention will be of material assistance in judging as to the inadequacy of practical application to ratify conventions.”

I quote this to show the importance which that body attached to getting all information it can on labour inspections and labour conventions. There are a series of Articles on the Labour Inspection Conventions of 1947. Article 2 is as follows:—

“A system of labour inspection in industrial workplaces shall apply to all workplaces in respect of which local provisions relating to conditions of work and the protection of workers while engaged in their work are enforceable by labour inspectors.”

As I have said, there is no question of having policemen to see that labour legislation is carried out; it is regarded as something for labour inspectors to do. It is one of the things which labour experts

from all over the world have agreed to. I will read Article 3. It says:—

“The conventions of the system of labour inspection shall be—

(a) to secure the enforcement of the legal provisions relating to conditions of work, such as provisions relating to hours, wages, safety, health and welfare, the employment of children and young persons, and other connected matters in so far as such provisions are enforceable by labour inspectors;

(b) to supply technical information and advice to employers and workers concerning the most effective means of complying with the legal provisions; and

(c) to bring to the notice of the competent authority defects or abuses not specifically covered by local provisions. Any further duties which may be entrusted to labour inspectors shall not be such as to interfere with the effective discharge of their primary duties or to prejudice in any way the authority and impartiality which are necessary to inspectors in their relations with employers and workers.”

Sir, the police is not capable of doing these things and if you rob the Labour Department of all of its technical officers, there would be no one to see that these conventions are carried out. When I say that, I am not saying it with any intention of imputing anything unworthy to the present officers who are acting for the substantive holders. While it may be said that it is not accountable for the removal or the secondment to another department of an officer of a particular department, yet I would say that ministers should regard any such thing as a serious incursion on their domains and in this instance the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour should regard the removal of these officers from the Labour Department as a serious matter. It is true to say that these removals and secondments are not all made since the honourable minister has taken up his duties; they have been removed before, but it is evident that by the removal of these technical officers, the necessary inspections will not be carried out.

I draw this to the attention of the House because the honourable Premier is a member of the I.L.O. committee and not only in the sense of a member to attend particular conferences, but he is a member of the Advisory Committee and as such, it is his duty to make recommendations and to give advice to that body. As a matter of fact, the honourable Premier is the first person from a non-metropolitan country to be appointed to such an important body of experts. I am not binding the honourable Minister of Trade Industry and Labour to reply to this question which I have raised. I feel it is my duty to draw it to the attention of this Committee. If the honourable Minister cannot make any comment on the situation, it is all well and good.

There is another matter in the report that has been made by the same committee of experts which I feel I should draw to the attention of this Committee. The quotation is as follows:—

“The Committee has in the past laid emphasis on the value of adequate national labour inspection services as a means both of ensuring satisfactory standards of enforcements of legislation giving effect to international labour conventions and to securing the material on the practical application of Conventions necessary for enabling Governments to provide the fullest possible information in that regard. It considers that the views which it has expressed on this subject in regard to State Members apply with at least equal force to conditions in non-metropolitan territories.”

“In a number of reports submitted for the year under review, no mention is made of the machinery utilised for the enforcement of labour legislation in non-metropolitan countries, while it is clear from reports that no specialised local labour inspection or supervision service exists and that enforcement is entrusted to other public authorities such as the police.”

“The Committee is sure that all Governments are fully aware of the positive value of adequate specialised labour supervision services. Nevertheless, even while recognising that in some of the non-metropolitan territories a small number of wage earners may not require the establishment of complicated machinery for labour inspection, the Committee believes that it would be most desirable for Governments responsible for non-metropolitan territories to give further serious consideration to the introduction in all such territories of labour inspectorates along the lines laid down in the Labour Inspectorates (non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947. It is noted with great interest the fact that the United Kingdom Government has just ratified this convention.”

I am not saying that this is something of which the Labour Department is not aware, but it may be something of which the honourable Minister of Labour is not aware owing to the fact that his former vocation was connected with a different matter. I repeat, in an island like Barbados, where you have passed many Acts of labour legislation,—if I may draw as an instance, ‘The Shops Closing Act’—you must have labour officers to carry out inspections to see that the Act is observed. With reference to the Act which I have just drawn to the attention of honourable members, I would say Mr. Chairman that day after day this Act is broken because of the fact that you do not have enough staff at the Labour Department to put one person on a particular job and allow him to concentrate on it entirely. It is common knowledge that both employers and employees are breaking ‘The Shop Act’ because the employers are paying their employees less than what is stipulated by the Labour Board and the employees are saying that they are getting more than they receive through fear of losing their work. You only know the true state of affairs when the employee loses his job. We have many cases like that being reported to the Trade Union.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Labour that Mr. Margetts who was seconded here to do factory inspection is leaving the colony in April. Mr. Margetts not only came and carried out factory inspection but told of certain legislation which should be implemented. He was a Factory Inspector in the United Kingdom and he passed on to us the benefit of his knowledge. When Mr. Margetts leaves the island, factories will still have to be inspected. I do not subscribe to the view that we should not have any more factory inspector. Even if we do not call the particular officer by name of factory inspector, the Labour Department should have at its disposal some one who could do the work, may be, in conjunction with other duties. As time goes on you will find need for someone to see that the provisions of the Holidays With Pay Act which deals with people like domestic servants are observed. At present, you get a large number of domestic servants calling at the Labour Department after they have been dismissed to find out something of whether a holiday with pay was due to them and if they should be paid for it. I just touch on these points, Mr. Chairman, to show that you do need some technical person at the Labour Department to deal with these complexities of labour. I am not saying that a

Labour Officer should not be seconded to another Government Department or should not get promotion because he was trained in labour methods, but I am saying that you should not leave the Labour Department bereft of all of its technical officers at the same time. It is noticeable that all of the Labour Department's technical officers are out of that department now, three of whom have been trained since 1949. Speaking as a Secretary of a Trade Union and not as a member of this Assembly, I know it is better for a Trade Union when making negotiations on behalf of workers when more experienced officers are available in the Labour Department. It is easier for disputes to be settled when the parties are dealing with experienced officers of the Labour Department. When you have inexperienced Labour Officers in your Labour Department you are heading for serious trouble in your industrial relations. At present, that department has only two experienced officers — the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner. As I have said, I am not making any reflection on the officers who are acting; as a matter of fact, I think they are trying their best and making an excellent job of it. I must repeat that three trained officers of that department should not be taken away from it almost simultaneously.

I would just like to digress here to say that in my opinion, the Labour Officer who has been seconded to work in the Labour Office, Washington, is doing an excellent job. I never subscribed to the view of old time that you did not need anybody in the United States to tell you about the labour situation there. I always felt that it would be better if you had someone there who could see about emigration, who would be capable of extending contracts, who would be capable of understanding the labour situation and who could act with foreign governments and such things as you would expect to be done by a Labour Officer. I do think that this officer is doing admirable work although it may be said that it is work which he is paid to do.

The specific point which I rose to deal with is with regard to Item, No. 22, Unemployment Survey. The note to it is stated as follows:

"Negotiations with the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University College of the West Indies have begun, but it is not possible to estimate accurately the amount which the Government would have to contribute to the cost of an unemployment survey."

What has surprised me about this matter more than anything else is that I know that the I.L.O. has always stated its willingness to give of its technical assistance in this respect to the colonies and especially in non-metropolitan territories and as it appears to me, Government has not tried to engage such help. What is also worrying me is that in these technical matters the I.L.O. has at its disposal a reservoir of talent which the University College of the West Indies would not have owing to its short life. The I.L.O. is one of the agencies which is still alive today out of the old League of Nations of 1919. It is the one organisation that has survived out of that world organisation and which has been taken on by United Nations, therefore, when you are dealing with an organisation that has something like thirty-five years of life, it must possess more experienced personnel to carry out technical work than a body which has only been functioning for a few years. Sometime ago, a Mr. Cedric Matthews who is at Geneva came out to the West Indies and gave an appraisal of certain conditions of labour in the West Indies and I think the difficulty which faces us with getting an unemployment survey by I.L.O. is that that organisation cannot

undertake that survey for Barbados alone; it would have to undertake that survey for the West Indian area as a whole. At the same time, I am not decrying the University College of the West Indies in undertaking this job, but I do say, and I do know, that the I.L.O. is in a better position to provide talent in that respect than the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica. The I.L.O. has series and series of unemployment documents not only of the West Indies but from all parts of the world. You will be able to get from that organization people who would be able to give the expert advice with a reservoir of experience to draw on. I do not know if it is too late for the Government today to apply to I.L.O. for help in this respect. The honourable Premier is a member of that body which holds conferences around this time and, probably, he may be attending the conference this year at Geneva. If the honourable member go, I think it will be a good idea if he finds out if this technical officer is still available to this Government, or should I say to the United Kingdom Government which is responsible for a non-metropolitan territory such as Barbados.

With regard to this question of unemployment survey, it seems to me that this Department would, do well at this time if it look back to see what was done in that respect about five or six years ago by a local committee which was headed by Sir John Saint in order to see whether it would not be more necessary for a similar committee to be formed to deal with certain aspects of it. At the present, this colony is passing through a period which cannot be regarded as a settled period and I think it would be a good thing for the Government to deal with this matter by the setting up of a committee to make investigations and from the point of view of seeking out ways and means of getting employment for the people. It is all very well to spend the \$5,000 which is to be voted for this unemployment survey in that respect. There is no doubt about it, when the document is compiled, it would give you good information; but so far as Barbados is concerned, we know that there is unemployment. We may not know to what extent it has increased, nor to what extent it may have increased in the different phases of work. I would prefer to see a more positive approach taken with regard to remedying the unemployment situation. While I am not saying that this unemployment survey is unnecessary, I would say that it is not as frontal an approach as if you had attacked unemployment from the point of view of finding ways and means of getting employment for the people.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Sir I have been highly gratified by the eloquence of the last speaker on the question of labour conditions in the colony and his acquaintance with the way in which international organisations can be of assistance to us in that respect. Every organisation has its own peculiar jargon and the honourable junior member for St. Peter used every cliché of the international organisation in its reference to our specific labour problems and in a very enlightening manner. You could have observed that the hon. member has given a lot of study to the matter. Apparently, the honourable member was ignorant of the I.L.O. when he was a member of the Executive because I never heard him speaking in that vein. I do know what he said just now is quite correct because I used to read those documents which the honourable member quoted from of I.L.O. institutions as far back as twenty-five years ago and I hope that the Labour members of this House will get hold of some of those documents and read them. It is a peculiar source

of joy to me, if I may use such a term, to hear the honourable junior member for St. Peter touch on inspectorship in the Labour Department. It is an issue on which I spoke at length on the last two occasions that the Budget was introduced in this House. The honourable member belonged to the Executive Committee at that time and I regret to say, apparently, he could not appreciate my reference to inspectorship; probably, he was tongue-tied because he was completely mute on those occasions. I am glad he is not mute on this occasion and has been able to give that recognition to the importance of inspectorship in the Labour Department. It is in my opinion the most important function in that department. As he has said, labour legislation in any colony is almost useless without a proper and adequate inspectorate.

I am not happy over the \$100,000 which is to be voted for emigration as seen against Item No. 19, and I am asking Government to tell me what are the prospects with respect to emigration to the United States this year. We have read a lot on it, but although we have read much we are not enlightened as to the prospects this year. We do not know if the situation has improved.

One other thing I would like to touch on. There is some complaint which was told to me to the effect that certain shopkeepers would be able to hire more assistants in certain businesses if the labour law did not state specifically 'daily' employment as distinct from 'hourly' employment. It has been stated to me that a few hours a day could be given to several people who are without employment but according to the interpretation of the law, any hour's work of the day by a shop assistant must be considered as a whole day's work although the employer may only want some person to work for half a day. I would really like to know what is the policy of the Government on this issue. I must admit that it is a touchy issue, one on which I am not going to dogmatise. It is claimed that this interpretation of the law prevents people from getting employment. If that is so, Government may well see to the bringing down of some amendment to the law so as to allow an hour's work in shops as distinct from a day's work. It is true, and the Government may consider it, that if it allows shop assistants to be employed for an hour or some part of a day, there may be some exploitation. Probably the policy of Government may be right. As I have said, I am not dogmatising on the issue; I would like to know from the honourable Minister in charge what is the policy of Government in this respect and what is the position with regard to emigration to the United States this year.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on the same Item, No. 22, which the two last honourable members dealt with so exhaustively but I am going to deal with it in my own way. I intended to speak on this Head because like everybody else I am wondering what would be the outcome of the many transfers that have taken place in the Labour Department. I am going to start by giving credit where credit is due and calling a spade a spade. The Labour Department was fortunate in having some very high-grade officers beginning with Mr. Niles and then with Mr. Springer, Mr. Odle, Mr. Parris and Mr. LEWIS so that it was no surprise when one by one they were taken from that department either for promotion or for secondment to other departments. But while that is so, every one must ask the question which the honourable junior member for St. Peter posed: "How is it that you can afford to send at least four officers of this department on

a course for specialised work and then transfer them after their return to Barbados to some other post?" The position in regard to that department, as the honourable junior member for St. Peter has said, is that Mr. Niles is no longer in the Service, Mr. Odle has been promoted to Labour Commissioner of Antigua, Mr. Lewis is in the United States as a Liaison Officer, Mr. Parris is seconded to the expert on method and organisation of Government departments and the latest is that Mr. Springer has been seconded as an Assistant Permanent Secretary to one of the Ministries. You must come to the conclusion that either the Labour Department was over-staffed or that some form of inefficiency is going on in it to-day. Somebody may tell me that the juniors in that department are good and qualified to do the work that their seniors were doing, but I would say that while the juniors may carry on just as good as the senior officers, I certainly do not agree that all the seniors should go simultaneously. I feel that department does a lot of useful work so far as this Labour Government is concerned and the Government should see to it that sufficient qualified officers are in it to carry out at least the industrial legislation that is placed on the Statute Book. The reason why I say that is because it is unfortunate that a lot of Labour Legislation, such as The Shop-Closing Act, and The Weekly Half-holiday Act, is worded that the police, or the Commissioner of Police may do so and so. I do not believe the Police should have anything to do with industrial legislation of that type. I support the honourable junior member for St. Peter when he says that all this type of work should come under the aegis of the Labour Department. There is the general tendency of allowing the Police to tamper with industrial and social legislation, but that should not be so. I would say to give the Labour Department a good staff of inspectors and let them carry out inspections of labour legislation. I happen to know that a lot of the trouble with British Guiana was due to the fact that they had no proper machinery in their Labour Department to look into the matter of industrial relations. I do know that at present in this island many people have not got their holidays under the Holidays with Pay Act due to the fact that there is no labour inspector looking into the matter. I would also say that a staff of inspectors is not all that is required. It should be the duty of an employer to furnish to the Labour Department records relating to his employees. We should have some system where the employer should state the number of employees he has, their terms and condition of employment and such other things and the Labour Inspector should be able to check on that information from time to time. In Great Britain, if they did not have a good Labour Department, they would not be able to collect so much income tax. Barbados does need to have a good inspectorate and it can only get that by keeping the officers that are trained in that department. Let the department also see to it that employers not only keep records but send records to the department, so that the labour inspectors can go around and check them. As I have said, the policy in Great Britain is the taking of labour and social legislation out of the hands of the Police and putting them in the hands of labour departments and other industrial bodies to look after.

As the honourable junior member for St. Peter has hinted, Mr. Margetts would be leaving the colony within a few weeks. I hope that during the three years which he spent here, he has been able to make recommendations and adjustments to our Factory Act of 1947 so as to improve it.

With respect to the unemployment survey which it has been proposed to carry out by the University College of the West Indies, I am in a measure of agreement with the honourable junior member for St. Peter. I think we get the worst people to deal with surveys. I am not condemning the University College but owing to its infancy, it could not have that background of knowledge in such matters as the London School of Economics. Sometime ago, a survey was carried out in Jamaica with regard to an incidence in income tax collections and that colony got a first-class man to do it from the London School of Economics. We, generally, seem to get some person in the background to do such things but I hope on this occasion, we would get some proper person to do the job. I hope now that Government has made up its mind to get this unemployment survey that it would serve some useful purpose although I too think that a frontal approach should be taken to unemployment by surveying every possible channel with a view to keeping the economic wheels turning for everybody. It is a fact that we are getting more and more unemployment. I too would like to get a statement on the prospects this year for emigration of Barbadian workers to the United States. I do know that the factor connected with this is the attitude of the Mexicans towards West Indian workers coming into the United States to work in California. However, I would like to know whether there is still hope of our sending about 500 of our people there.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to refer to Item, No. 18, Cane Weighing Inspection in respect of which \$9,168 is to be voted to meet expenses for part of the reaping seasons 1954 and 1955. This is a question which one cannot help referring to every year particularly when one remembers the reputation of a sugar factory in St. Lucy. It is a general feeling that the present head of the Labour Department is very lukewarm in his attitude towards cane weighing inspection and feels that the practice should be discontinued where an inspector would visit a factory to be followed up by another unexpected visit by another inspector. It is known that were it not for these checks on scale beams, many of them would not be kept in a condition to weigh accurately. I am putting this matter to the honourable Minister of Labour so that he should seek the Labour Commissioner to let him understand that this vote is a vital thing to peasants and that the cane weighing inspectors should be encouraged and every facility put in their way in order that they may be able to discover any incident in the manipulation of scale beams such as what has occurred in the past with respect to a few of them. Not only should every facility be granted to the cane weighing inspectors, but they should not be any grouse over giving them travelling allowance. Perhaps, the Labour Commissioner does not realise what is the traditional outlook of the Barbados factory owner or he may not have been made fully aware of what cane weighing inspection means to the peasants.

So far as I am concerned, I will at any time vote for an increase in this vote if it means that we will have more visits to factories by these inspectors to find out what is happening. We must bear in mind that not only the peasants who supply canes to these factories benefit by these inspections but workers in those factories are generally paid on the total weight registered by the cane weigher. If so much depends on cane weighers, we should give our fullest support to the cane weighing inspectors. We should do everything to make them

feel that they are appreciated as an integral part of the Labour Department of this colony.

Mr. MILLER: I must admit that it is disappointing to find that in spite of the trouble with regard to the mealy bug pest, the Government did not see fit to get the cane weighing Inspectors to help in this matter. You will find that although some of the peasants are aware of the presence of the mealy bug, it is a question of putting money into the crop. Since we are spending money to carry out this test, I am hoping that the Minister of Agriculture will see fit to employ these Inspectors after the crop season.

On the question of factory inspection, I have asked the Premier to consider the question of having somebody instructed as to how to protect workers from machinery. I am of the opinion that it would be of some assistance if the Factory Inspector had the opportunity of demonstrating the various phases of this work to some officer. I should like to mention that no Regulations have reached this House since this Inspector has been here. I hope that the Minister responsible for this Department will have something to say as to whether they will abolish this post of Factory Inspector or not.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I want to add my quota to the enquiry relative to item 19, "Emigration," in respect of which the sum of \$100,000 has been put down. I have always said that there is no Party question when we come to deal with emigration; everybody who has the interest of Barbados at heart will be interested in seeing if we can get more people out of the island to be engaged in work outside. We have not yet heard about emigration to California and we are anxious to hear about it; we have only been looking to the United States of America for help. I read with much amazement an interview quite recently with the Premier and a Canadian and I was somewhat shocked that the Premier did not mention the position of Barbados and how he felt as to what Canadians have against us. I cannot imagine any expression either individually or collectively of a love for any set of people, whether they are Canadians or otherwise, who would say or imply that you cannot have any tolerance for our people. I still believe that the Premier could use his influence in this respect. While it is true that there is no authority by the Colonial Office over the Dominion of Canada, yet it is rather pathetic to find, in reading debates, that there is a Parliamentary association of dozens of people who annually go through the various countries in Europe and who yesterday were destroying Canadians by their threats. We even see in Barbados that young white boys who occupy jobs at salaries of \$70 to \$80 a month are not encouraged to leave them so as to make room for some of the unemployed people here, because Canada would readily open her hands to all of these white boys. I think that every self-respecting citizen of Barbados would be failing in his duty if, whenever he came in contact with a Canadian, he fooled him that he has that high regard for Canadians who can show intolerance for people because of limited pigmentation.

Whatever one may think of the American nation, we, of the West Indies, have nothing but great appreciation and praise for the people of that nation because they have shown tolerance for the progress of the Negro in this part of the world. Whenever we are dealing with emigration we hear about Brazil or British Honduras; but our people are willing to work and they can live in some parts of Canada. The people who have come to have political power in the West Indies should let it be known that they regard

it as very unchristian that other people would rather admit in their country those who would destroy them yesterday and the only reason for not admitting West Indians is because of their colour. We should never cease talking about that if it means advertising it for the Communists to use it if they can do so; even if it means our being alongside of Jagan we should say that we cannot stand any place like Canada putting barriers against people because of their colour. I say that that is the greatest breeding-ground for Communism. Let us face facts; the United States of America has to tolerate 15½ million Negroes and we have over 3 million in the West Indies. Some of us do not like to hear facts but you must hear facts; I say that we have got to find work for Barbadians wherever we know that Barbadians will prosper.

We are lacking in our duty if we come into power and do not say these things; I believe it is the solemn duty of the Premier who has risen to power on account of the vote of the common man in this country, even if he is accused of being a Communist, to open his mouth and say that the greatest thing to make one take sides with Communists is the fact that a country which yesterday would have destroyed certain people, is to-day saying to the world: "We will take them in—Czechs, Slovaks and Germans—but we do not want any Negroes." I speak feelingly on this matter; I have had to fill in documents for people and there you see the important question—colour. If you are white by your picture within two weeks you can go to Canada and earn \$90.00 a week, but not if you look like the Premier or myself. The greatest service you can render the people of the West Indies is to stand up like a full-blooded Negro and let it be known to the four corners of the world that it is unchristian for any nation to carry on that state of affairs.

We, in the West Indies, should present a united front in this matter; I know that deep down in the Premier's heart he is at one with me in this matter. We can get our friends in England or the United States of America to offer their support and use their influence in this state of affairs. I was at pains to read that interview between the Premier of this country and the Canadian and I was gracious enough to say that it must have slipped the Premier that he did not mention this matter. If I had an interview with Ralph Bunche it could not have slipped me to mention that matter; the one thing I want you to know is that I do not agree with a country barring people because of colour. I still believe that the Premier's influence can go further in the West Indies than any other political leader.

In this matter of emigration we cannot only think of putting our claims to the United States of America; they are now beginning to have the unemployment problem, but there is no such thing in Canada. In 1948 the Premier appeared at the United Nations Assembly among 15 million coloured people and the one thing he should do on the next occasion when he has to attend that Organisation is to speak out, whether it is favourable to the Colonial Office or not, in favour of the millions of people who really caused the Colonial Office to select him as an Alternate Delegate to that Conference. Let him do something to give the hungry people in the West Indies an opportunity of going to Canada and earning their bread.

Mr. VAUGHAN: My comment under this Head is in respect of emigration. I am making no apology to the Premier for his unguarded interview with the Canadian publicist, but he would have performed a miracle if he could influence the Canadian Government to

take West Indians in Canada. We have to agitate with the United Kingdom Government to spend substantial capital to develop British Guiana and British Honduras which could take all our surplus population. Some years ago a Commission was sent out to British Guiana and there was the idea of settling tens of thousands of Assyrians there; why can't the same thing be done for tens of thousands of West Indians? I heard something about the British taxpayers doing so much for the West Indies, but it is their bounden duty to do something for the West Indies; the correct solution to this problem of settlement is not to apply to Canada, but to the United Kingdom. We have to get British Guiana and British Honduras developed: substantial capital needs to be spent in those countries. This amount of \$100,000 is granted every year with the hope of getting an emigration scheme to the United States of America; every year we should be able to emigrate about 100 families to British Honduras and this \$100,000 could house 100 families there. I am now referring to permanent emigration; every Budget should contain a substantial sum for the settlement of 100 families in the Caribbean area.

I have read a whole volume about the possibility of development in British Honduras; I feel that we should look in that direction since it is absolutely useless to appeal to Canada. The former hon. junior member for St. Philip (Mr. Garner) had a wise policy in respect of sending people to Africa; the people in Canada have more colour prejudice than those of the United States of America which are an international society. As I see the position, this problem of emigration is one to be dealt with by the United Kingdom; when the Premier has conversations with Colonial Office officials he should emphasize the responsibility of the United Kingdom in lessening the surplus population of Barbados. The population is now 1,200 to the square mile and we are increasing on that figure; we have no right with 210,000 people with our meagre resources. The matter has to be brought forcibly to the notice of the United Kingdom Government; we made an appeal to Nigeria the other day and they wanted technical personnel. We cannot have hundreds of technical men; the solution to our problem is new settlement in a new country. I would not appeal to Canada because I know the uselessness of it; we must ask the white population to emigrate to Canada and leave room for the coloured people.

Mr. ALLDER: This question of over-population and unemployment is a very serious one and it is not enough to have a sum of money tucked away in the Estimates every year indicating that it is for the use of emigration. The only purpose which is served thereby is that it causes the people of this colony to feel that the Government is still making provision for emigration. I feel that this provision should be more tangible than the allocation of a sum of money which you know you will not spend; we have to take this situation more seriously and there should be no limit to our activities in bringing pressure to bear on those who are responsible for our affairs in this colony. I do not agree with some of the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. John; this matter is nothing in connection with which one should try to be on the appeasement side. Canada is a close relative to the British Empire and where loyalty to the Crown is concerned we are just the same as the people of Canada; their problems have had to be ours, and while what we are asking might be great in respect of our economic future, it is negligible in respect of countries of the British

Commonwealth of Nations like Canada and Australia. It is a waste of time to expect England to take many colonials because we have been reading of the unemployment which is there and we have been reading of the thousands of families who have been leaving that country and going to Africa, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere; therefore to keep our eyes focussed on England as our haven in the future is a waste of time. However, we do know that the British Government has an international influence not only with the other relative powers of the Commonwealth, but also with foreign countries, and I am sure that if all West Indian colonies came together around a conference table and reached a decision to continue applications to the British Government, the American Government, the Canadian Government and the United Nations—if that is done consistently and sincerely—it must have some result.

You cannot cause other places to feel that nothing can be done to help us. We know that thousands of families are leaving highly industrialised countries where the standard of living is more secure than it is in the West Indies, and yet they are assisted in partly every respect. We, as colonials, are expected to do our bit in time of difficulties and yet the solution of our problem is beyond our ability: we have to look outside of ourselves for the necessary assistance. To whom must we look for this assistance but the British Government, knowing that it has the necessary international influence to help us? There should not be any limit to our agitation in this matter even if we are looked upon as Communists or anything worse than that. It is the determination of the leaders in the colonies that has caused a recognition of their position and which eventually brought about the expenditure of large sums of money for the improvement of the social and economic condition of the people who inhabit these colonies. We should not appear to people what we are not; we are suffering and we should not be ashamed to say that. If a suffering man is not given the feeling that you are out to help him, he will become a dangerous man. I agree with some people who have said that in a small colony like Barbados our problems are known by the British Government and yet no attempt has been made to assist us; but some years ago thousands of Assyrians were promised permission to enter a British colony next door to Barbados and seek their livelihood. We must realise that enemies of the British Empire could be brought down from the Far East to the West Indies at the expense of the British taxpayer; let them not forget that we are conscious of the fact that the Liverpool trade was built up on the seed which is in the plantation system which has been carried on in the last 300 years. We must expect to get something back from what we have contributed when we were slaves; the usefulness of the Premier is recognised in the British Empire and therefore let him tell the Colonial Office that we are not satisfied with the present situation when we know that they can help us, and if they do not help us we cannot continue to be law-abiding citizens as we have been in the past.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Stick to this item.

Mr. ALLDER: The people in this colony with a light complexion can live in Canada but no coloured man can get a visa to go there regardless of his ability and honesty. I should like to say that the solution of the problem of over-population should not be kept back until some future day; that is to be tackled now. You have Europeans going to Africa and waxing warm to exploit the wealth of that country; our seed is in Africa and if Europeans

can go there with the assistance of the British Government, why can't they say that the doors of this Continent should be open for the relief of the over-population of this island? Unless something is done, no attention will be paid to our suffering; the responsibility is ours to do something in this matter, but are we doing what should be done? — No, we want to maintain our good name while the problem continues to reach the stage when it becomes insolvable. If people were to use their energy in causing the Commonwealth Powers to realise that human beings are the same regardless of colour, I am sure that some consideration would be given to them. It seems to be felt that Negroes were born to suffer; if this were a colony of white people, you would have helping hands coming from all parts of the world so as to relieve the situation. If nobody is thinking about coming to our aid then let us use the means which we have at our disposal—passive resistance, non-co-operation, agitation—because we have seen and known that countries whose plight was as bad as ours have only been assisted when they started to agitate.

Another thing with which I disagree is the provision of \$5,000 for the purpose of carrying out a survey of unemployment; any Government which wants somebody to tell it that unemployment is rampant in existence in this colony does not have any brains. What is the sense of paying somebody \$5,000 to tell you that there is unemployment in this colony? Would it not be better if that money were spent in employing some of the people who are walking along the streets and who are in need of employment? If you employ people to remove the sand from the beach that would be more beneficial to the colony than the expenditure of this \$5,000 in this direction. There are people who have been unemployed for so long that they do not worry to look for jobs because they claim it is a waste of time to do so; they congregate in the Gardens and carry on discussions because they have nothing to do. I am not convinced that the Government is capable of successfully handling the situation where unemployment is concerned.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The honourable junior member for St. Peter has raised the question about staffing. That is a matter which cannot be lightly passed over and previously there were some articles appearing in the Press calling attention to the fact that the staff at the Labour Department was being depleted. I can assure the honourable member that I have taken up the matter in Executive Committee and it is being looked into. At the same time I must say that it was not easy to avoid the secondments which took place. Honourable members will know that ordinarily Ministers have nothing to do with this matter of staffing; it is the Public Service Commission which deals with that. I agree with the honourable member that if the general administration and good working of a Department is to be vitally effected, the Minister in charge of that Department must enquire into it and see that the position does not reach a dangerous level. I can assure the honourable member that I have raised this question and I have also raised the question in connection with the Factories Act. A new Bill is being prepared so that the Committee can rest assured that the staffing requirements of this Department will not be seriously affected by any temporary arrangements which have been made and which have been forced upon us as a result of Ministerial Status being brought into operation.

The honourable junior member for St. George has referred to the fact that the Factory Inspector has been in this island for two years and he also

enquired about the Regulations; I can assure the honourable member that these Regulations will soon be placed before the House and if it had not been a question of one or two minor points which we are going into, the Regulations would have been placed before the House already.

Some honourable members have referred to the fact that the provisions of certain Acts cannot be enforced because of the shortage of staff. The honourable junior member for St. Peter referred to the fact that the Shops Act is being broken and the honourable junior member for St. Lucy referred to the Holidays With Pay Act in the same connection. I have had complaints with regard to the Holidays with Pay Act and I have stated that the law must be enforced. The Government will consider any proposals which the Head of the Department submits as to staffing requirements.

As far as the question of the Unemployment Survey is concerned, the honourable junior member for St. Peter has called for a frontal approach to the matter of unemployment. The Committee will agree that if we must have a positive and frontal approach to this problem we must have some figures on which we can go; we have not got those figures at present. There is no point in saying that having an employment survey is foolishness and that you must plan in a fuller way. I do not think that the honourable member realised what he was criticising; honourable members who have read of the recent surveys as to the social and economic structure of the West Indies made by the staff of the University College of the West Indies will agree that they did very good work. I think that this Institute of Social and Economic Research will do as well as anybody who is brought out from the International Labour Organisation.

As far as emigration is concerned, there is a scheme in respect of California; one of my biggest headaches in my new task is this question of unemployment, and I think honourable members will appreciate that. It is a matter which confronts me every day and it seems to me as if people think it is my job to find employment for them. I can assure honourable members that will explore every avenue in order to find employment for the thousands of the unemployed in this island.

In connection with the California scheme, I am sure that the honourable junior member for St. Peter can tell the Committee the difficulties which surround the matter; there are numerous difficulties in respect of America itself. There is the danger of recession in the American industries and from a political point of view, it is difficult at the moment to get through this emigration scheme; we have to wait and see and that is our approach to this question. We are still optimistic as to the matter.

As far as emigration to British Honduras and British Guiana is concerned, I agree with the honourable junior member for St. John that if capital is found we probably could do something about emigration to British Honduras, but the matter is not as easy as he feels it is. However, we are going into the question very thoroughly and I will just tell honourable members that it is a question of waiting and seeing what the attitude of the new administration in British Guiana will be before we do anything further in this matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I never condemned the question of carrying out an unemployment survey—

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I did not say that the honourable member condemned it; I was referring to the honourable senior member for St. John.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I thank the honourable Minister for his replies. In connection with the point I made about the unemployment survey, that is what I know the Premier is aware of. We might be sentimental about the University College; however, the International Labour Organisation is in a better position to give information as to an unemployment survey. "Labour Problems in the West Indies" is a document of the I.L.O. I maintain that this \$5,000 does not represent the limit of our expenditure; I do not see why we should not make much of the I.L.O. which sends out to America, Africa and all over the world, and when it comes to technical assistance, that is something with which you should deal with this Organisation exactly.

As to the frontal approach to unemployment, we should see what outlets we can use locally. When the honourable member spoke about people coming to him, I would warn him that he should be very cautious about the language which he uses to people who come to him: I have been informed that the Minister told people that I am to be blamed for the present situation. I would say that a Minister of the Crown is different from an ordinary politician especially when acting in the honourable member's capacity, and he should be very guarded in his language. I have been informed that the Minister has said that if there is any keeping back in the matter affecting the co-ops, it is the hon. junior member for St. Peter who has kept it back. If that has been said, it would be most unfair to say that about an honourable member; I was not present at any interview, but from the surrounding circumstances it would appear as if the making of the statement is true. However, the frontal approach to this matter of unemployment is just what the Government did some years ago; the Minister should see to it that he uses what outlets are available now and deal with the matter in a positive manner. He should be able to say; "These are certain things which should be done."

The unemployment survey is a question of facts and data, and the securing of this information will take time. The man who is undertaking this survey has to go into the type of employment needed; he will have to go into the incidence of unemployment, what time of the year it rises and so on. If there is a problem, the question is: "What is our approach to it? What are the things we propose to do?"

I was glad to hear what the honourable member said about the Labour Department, but I would not say that because you have a Ministerial system, the secondment of people from the Labour Department should be carried out. What is the point of giving people from a Department special training if you are going to take them out of that Department in which you have spent money to train these people? Why could not the secondment have come from other Departments? It is not a question of taking these people from the Labour Department because they were the best you could find; I repeat that there were other Departments from which you could second people.

As to the Shops Act, those who want to continue the system which used to obtain on Saturday nights in respect of shops must remember that the Act was passed so as to stop that system. You do not increase employment by lengthening hours; you only increase employment when the spending power of the community is increased, and you increase hours when you realise that the spending power of the community has been increased to such an extent that the money must be spent. You must not get the idea that

you increase employment opportunities by having long hours of work; that is a bogey.

On the question of employment opportunities in California, I should like to say that I visited that country in November last year and the employers there were as anxious to get West Indian workers as West Indian workers would be anxious to get to California because the climate there is better than the climate in Barbados. The climate is not as hot there as it is here and, as I have said, the employers in California were very keen on getting workers from the West Indies. But honourable members will have to bear in mind that we will have to reckon with Mexicans. In Barbados we may pass any Resolution we like, but when it comes down to the system of bringing in workers, that makes the position very difficult. There has been some objection by American Unions to American employers bringing in emigrants on contract, which is inimical to the interest of American workers; they say that these emigrants must come in on the same conditions on which Mexican workers would come in and they would not encourage people to come into the country to lower their standard of living. You cannot get workers in the United States unless you have that certification.

The Californian employers were anxious to have West Indian workers because these workers did not present the problem which illegal Mexicans presented to the United States of America. Many Mexican Nationals live in California and when the illegal Mexicans came over the impression is given that the United States authorities find it difficult to distinguish between the American nationals and illegal Mexicans come over the impression is given that the West Indian workers to work in California because the climate is good, but they will run up against a snag. I doubt very much that the United States would want to have difficulty with her neighbours. We could never expect that the United States Government would want to shut out because they do not want to give the impression that they are fighting against people in the same hemisphere; but the Californian employers would be quite willing to have West Indians.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I know that the Ministers who are concerned with productivity and labour have a tough job. What I did say was that everyone has been considering that the Labour Department was either overstaffed or it was inefficient. I went on to say that a lot of industrial legislation could be changed here and there because I think it could be taken from under the aegis of the Police.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

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

RESUMPTION IN COMMITTEE

On re-assembling,

HON. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees is not in his place and I beg to move that the honourable senior member for St. Andrew act as Chairman of Committees until he arrives.

Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH entered the House and took his seat.

His Honour THE SPEAKER: When the House adjourned it was in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. Smith being in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the Committee reported progress, Head XXXI was being considered.

The question that the sum of \$136,769 be voted under the Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXII — DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

The Head and the total amount to be voted under it were called.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$1,041,547 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS: Under Item No. 40, Highways, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to certain dangerous corners which exist on highways of the island. At present there is one along Prospect Road. Speaking as a layman, it appears to me as if the department is widening that corner but while it is doing that, it is still leaving a blind spot around the area where a Mr. Browne resides. Before I go any further, I do not want it to be taken that I am saying anything against the new Director of Highways and Transport; as a matter of fact, I am one of many who feels that he is doing an excellent job since he has taken up his appointment here. However, as I was saying, one notices forcibly the blind spot which is by the telephone post there. What makes it worse is that a sidewalk is now being put along that part of the road and to all appearances is almost at the same level as the road. I think this would prove a danger to motorists at night as they might mistake it for part of the road.

(A VOICE): It would be much higher when it is finished).

I would like that point to be borne in mind by the the Minister of Communications. It is a pity that those who are looking after the job did not think it fit to cut more into the wall by the telephone post. Just around that point still strikes me as a blind spot.

With regard to Item No. 32, Leave pay to casual employees, it has been hinted to me by certain employees that they do not fare well when it comes to certain holidays that are granted with pay to other people. I know that on this matter I will get some support from my colleague.

In respect of Item, No. 64, Repairing and resurfacing parish roads of St. Lucy, I am glad to see that some consideration has been given to the southern strip of road which has been in a state of disrepair for a few years. I thought it would have been done since last year.

Mr. BRANCKER: In giving consideration to this Head, Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to Item No. 36, Marking and maintenance for the traffic lines and signs and bus stops for which a sum of \$11,000 is to be voted. I would like the honourable Minister to give some of his attention to the question of bus stops, signs on roads which have been for years and years without them. As you know, Mr. Chairman, during the war, a particular type of bus stop sign which was considered most appropriate, was not available but that type of sign should be available now because since that war has ended, the war in Korea has also ended. I am told that an official in that department — I think he is the Chief Inspector — is the stumbling block in the proper functioning

of bus companies' except the one in which he was formerly employed, although I believe that he must take his place with the new Director who has shown that he has not the weaknesses of his predecessor. Getting back to the question of these bus stop signs, in the district where I reside, you will find that the people who travel in buses on that route will make the bus driver stop at their homes, even though the bus may have just stopped at their neighbour's which may be only about fifteen yards away and that is because there are no bus stop signs on the route. There is no question of a person walking two or three yards. The bus must be stopped in front of their homes even if it were stopped at their next door neighbour's own. They do not take into account the inconvenience caused by stopping a bus every yard of the way. I think it is high time that these bus signs be put up along the route from Prospect to Paynes Bay. They are necessary.

The next thing which I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable Minister of Communications is in connection with Item No. 27, Travelling Expenses, to which \$25,000 is to be voted. I notice that in the course of my practice at the Bar, when there are cases dealing with collisions and accidents, at least in eight out of ten cases, I see one particular inspector giving evidence of the condition of the vehicles at the time of the accident. He is Mr. Farnum. Sometimes you may see Mr. Archer but I have never seen the Chief Inspector yet in that role. I do not know if because he is high and mighty he is not called on to go out of his office. It seems to me as if he just sits in his office and from there goes to his club. I do know that if there are three accidents in one night Mr. Farnum has to attend all. These inspectors get travelling expenses and I think the Chief Inspector is entitled. Other than at his office or at the club the Chief Inspector can be seen at Seawell when a plane arrives. Of course, he is in some way connected with that club, so probably, he goes there to meet people who arrive by plane. At any rate, it is more than passing strange that one cannot see him at an accident but can see him travelling to Seawell often. Of course, that is outside of office hours. What I am wondering is if any part of that bill for travelling which is done by him is being footed by the taxpayers. I have heard from time to time criticisms about the use of lorries and pick-ups for transporting passengers. I have seen recently a pick-up which I understand is the property of the Chief Inspector of this department laden with school children from the Black Rock area. If that is so, I think it is setting a rather bad example. How can we criticise people for carrying passengers on their lorry and in their pick-ups when we have a senior official of the Transport Department taking out about fourteen children in a pickup. As it appears to me, that officer is running a transport service for school children. I think it would be well for this matter to be looked into by the Minister of Communications. One cannot be too careful and one should not take chances with certain officials.

I referred in my second reading speech on this Budget to the question of time off for employees in this and other Government Departments and I think it would be well if I refer to the matter now that we are dealing with this Head from the stand point of policy. I think it would be wise if the Minister of Communications, the Minister of Labour, the Director of this department, the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department and the Colonial Engineer of the Public Works Department will, with their combined wisdom, evolve a plan whereby relief would be afforded casual workers in those departments to obtain time off without reduction from their

wages in the same manner as private employees do when cricket or races, as the case may be, takes place in the Island. As I have said, many of the most hard-hearted employees of labour are the merchants of Bridgetown and when they give time off to their employees in instances such as cricket, they are not doing it out of a spirit of christian charity, magnanimity or generosity, but they are doing it because it pays them to do so; they know that the standard of work of their employees would not be worthwhile if they were called to work on such days and they know that when they give that time off the employees feel they owe a debt of gratitude to their employer for those slight concessions and they repay it by improved quality of work the day or two after they have been granted such an opportunity. I have mentioned this matter on many occasions already and I will never get tired mentioning it until something is done; however, on this occasion I feel I am mentioning it to people of a very high mentality. I cannot remember the many times I have agitated for the abolition of the grand jury, but at last the grand jury has been abolished. Sir, this matter to which I refer requires urgent consideration from the responsible Ministers. It does not look well for a Socialist Government to have its casual employees working when private employers have given time off to their employees for cricket and races.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I was not in my place when the honourable senior member for St. Lucy began to speak, but I would like to pay tribute to the present Director of Highways and Transport whom I regard as a very good officer although I have no technical knowledge of his job. I think it is very reassuring indeed to hear the compliment paid him by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. However, as I have said, while I too regard him as a very good officer, I would like to point out that there is a practice which has grown up here that you should not criticise a man if he is a good officer. I differ from that view. I feel any human being who regards himself, so good, excellent, or invaluable that no one should say anything about them, should regard that as something against his good name. I just said that because I do not want it to be taken that anything I may say is personal criticism against the officer. I would like to speak broadly on this Head. I have never subscribed to the idea that in a small island like Barbados, you should employ a technically trained person to be mainly a head of a department. I feel a minister's services should include that of head of a department. When it comes to, say, your Transport Department, I do not think you need a Civil Engineer to be head of that department. What I mean to say is if you used a system of valuation of a man's time, you would not want a man whom you would have to pay over \$6,000 annually to tell you how to run your bus service. I would suggest that the time has come when you do not need to have so many sub-divisions in this department. You do not need to have a Chief Inspector to sit down to tell you how to run your Transport Department and do nothing else, and I think the Government will be well advised to review the report made by a sub-committee relative to the working efficiently of this department. Even now that you have somebody doing nothing but looking after transport, your bus service could not be run worse. There are not sufficient buses on the routes to accommodate passengers, and you have gone back to the old days when you had many improvised vehicles for buses on the routes. As I was saying, I feel that the Minister in charge of

transport should head that department. You should not worry the Director of Highways and Transport who is a technical man with running your transport. Let him get on with the job which you want him to do. You would not need to pay a salary like what you are paying him just to look after transport. In some countries, transport services are run by a Committee. That Committee fixes the schedule for the running of buses, trams and trains and makes investigations into complaints. I think the Minister of Communications would be well advised to read the report on this matter and see whether he agrees with my contention that the time has come to divide this service and allow the Director of Highways and Transport to see about roads and things like that alone. In the Highways and Transport Department you have at present the Director, an Executive Engineer, two assistant Engineers, a Superintendent Mechanical Engineer whose duties are work of a technical nature—nothing at all to do with transport by their qualifications. Their main task is to improve highways. But what are you doing with them? You are dissipating the energies of these technical officers by allowing them to deal with trivial matters. The Director of Highways and Transport must deal with transport because he is responsible for it.

Another point. The honourable senior member for St. George mentioned about decentralisation, but I do not agree with it. When you look at this Head you will see that there is a total of \$1,041,547 that is to be spent under it. If you are spending all this money on your Highways and Transport services, you should not go cap in hand to plead with the St. Joseph Vestry to give over their roads to you to be done. You cannot have this department on which you are spending over one million dollars repairing roads and other little bodies also repairing arterial roads too. The time has come when as your general road policy, you should have the Director of Highways and Transport looking after all the public highways in this island. Barbados is a small place and I am almost sure that the Director of Highways and Transport has come from a district which is larger than the whole of Barbados and which will have as many miles of road as we have to look after. We are regarding Barbados as if it were a huge territory and are paying eight technicians to look after only part of our roads and dissipating their energy in trivial matters. We are only wasting money this way and I hope the honourable Minister has seen the point I am making.

I am going to touch on a point which the travelling public may not like to hear, but which I think should be drawn to the notice of the Government. At present, people who own motor-cars pay little so far as road taxes and on top of that maintenance of their vehicles is comparatively low. It is the boast of almost every motorist that he can travel 10,000 miles on tires; he can get more than 24 miles on a gallon of gasoline and things of that sort. Fifteen years ago you could not get that life out of a tire. Added to that, motor-car springs last longer now-a-days and the wear and tear is much less than it used to be. This has been due to the good roads. I do not know if the Government is looking to another avenue from which it can get more taxation, but it is a fact that more and more people are able to provide themselves with motor-cars, and some are buying very expensive motors. Much of this money is going out of the Island to help the United Kingdom Treasury. You should tax people who can afford to pay it. I feel this is a source where Government can get increased taxation and the people should

not quarrel over it because it would be helping to provide more employment for the people who work on the roads.

I do not agree one hundred percent with what the honourable senior member for St. Lucy said with respect to time off without deduction in pay for casual workers to go to cricket and even races, although I am an enthusiastic cricket fan. You may be able to give time off to a few workers on one day and to another set on another day but you cannot lay it down as a policy to give certain workers time off when Government departments cannot close for such matters. If a man wants to go to races, he can find time to go on one of the days because races are spread over a number of days. Of course, as I have said, you can, departmentally, have some system where some of your workers can attend cricket on a day or so of the match without losing wages. One of the days on which cricket is played and races are run is a Saturday and the worker can go on that day without asking anybody a favour. As a matter of fact, when it comes to racing, most of the gambling that is done at the Garrison Savannah—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the honourable member come off the race pasture. The honourable member is straying.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I did not expect to hear anything otherwise. When the honourable senior member for St. Lucy was dealing with the same point, Your Honour seemed to lose sight of the fact that he was dealing more with races than time off for workers. I was only replying to what that honourable member said. I had expected a measure of freedom from the Chair because this is a democratic institution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to take away your freedom.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would be thankful for some latitude in equal measure to that given other honourable members. As I was saying, Sir, I would like the Minister of Communications to go into the question of a general road policy in so far as seeing whether it would not be in the best interest of the island to have all public highways under the control of this department. And for the reason that there is sufficient technical staff in the Department of Highways and Transport to supervise all our roads as well as the necessary road inspectors and overseers. As I have said, we are spending more than one million dollars in this department.

Another point which I would like to raise on this matter is that I consider that Barbados has too many roads for its size. I think the Government will do well if it block up some of the roads so as to cut down on some of the maintenance. If I may give an instance, Government can without causing inconvenience to anybody block off some of the side streets around Broad Street. There are about twelve roads leading away from Broad Street. You can block off more than half of them without inconvenience to anybody.

I have been hearing that Messrs. Knight's Limited has been quarrelling because Government has not taken over a piece of its land for widening Broad Street. I do not know what is the attitude of Government in the matter but I agree that no amount of pressure should make Government yield to buying land to widen Broad Street because it cannot do anything with Broad Street. Broad Street is a misnomer. Government is at present going to poor people and asking them to give up pieces of their land to widen this, that and the other corner and the people are giving up their bits; yet you find that the people who have the money cannot give up land because it is on Broad Street. I quite

agree with the Government in not giving compensation for land on Broad Street because if it does so, it should also give it to people who live at Boscobelle if it wants to run a road there.

I do not want to be parochial in my politics but I understand that the Minister of Communications visited the Whim sometime ago. I would like to know from the Minister if he proposes doing anything to that road in the near future. I would like to know if Government proposes doing something to it just as it has done to Kensington New Road. It is well known now that by Government widening and repairing Kensington New Road, you can get from Baxters Road into Fontabelle. I think it would be a good idea if Government construct the Whim Road because it would be a means of getting into the upper road instead of cutting through Mile and Quarter. I hope that the Minister of Communications will see to it that something is done with the Whim Road on this occasion and if he can, let this Committee know what is his intention so far as this road is concerned.

Summarising the points I have made on this Head, I do not favour the Transport Department being run as it was now that we have a Minister in charge of that department. I would like to see the St. Joseph Highways taken over by the Department of Highways and Transport. I have followed the argument of Your Honour in the St. Joseph Vestry with respect to this matter and while I do agree with what you say,—and I believe all right-thinking persons, it does seem as if you are always on the losing side. However, I do hope that the Minister of Communications will come to your aid. I think we have reached the stage when the roads in the St. Joseph parish should be taken over by the Government so that something could be done to them.

I travel on the road leading to Speightstown more than any other road and I have seen that a good job is being done by the widening of a curve along Prospect but I would like to make one criticism of what is being done. The road does not appear to me to be wider than before by the putting of a sidewalk alongside of it. What is more, it seems as if the sidewalk is on the same level as the road and it is liable for a motorcar or lorry to bank on it when people are walking on it and that may cause a serious accident. I fear there may be a danger by so doing. I would have preferred to see the road made wider. I hope the Minister of Communications will take this matter up with the Director of Highways and Transport.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a comment on Item No. 60, Preparation of plans and design of a new bridge over the careenage. We are told that this is a new item. Apparently, the Government has in mind the construction of a new bridge over the careenage and this amount of \$1,500 which is to be voted is for the purpose of getting plans and designs for this new bridge. I do not know if the old Chamberlain Bridge has been condemned or whether it has out-lived its usefulness to the community, but I hope sincerely that Government is not contemplating spending any large amount of money on any fantastic new bridge to replace the Chamberlain Bridge. What we want is not so much a modern, elaborate new bridge to replace the Chamberlain Bridge as two other bridges running parallel with the Victoria and Chamberlain Bridges at a point between the Victoria Bridge and Martindales Road to get from River Road to a point in Constitution above Queen's College. If

such a bridge or bridges are constructed, it would greatly facilitate travelling in that area.

One further point. As regards to the dissociation of the Transport Department from the Highways, Department, I think one of the reasons why the two departments were welded into one was the question of economy. It is obvious that you could not pay the Highways and Transport officials the same salaries if they were charged with highways alone. There is no question about it that certain phases of transport problems are linked with highway problems; therefore, as a matter of convenience, the two departments should be allowed to work together. I will be the first to admit that transport problems may take up more than its due share of the time of the Director but I see no reason why we should consider further expense to the colony by creating two distinct departments. Even if we had a Minister of Transport as such, he would still need some high-priced executive as the department head. It would be bound to cost us more money.

In reference to the further centralisation of roads in the island, when you consider the amount of money which the parochial authorities take to repair a road and what it would take the Central Government to repair the same road, you can only wonder where does the money go, when it is done by the Central Government. It is true that when a road is done by the Central Government, it may be more durable and better surfaced but the difference in expense between the parochial authorities spending on the given road and the central authority is so much that if at any time the Central Government become completely responsible for the construction and maintenance of all the roads, you can positively expect that the expenditure on roads will be double that which it is today.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, may I just make a rejoinder to what the honourable junior member for St. Peter said in so far as time off to casual workers for cricket and races. It is true to say that the Government Departments are kept open on days of cricket and races but they are run on a skeleton staff and no reduction is made from the salary or wages of any of the officers or employees in any of those departments. I am reminded of another point and it is with regard to the question of time lost from work due to circumstances beyond the control of the worker. For instance, if people turn out to work tomorrow morning and through no fault of their own, it becomes impossible for them to work, these people should get half of a day's pay if not the full day's pay. We must bear in mind that those people have their families to support and at the end of the week, what is in their pay packet is very important to them. I understand from the honourable member on my right that even the sugar barons have been forced to make this concession in respect of agricultural workers and if they have made that concession, there should be no difficulty in a Socialist Government extending the principle to casual workers in government employ. I anticipate it would be no difficulty in having this matter rectified in fairness to the worker.

I have one other matter to draw to the attention of this Committee. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, several years ago, a committee sat under the chairmanship of Mr. Hugh Blackman and made a report but like other reports, it found its way into one of the Government's pigeon holes and was never resurrected. Perhaps, it may be a good thing if the honourable Minister of Communications would fish out that report and see what it recommends in respect of the Highways and Transport Department. If

I am not mistaken, it recommended the divorcement of the Transport Department from the Highways Department and that transport be placed on the Police Department. I too can very well see that by the amalgamation of the Highways and Transport Departments you are expending the valuable time of a qualified certified Engineer to deal with transport problems which really do not require the qualifications such as a Director of Highways is required to possess, as well as you are expending a great deal of the time of other technical officers which otherwise should be more usefully employed by them. Perhaps, the Minister in charge of this department who would be giving consideration to this point, could begin by studying the report of the Blackman Committee and in the course of time, let us hear what decision he has arrived at in respect of separation of the two departments.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, any stranger coming into Barbados is immediately horrified by the complete absence of sidewalks along streets for pedestrians. We know that by maladministration for centuries by persons who were unqualified to conduct the political affairs of this colony, whose only interests were the preservation of their immoral rights, whose only titles of fame were that they possessed large estates and managed to occupy a seat in this Chamber, and other historical reasons like this, we are lacking in sidewalks particularly in the metropolitan area of Bridgetown. I, therefore, do think that it is high time for us to take drastic action to enforce regulations which we have relating to building near the public highways; and to keep a firm rein on the Commissioners of Health, St. Michael, who for reasons best known to themselves have not stringently observed the conditions of their appointments and who within the last six months have made no regulations relating to the immediate distances from which people should build from the highway. Sir, this is the only West Indian colony that you will find in the capital area that the pedestrian is not protected. It is known that the volume of vehicular traffic has increased within the parish of St. Michael within recent years and anyone who can do a simple calculation would be able to anticipate a further increase in the volume within the next ten years to alarming proportions.

Sir, one of the signal failures of this Government has been their failure to re-appoint or to appoint an architect and town planning officer. Every Barbadian, as the honourable Premier is fond of saying, likes to feel he is an expert on everything. They do not build their own motor-cars, it is true to say, although I do see some makeshifts on the road, but when it comes to building their houses, they make their own plans which they do not have to submit to anybody, and they get their boss masons or boss carpenters to carry out the erections for them. I hope that the honourable Minister of Communications does not imagine that he is put there to be an architect because that is a specialist job which none of us professes to know; therefore, we must have a Town Planning Officer and Town Planning Authority so as to start planning for future generations. Since I have returned to this country there has been no Town Planning Officer and it was only because of the fact that a Socialist Government came into power that we ever did have a Town Planning Officer. Now, you are getting the different Government Departments making their own plans as well as private enterprise, and these plans cut across plans which were prepared by a former Town Planning Officer. Even the honourable senior member for St. Philip has just got up and suggested laying a couple more

bridges across the Constitution river and perhaps everybody would think it is a good idea. Sir, unless you have an overriding planning authority with legislation which would ensure that the planning authority would be able to have effective powers, we are going to get ourselves more in a muddle and would be creating more confusion for future generations. As regards the situation with Messrs. Knight's Limited, I do not know the merit or demerits of their particular situation, but I think if we wish to have a real Broad Street, we would have to abandon the present Broad Street from our main shopping centre and relegate it to a museum of antiquities. If we had a planning authority, extensive renovations such as what have been done to many of our stores in the City would have to be approved first. There would be no question at all of purchasing a little bit of land from Messrs. Knight's Ltd. There would be no question if Broad Street could be widened because regulations would stipulate that.

I do not think enough attention is paid to the work of the Civic Circle. At the corner of Culloden Road and Beckles Road there is a sort of guard wall in the middle of the road and I was scandalised after it had been built to see workmen ramming stones into the centre of that mound. Why could not the Civic Circle be called in to plant some lilies or plants of that kind in the centre of that mound instead of ramming it in with stones? The time has come when we have to legislate for the pushing back of frontages of all houses which butt and abound on all of the main highways because the volume of traffic in Barbados, and for that matter, every country in the world, is increasing out of proportions. We have to think of putting down side-walks alongside our main streets. Our population is increasing and you cannot stop it from increasing; therefore, let us start planning for a bigger community, for heavier industry and for an increased volume of traffic. We must have sidewalks alongside our principal streets. In Trinidad, it is against the law to build houses within 15 feet of the highway, but over here you can almost bring them to the gutter; all that the Commissioners of Health over here will tell you is that you should not come closer to the highway with your house than three or four feet.

As regards the proposition for the preparation of plans and designs for a new bridge over the careenage, under Item 60, I wonder if the Government is serious on embarking on the plan. With the construction of the deep water harbour in view in the near future, it may mean that after that is completed and if probably by that time we get a town-planning officer, he may look at it as nonsensical to have that plan. After the deep water harbour is built, certain modifications would have to be carried out to the inner basin, and these modifications might seriously interfere with the plans that are envisaged for building a new bridge across the Careenage. It is for reasons like this that we want a central authority to correlate all these plans over the next few years.

According to Item 57, it appears as if Government is going to remedy the situation which occurred a few years ago when flood water damaged and washed away people's houses by the Gully House, Halls Road and Constitution Road.

(A VOICE: See Appendix 7.)

I was not aware of that Appendix. However, I hope that Government will give proper attention to the breeding of fish in the Reservoirs aback of the Constitution swamp. I have heard the honourable Minister of Communications remark that Government is going to build dams in that area, and I think that is a proper thing to do. With this question in mind, I feel that we can have no better advice than what

was given in the Ritchie Report. It is true that Mr. Ritchie was restricted in his terms of reference and was not allowed to go behind what I call the Iron Curtain but I think if he were left to himself, he would have given us an entire plan of building of dams starting from St. Thomas and terracing right down to the Gully House. I do not think it is the best idea for us to build the deep water harbour on the north side as has been proposed. Even in Trinidad the authority there now feels that the deep water harbour is in the wrong place. The result is when there are heavy downpours of rain, small boats have to put out to sea. I think the same thing will happen here.

Now as regards the Kensington New Road and the repairing of tenantry roads, time and again I have said that the Commisisoners of Highways have allowed people to sell out tenancies—and they are still doing it—without putting down decent roads or putting in a proper water service. Now the Act says that within twelve months the Commissioners can go and inspect the land which was sold out in tenancies to see if the owners have carried out the provisions of the law, but I know of no single instance in which lands have been divided that the persons who have disobeyed the law have, either been prosecuted or prevented from carrying out their building schemes. Land lords have made large sums of money by selling out their lands. Now they have come to the Government and are saying that Government must put in proper roads in those tenancies. People like the honourable Minister of Communications are in a very unfortunate position because there happen to be in the area politicians who think that it is not wrong for a man to sell out his land at £2,000 per acre and then call on Government to put in proper roads for the people. In a small country like this we have to look at land utilisation. We cannot allow people to take up agricultural land and sell it to people to build houses on when we have so much rab land. Again I am asking the honourable Premier to study our land utilisation problem. I also hope that Government would soon start the construction of the East Coast Road and for several reasons, not because elections are looming over us but one of the reasons is because the unemployment situation is reaching breaking point. I fear that with so many people wanting jobs they may break loose and unless we implement capital works, we are going to have a vast army of unemployed knocking at the bar of this Assembly soon. Jamaica and all the other West Indian Islands have had to do something about it.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Before the honourable Minister of Communications replies, I would just like to add something to the point raised by the honourable senior member for St. George with respect to the East Coast Road. I remember saying at one time in this House that if Government construct the East Coast Road, it could bring into force a development charge for the price which land would reach along that coast. It is a fact that the price of land would go up along that coast if that road is constructed but Government can get back something by implementing a development charge. I also hope that if that road is built, that Government would see to it that we have a Town and Country Planning Act and a Central Building Authority which the honourable senior member for St. George spoke about. What I rose chiefly to make an enquiry about is Item No. 64, Repairing and resurfacing roads in the parish of St. Lucy. I would like to know if that item includes tenantry

roads in that parish. There are two tenantry roads in that parish—

(A VOICE: That expenditure is for parish roads. The expenditure for tenantry roads is under Capital Expenditure).

I am wondering if Government would be able to increase its expenditure on tenantry roads so as to allow for sealcoating of those roads when they are being repaired. It is my feeling that it is a criminal waste of time and money to repair those roads and leave them with a rough surface. I know that you can only get as much done as the money that is spent.

(A VOICE: All roads repaired now are seal-coated.)

I am glad to hear that. Why I was enquiring into this matter is because I did see some tenantry roads which were repaired within the last two years repaired with a rough surface. I am glad to hear from the honourable Premier that some attention will be given to sealcoating them.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, before replying to the points raised by honourable members, I am asking leave to insert after Item No. 4, as Item No. 5, Junior Surveyor Draughtsman, and the salary attached to that office will be as that of a Junior Clerk, starting at \$600 and going up to \$2,280. The items after that will be renumbered accordingly. I would like to say at this stage that this post is no new creation; it has been in existence for three years ago, but was not of a permanent nature. Government has decided to make it permanent as from this year on the recommendation of the Director of Highways and Transport. In the column "To be voted" I would like to insert the figures \$2,280.

I will reply to the points raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy first. As far as I remember, the honourable member dealt with the question of a sidewalk at Prospect, intimating that the sidewalk was on the same level as the road. So far as I have been made to understand, that sidewalk will be elevated and would not be on the same level as the road. I will however promise the honourable member to take up the matter as early as possible with the Director with a view to seeing that it is done in a way which would not be a danger to the life or limb of the pedestrian. Another point raised by the same honourable member was with respect to the question of casual employees getting time off on days which cricket matches are played or on race days. To my mind that is a very reasonable request. It is a fact that people in the higher brackets of the Public Service get the opportunity of watching these matches and I am sure that those in the lower brackets are just as eager as those in the higher brackets to get that same opportunity. I also feel that we should make no difference in treatment between those at top and those at bottom in so far as this matter is concerned. I want to assure the honourable member that when occasions of that sort arise, I will do my best to see that everybody gets a fair deal.

The honourable senior member for St. Lucy raised questions with respect to the Chief Inspector of this Department. I think they can all be termed as bound up with the question of travelling. I have no facts of the matter with me but I want to assure the honourable member that I am prepared to have the travelling which is done, not only by that officer but by all officers of that department scrutinised. The honourable member also referred to bus stop signs. I want to assure the honourable member that the matter is one of the things which is engaging the

immediate attention of the Director of Highways and Transport. It does look as if one expert condemns what the other does, but although that may not be the case in this instance, it is a fact that the present Director thinks that these bus stop signs are not really as up-to-date as they should be and as a result, he is going into the matter very carefully. I would assure the honourable member that these bus stop signals will be put up as soon as possible and at points which would be convenient both to bus concessionaires and the public in general.

I must thank the honourable junior member for St. Peter and the honourable senior member for St. George for the remarks which they made relative to the association or dissociation of the Highways and Transport Departments. I think those remarks would go a long way in helping to improve not only the relationship but the efficiency in the running of those departments. As honourable members know, I have been one of the severest critics of the last Director of this Department, but I can definitely assure honourable members that we can only give praise to the present Director. I can say now that we are getting the very best results that can be obtained for the money which we are spending on that department. The honourable junior member for St. Peter raised the question of the discussion which took place by the St. Joseph Vestry on the question of Government taking over and repairing the roads of that parish. I think the honourable member knows me well enough to know that there would be no question of my backing down from the view that Government should take over those roads. I would say that Government was very polite in its asking the Highways Commissioners of that parish to come and discuss the question with Government. As honourable members are aware, the roads of St. Joseph present the same problems as those of St. Andrew and Government feels that the experts which it has at the Department of Highways and Transport would be the better persons to look after those roads. I think I can say with some assurance that the roads and bridges in St. Andrew have now been repaired with more durability than before. We all know that previously whenever we got heavy rains, part of the roads and bridges in that parish used to be washed away. However, since the present Director has taken up his post, along with his staff, he has been able to do a lot to those roads and bridges with the result that although we had quite a lot of rain last year, it is gratifying to see we have not suffered from any disconnections in our communications in that parish. Government feels that the St. Joseph roads present similar problems to that of St. Andrew and in the interest of the community as a whole and not of a few Commissioners of Highways of that parish, that it is its duty to take over those roads and repair them. I want to assure the honourable member that if it become necessary, legislation will be brought down to have those roads taken over.

The honourable member also raised the question as to the purchase of the property of Messrs Knights' Ltd. but I think we were justified in turning down the proposal. And as to the stupid analogy made in the Press about the Government paying at the rate of £3 for the Central Foundry's site and failing to pay at the rate of £1. 10 for the property of Messrs. Knights Ltd., we can always expect that sort of thing from such people. The Central Foundry's site was purchased for the purpose of—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the honourable member leave out the Central Foundry's site.

Hon. M. E. COX: I was merely saying that you cannot purchase every spot of land. The honourable

junior member for St. Peter has raised the question of the severance of matters relating to highways from those relating to transport; he knows that this matter was discussed on many occasions and it was felt that from an economic point of view, it would be far better to keep these matters together in one Department, otherwise we would be burdened with a heavy staff and the person in charge would have to be paid a salary higher than that which he now receives. The Government has already decided against having these two departments separated.

As regards the Whim district, His Honour Mr. Speaker, the Director of Highways and Transport and I visited the district and we are in sympathy with the wishes of the people in that area. It is a short distance from the town and it is a pity that people have to go such a long distance in order to get into that area; the Director has looked to see where he can get an entrance into Speightstown from that angle. We have to make a survey of the district very soon. I want to assure the honourable member that everything we can do to help people throughout the island we shall do.

As regards the Chamberlain Bridge, the Director of Highways and Transport has told us, on making a survey, that this Bridge will not last longer than a year from now. We have to make provision for a new Bridge since it is considered that this Bridge should be abandoned.

The honourable senior member for St. George made a point about planning; we passed a Housing and Town and Country Planning Bill some time ago, but that Bill was not passed by the Other Place. Such a Bill will soon be ready for presentation to this House.

As regards the provision of proper roads on sites laid out for tenancies, I want to assure honourable members that since we have had the new Director of Highways and Transport, he has been asked to attend meetings of the General Board of Health and he has laid down directions for roads to be constructed before people can sell their land for making tenancies.

I think I have covered all the points which have been made by various honourable members. I promise that I will do my best to see that the improvements as have been suggested are carried out in the near future.

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

HEADS XXXIII — AIRPORT; XXXIV — ELECTRICAL ENGINEER; XXXV — HOUSING BOARD; XXXVII — PEASANTS' LOAN BANK; XXXVIII — OLD AGE PENSIONS; XL — WATERWORKS; XLI — SOCIAL WELFARE; XLII — CONTROLS SUBSIDIES, ETC; and XLIII — CONTRIBUTION FROM REVENUE were called and passed.

DODDS AND SEAWELL PLANTATIONS

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman—I should like some information as regards Dodds Plantation. This plantation is now public property and I am asking the Government what have they decided to do about this Plantation? It was stated that it was the intention of the Government to run this plantation on a co-operative basis and I want to know if that is still the Government's intention. Seawell is not run as a plantation; that plantation has been cut up and given to four people to cultivate. I am asking whether the Government has any settled policy as to how Dodds will be operated.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Government's policy as regards Dodds is to adopt a pilot scheme as is in operation at Seawell to-day.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES—POST OFFICE

Annexed Estimates—Post Office—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the Annexed Estimates—Post Office—stand part.

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

A—LOAN FUNDS

Head A—Loan Funds—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head A—Loan Funds—stand part.

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

B—AVAILABLE FUNDS

1—WATER SUPPLIES

Head 1—Water Supplies—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head 1—Water Supplies—stand part.

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

HEAD II.—HOUSING

Head II—Housing—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head II stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to know if the Labour Welfare Fund is anything to do with the amount which has been allocated in respect of this Head. In the Five Year Plan you have an amount of \$3 million as available funds.

Mr. MILLER: I am wondering if the honourable Minister can tell us anything about the Government's policy as regards housing: I see that in one of the Reports of the Caribbean Commission there is an article written by Mr. Lashley. I should like to know if there is any arrangement made for an organised plan as regards housing; is there any organised plan whereby districts will benefit from the expenditure on housing? There seems to be a sad lack of policy in respect of housing.

Hon. M. E. COX: I do not want to say much about housing at this stage, but there is a scheme on foot for having a general housing programme for the island. The Government proposes to purchase non-arable land in the island; the Housing Committee has already selected a few sites with the assistance of the honourable junior member for St. George and we hope to erect houses on these sites. I want to assure the honourable member that this matter of housing is one which has been engaging the attention of members of the Government for some time; I am sorry that we could not put the comprehensive policy before the House at the time when the Estimates were presented but such a policy will be brought before the House.

Mr. MILLER: Two years ago the honourable Minister said that a comprehensive policy as regards housing would be pursued; I am wondering if that is still a dream because I was told this same thing two years ago. It is true that I conducted the Housing Committee to various sites in St. George, but there is no such thing as a housing programme or policy unless you have legislation for it.

Hon. M. E. COX: When the programme is brought before the House the honourable member will see that it is a very comprehensive one; it will include land tenure.

Mr. MILLER: I know that the Committee has been working on this land tenure scheme for some time; we are still looking forward to this policy.

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

HEAD III.—MEDICAL SERVICES

Head III—Medical Services—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head III stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On the question of the Health Centres, I see that there is a revote of \$100,000 in connection with the Health Centre for St. Michael. What I want to be made clear on is this; in the Estimates provision is made for this Health Centre—

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: The position is explained in the Report of the Hospital Planning Committee; this provision is for the Health Centre at "Enmore." The Report of the Committee has not yet been presented and circulated but we hope to have that done within a few days. A Select Committee has been appointed to deal with the matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If we vote the money here the Select Committee will only deal with the details. I do not know what money was used for the purchase of "Enmore": I thought that this property was bought for carrying out the extension of the Hospital. The original intention was that we would have more than one Health Centre and now it is envisaged that there will be one Health Centre. The provision in the Five Year Plan for these Health Centres was \$117,000 and I was under the impression that this sum of money was for the provision of more than one Health Centre in St. Michael; here you are allocating \$100,000 for one Health Centre.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: If the honourable member looks at page 19 of the Five Year Plan he will see that there is an amount of \$117,000 in respect of Health Centres. The sum of \$100,000 is in respect of the Health Centre in St. Michael and \$17,000 is in respect of the Health Centre for Speightstown.

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

HEAD IV.—EDUCATION

Head IV—Education—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head IV stand part.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to insert a new item—item "5 (a) Turner's Hall Junior School, \$2,570." This School stands on an acre of land which is rented from Gregg Farm and it is now proposed to acquire this land with an additional half an acre.

Mr. MILLER: I am wondering if the Government is willing to add a year to the school-leaving age in respect of the Richmond School.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Whatever we may think, we cannot have the same knowledge as a person who can fill the role of Principal. On that point we will go into the matter and when the Principal comes we will get his advice.

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

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I understand, Mr. Chairman, that you would like to be relieved for a short period and I ask leave that the honourable

senior member for St. Andrew be Chairman of Committees temporarily.

Leave having been granted the honourable senior member for St. Andrew took the Chair.

HEAD V.—AGRICULTURE

Head V—Agriculture—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head V stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am asking the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries to pay serious attention to the matter of boat building. Many fishermen are not repaying their loans and I am asking that the Government consider the question as to whether they are pursuing a wise policy. The matter has reached a stage where the Government will find it very difficult to recover the loans and I am asking the honourable Minister to give serious attention to the policy of extending loans. You are not getting any proper return for the expenditure of this money.

As to the question of Markets, the Eagle Hall Market has been approved and it is a pity that the Government could not have put the Market a little further from the road. I would like to say that this is one of the projects on which the Government has not thought of spending more money this year. You do not want to take five years in order to erect a market; you need a market at Probyn Street and it would be a good thing if the Government could spend more money in erecting two other markets because that would help to relieve unemployment.

Mr. MILLER: What has been said by the honourable junior member for St. Peter I heard myself, but we want the motor type of fishing craft. I believe that we could do a lot more in the way of fishing if we would increase the amount of money.

On the question of markets, I hope the Government will see fit to erect a market on the Probyn Street site; to put a market in that area would be something of tremendous value to the community. I have no doubt that the Government will be willing to examine the possibility of erecting a market in that area.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I can assure honourable members that the points which have been made have been noted. As regards fisheries, in any future development consideration will be given to the provision of motor-driven boats.

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

HEAD VI.—COMMUNICATIONS

Head VI—Communications—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head VI stand part.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: I ask leave to change the amount of item 6, "Bar to Carenage" from \$10,000 to \$19,000.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was not in the island when this matter was debated, but I understand employment for some of the people who have lost that there is a movement being made to provide employment on account of the shipment of molasses in bulk. I would like to know what method the Government proposes to adopt in the recruitment of labour. The Government should be prepared to have the Trade Union to submit to the proper

authority a list of the names of people who have been displaced; I expect that that courtesy will be extended to the Union. That is what obtains in Great Britain to-day and I do not expect that less than that will be done by the Government.

As regards the tenantry roads, we are spending a lot of money in this direction. There are many people who are just using marl in building roads and if you called for a survey within the past four years you will see what the position is. I think that this matter should be investigated. You do not want to build tenantry roads which will not last; heavy traffic is not being used on these roads, but you will find that a tenantry road is built now and within a few years' time you have to carry out major repairs to it.

Mr. MILLER: It is unfortunate that we are asked to vote \$60,000 in respect of the Runway at Seawell Airport. The note to this item says:

"Provision for relaying 60 feet, central strip of western end of runway (Station 1—2,000) with reinforced concrete slabs; programme expected to take about four years."

As we know, this runway has cost this island a fortune. I should like to know if the repairs to this strip will be handled by the Department of Highways and Transport or by Messrs. Harriman & Company. The sum of \$60,000 is a quite a lot to be spent in this direction.

As regards the tenantry roads, I know that these roads are being repaired in St. Michael, but what about the tenantry roads in St. George? I do not know if I could persuade the honourable Minister to visit that parish before the money is allocated; I am interested in the tenantry roads in St. George, St. Joseph and other parishes and I am wondering if the honourable member will bring down the necessary legislation immediately so that these roads can be dealt with.

Mr. BRYAN: I will begin where I began when I spoke on the Supplementary Estimates in respect of these tenantry roads. I want to praise the Government for the amount of work which has been done in the island and particularly in St. Michael in relation to the tenantry roads and at the same time I want to add my quota of praise to the Director of Highways and Transport. However, I want to remind the Minister for Communications of the criticisms which I levelled at the time when we were considering those Supplementary Estimates. One of those criticisms was that the listing of tenantry roads in St. Michael is, to my way of thinking, outmoded; I am sure that the honourable Minister has come across some roads in the parish, which do not appear on the list at all. The next thing is the system of priority; there are areas which have been sold out and priority has not reached them. I should like to draw attention to places like Chase's Land, Peterkin's Road, Nurse's Land and others in respect of which I took the signatures of residents to the Department of Highways and Transport.

I would be glad to hear what steps have been taken to have these roads repaired. There was an allocation of over \$49,000 to be spent on roads and I would like to know if there is any balance of this money or if all of it has been spent. If any of this money has been left, I am asking the honourable Minister not to allow it to lapse in the Treasury; there are roads on which money could be spent before the end of the financial year.

As regards item 3, "Flood Prevention Works," the note says:

"Revote of the provision made in the 1953-54 Estimates for sinking of suck wells and provision of \$20,000 for the canalisation of the Constitution Swamp and the construction of two dams."

There is a suck well in the Kew district which is giving trouble and with the mention of the canalisation of the Constitution Swamp. I am reminded of the Hawkins Pond in respect of which I have had complaints made to me about the breeding of mosquitoes in the area. There have been heavy rains as a result of which people's stock have been carried away. At one time some attempt was made to remedy the existing state of affairs but the attempt failed because of some difficulty with the owner of the land. However we have the Compulsory Acquisition Act which can be used to surmount that difficulty; I hope that something will be done to bring about relief to the people in this area. At the moment storm water is being pumped from the area in Pickwick Gap.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Welch Village is one of the largest villages in the parish of St. John and there is a road there, which, if constructed, would serve a large number of people; it would be one of the means of employing many people who would not get work otherwise. I sincerely hope that the Government will undertake the construction of that road; it would be an admirable means of keeping down unemployment after the crop season. A road is needed from Kendal to Cliff and its construction would afford substantial employment for people. I hope the Minister will give these matters serious attention.

Hon. M. E. COX: I can assure the honourable junior member for St. John that I am quite willing to go and see these sites he has mentioned. There is, however, a hitch in the matter and it is that where the Highway Commissioners exist it is their duty to recommend to the Government what tenantry roads should be repaired in the respective parishes. After that, the Department of Highways and Transport is responsible for the selection of roads to be given priority treatment.

My colleague has mentioned some roads which were dealt with in a Supplementary Resolution. I remember the roads at Carrington's Village and at Kensington; the honourable member said that the system of giving priority to roads should be abandoned. I have made a check and I have found to my surprise that these roads were never on the list. These tenancies were sold out and when the survey was taken these roads were not put on the list for repairs. The roads at Carrington's Village are badly in need of repair and while it is true that we cannot repair all the roads at one time, yet we can repair some of them. I know that people are petitioning the Government relative to the repair of roads; I mentioned earlier that we will bring down a Bill for the purpose of putting the roads in St. Joseph under the supervision of the Government.

As regards the Bar to the Careenage, a contractor, Mr. Small, has been given the contract for widening and deepening this Bar. This job is a sort of one-man's job and it does not afford employment for many people.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was not in the House at the time, but from the argument which I understand was used, I will tell the honourable member that you cannot have a Board vying with the Government as to what is to be done in the matter of unemployment. The Government will have to face the problem because a Board cannot provide work so as to employ people; that is the function of the Government. No matter how the Board is comprised it cannot help in this matter because it has not got any facilities.

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

HEAD VII—MISCELLANEOUS

Head VII—Miscellaneous was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head VII stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am wondering if the Honourable Minister can say where it is proposed to erect these Government Offices. Another point is that I agreed to this matter of youth employment in Executive Committee, but I have given some thought to the matter of the appointment of a Youth Employment Officer and I am asking the honourable Minister if he thinks the matter should be pressed now. I find that what you really need in the Labour Department is more officers to deal with this day to day problem; I would like to know whether the honourable Minister thinks that this matter needs the priority which is given to it.

I should like to know whether the Government proposes to utilise the Central Foundry's site for the erection of any of these buildings. I do not think that the Government can afford the wastage which is going on in this expensive area: the erection of Barclay's is enough to give the Government an idea as to whether they can do anything with the Central Foundry's site. I think we should avoid as far as possible any single revote as regards these works.

Mr. MILLER: This is the first time that we have had all these promises made and I hope that everything will be all right; the Ministers are agreeing to everything so as to get the Estimates through. I should like to say that the Post Office in St. George is something disgraceful; it is something which could be used for a horses stable. The Government has erected a new Post Office at Welches, they go to Christ Church and spend money, they have the aided self-help scheme in St. Lucy and the hon. senior member for St. James is laughing because he does not even have to ask any questions and he gets something done in his parish; I want to know when will the Government give consideration as to the erection of a Library and Post Office in St. George. I know the hon. Minister will say that this is the teething period and they will come to the fledgling period.

As regards the V.H.F. Equipment, I am wondering if it is necessary to spend all this money in that direction; we made a desperate fight for this equipment but I do not know if we should spend all this money on this equipment.

Mr. HOLDER: I can assure the hon. member that I have to fight for St. James just as he does for St. George; I am very glad to see that at last we will get an extension of the Police Station at Holtown. The conditions existing there could not be worse and I hope that after the Police Station has been dealt with, attention will be given to the Post Office; because it would be bad to leave the Post Office in its present condition. I should like to mention that lots of packages which are sent to people and placed at the Post Office are attacked by rats; the erection of a proper building for the Post Office would be something which would be worth while.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In connection with item 10, "Ministerial Buildings", the note says: "Half the preliminary estimate of the cost of new accommodation to house the Premier and two other Ministers, the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General and their staffs." We cannot tell the Government who is to be put into these buildings, but I should like to ask: "Why is it that the Premier and the four Ministers cannot be housed in these buildings and the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General

remain where they are? Personally, I do not favour this idea; you are having the Ministers in correlation with the Premier and it seems to me that Ministerial Buildings should be Ministerial Buildings. I cannot see why the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General cannot remain where they are unless you will have accommodation in the whole scheme of buildings.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: As regards this V.H.F. Equipment, it is considered necessary to have this additional equipment for the police Department. In connection with the Ministerial Buildings, I do not know any part of the world where all the Ministers have offices together; there is no particular virtue in putting all the Ministers together unless you start to build a Governmental compound. The Registry should be near the Law Courts and the Chief Justice, but it is not necessary to have the Police Courts next to the Chief Justice; and you put your Customs House near the place where people land. It is a good thing to have the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General close together. A present suggestion which will find favour with all the Ministers, and I hope with the Assembly, is to put the Ministerial Buildings facing the Esplanade. (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: That is too far). It is impossible to conceive of any spot which is not of necessity further than some other spot. I must point out, however, that there is no particular virtue in the Ministers being in the same building.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This note indicates that accommodation can be made for all the Ministers. Since what has happened in British Guiana there is the belief that when all the Ministers are together they will not do their work and if you split them up each Minister has to do his work. In Trinidad all the Ministers are put together and here where you are setting out to build Ministerial blocks I do not see where anybody should be supreme to the Ministers. If you envisage that a building can accommodate as many as five Ministers, I do not see why they should be separated. While it can be said that any Minister would like to work in the vicinity of the Esplanade because it is a good site and the scenery is fine, I do not think that the Premier would seriously say that there is no more suitable site than Bay Street for the setting up of these offices. Of course when the proposal comes down we will debate whether we agree with the site or not. I do not agree that there is no particular virtue in putting all the Ministers together; if you are erecting a building which can house five Ministers, I cannot see why all the Ministers cannot be housed there and let the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General remain where they are. That suggestion has come from the Premier; he and the Ministers sit together in the House and why can't they work together in the same building? If there is no particular virtue in having the Ministers together, there is no particular virtue in not having them together.

Mr. MILLER: Like the honourable member who has just spoken, I too think there is no point in having to provide \$140,000 to house four ministries. Are you afraid to build on the Central Foundry site because it is near to the water edge? Why not take a leaf out of the book of the contractors who are erecting Barclay's Bank? Why not ask Messrs Ash & Watkins or Mr. Anthony Lewis, Architects, to come and give you some advice? Ask the advice of people who are real architects and engineers; do not worry about advice from people who are only experts. The honourable Premier in his reply brought the bad example of building four buildings. What is the object of building four \$3,000

buildings when you can take the \$140,000 and build some massive structure which prosperity would look at and enjoy. Why can't all the ministries be housed in one building?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The whole object of ministerial status is that in the long run each minister should be independent and should run his own particular department. Mr. Turner pointed out and it was also incorporated in the general directive that although the office of the Premier should be as close as possible to those of the Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary and Attorney General, and the offices of the other Ministries should be near at hand, it was essential for the development of the individuality of the other Ministers that they should not be situated, as they were, in each other's pockets. It was strictly pointed out that the less each Minister sees one another, the more likely the ministerial system would succeed. There is no virtue in bringing them together. You can run your ministerial system better if each Minister is half mile away from his colleague than if they room next door to one another. Save for the time when they are called upon to sit down together, they should not see each other. That is how this Ministerial system should develop. What we are doing is a compromise. It would be a bit too expensive for us if we erected five separate buildings. I hope honourable members will see that this is a compromise.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Premier made a remark about there is no virtue in bringing the ministers together. I wonder if the honourable member realises that ministers can work in the same ministerial block without effecting the efficiency of the ministries. In British Guiana, the Ministries are situated in one block of offices with the exception of one of them. I do agree that in other countries, like London, it would not be easy to house them all in one block. As a matter of fact, ministries of the Home Government have grown up on a different system. I do not think that the Jamaica system of accommodation of ministries is a good example to quote. As a matter of fact, Jamaica has one of the worst parliament buildings in the West Indies. The building was not built for a parliament building. My point on this vote was that I was not suggesting that you build a block of buildings for all the ministries; it was that of economy. As the ministries are at present housed, there cannot be any suggestion that each ministry is not independent because they are located in one stretch of the Public Buildings. They are all independent of each other because each minister is in a room by himself and each ministry is an independent unit. The Ministers do not see one another so far as work is concerned, so they being housed in one block of buildings cannot interfere with the efficiency of the work they have to perform.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman, the honourable junior member for St. George enquired about the using of the Central Foundry site for the erection of a building for government offices. I would like to inform him that an Accommodation Committee has been sitting for some time to recommend to Government the necessary requirements for offices and the places in which those offices should be situated. The Central Foundry site has been recommended as one of the sites for the erection of government offices. I believe the erection of a building on that site is in the second phase of buildings that are to be erected. The offices for the Registrar, Provost Marshal and other such officers are proposed to be erected in the building which is now occupied by the Waterworks Department. It is felt that the land behind the bond house at the Public Market will be a suitable

site for the erection of a building to house the Waterworks Department and the various vehicles and equipment which are used by people who are employed at that Department.

As the honourable Premier has said, it is also hoped to remove the Bay Street Boys' School from that building and to erect a new Bay Street Boys' School on the opposite side of the Bay Estate. The present school building will be utilised for a ministry. That is all I can say at this stage so far as Government offices are concerned.

With regard to the point raised by the honourable senior member for St. James, I have already promised him privately to take it up with the Colonial Engineer to see whether it could be effected in the manner he suggested. If that is so, Government would have to come back for a supplementary vote. I am sorry that the honourable senior member for St. George is not in his place. He asked about a new Post Office for St. George. As far as I can remember, the Colonial Postmaster has made recommendations for a building in St. George, St. John and other places. It is hoped to have them constructed in the immediate future; the St. John Post Office which is considered to be the worst, will be erected in the present financial year. Of course, I would like to see all of them erected this year but it is an impossibility. I will assure the honourable junior member for St. Peter that I will see to it along with the Colonial Engineer that as many people as possible get work on these projects and I hope if we beat the clock in the carrying out of these projects that the House would be good enough to vote some more money to carry out further work.

The question that the sum of \$609,404 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XIV—JUDICIARY

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: You will remember, Mr. Chairman, that Head XIV—Judiciary, was postponed in order to settle matters pertaining to Friendly Societies. On the last occasion when this Head was discussed, the honourable junior member for St. Peter as well as the honourable senior member for the City and the honourable senior member for St. George suggested that the salary for Inspector of Friendly Societies which office was proposed to establish was too small. Well, the matter was referred back to the Executive Committee and as I have said on that occasion, and will say again, the whole point is that this office is merely experimental from the point of view of how long it will last. We are not quite sure about that and as a result, the Executive Committee has agreed that the salary of \$2,280 will suffice for the time being. It will provide for an officer who has just entered the Senior Grade. As a matter of fact, we are hoping to second an officer from the Auditor General's Office to do the work and the scale of an officer in the Senior Grade as what he would be is \$2,280 x 120—\$3,000. I know that the honourable junior member for St. Peter well realises that all such salaries are now fixed to a scale and to interrupt that scale and pitchfork that officer in another salary scale may meet with general dissatisfaction in the Service. I am therefore asking leave to add under the Head, Item 27 (a)—Inspector of Friendly Societies at a salary of \$2,280 x 120—\$3,000 and to put the figures 2,280 in the column "To be voted." Under Item, No. 30, C.O.L. Allowance instead of the sum \$8,730 which is set down to be voted that the sum be changed to \$8,886 on account of making provision for cost of living allowance for the officer.

(A VOICE: What about travelling allowance?)

That was not oversighted. Naturally, that officer would have to visit Friendly Societies to see their books and to look into their methods and give his considerations. As I have said, what we are thinking today of is a temporary post. As is known, an officer holding a temporary post is not eligible to travelling allowance but he can get travelling expenses and that is what is recommended. We have recommended the sum of \$300 for which provision will be made under Item, No. 46. I am asking that the sum of \$2,500 which is set out against that item be increased to \$2,800. With these amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$54,264 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I cannot quite agree with the honourable Minister of Social Services that it was only a question of salary which caused this matter to be postponed. If the honourable Minister had listened to my speech carefully, he would have observed that I said that while the principle of having such an officer was agreed upon, yet it would do the Government no harm, nor the Friendly Societies, if Government postponed the matter until later so as to give honourable members the opportunity if it be only to re-read the Report on Friendly Societies by Mr. Wells. I did stress that we should discuss this matter at some future date. I do not want to commit myself on the matter but this appointment cannot be on a temporary basis because the honourable Minister knows as well as I do that the Friendly Societies Act as it now stands provides for an inspector. I am sure the honourable Minister would not want to take information from me, but I would say that you should not even do anything based on the old antiquated Act; you should want to do something which is based on what Mr. Wells recommended.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, That is the point I forgot to mention and I am glad that the honourable member mentioned it. It is proposed to reorganise the working of Friendly Societies. At present the Registrar of Friendly Societies is Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal and the work of Judge prevents that officer from being able to pay much attention to the work of Registrar of Friendly Societies. It is for that reason that Government has come down with this temporary post of Inspector, because he will be able to point to us wherever the necessity of improving the organisation arises as he goes along with the job. As honourable members know, as soon as you start to do something, you can see what it is developing into as you go along and it is only then that you can find out what you really want. Government envisages the overhauling of the whole Friendly Societies Act. Government is thinking that it should do away with Registrar of Friendly Societies being held by a judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal and that the whole question of Friendly Societies be made a department of Government. Those things will be seen in a clearer light as we go along and that is why it is essential to start as soon as we can. I hope this explanation will satisfy the honourable member.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it is not going to do Government any harm to postpone this matter until a further date. I do not like to agree to anything being placed in the Estimates when that something was not placed in the Estimates at the beginning. I particularly said that to do justice to this matter, honourable members should be given the opportunity of reading the Report on Friendly Societies by Mr. Wells and studying it before debating the question. I will say now that

if the honourable Minister of Social Services insist with his amendments to this Head tonight, debate on it is going to last very long because I am going to call for the Report on this matter and read sections of it to show why I cannot agree to the post being included in the manner stated. The mere fact that you are inserting it now when you have not thought of doing so before in the long history of Friendly Societies and since you have instituted the law shows that it is not right. The law made provision for an inspector. Why all this time have you not appointed an inspector? All that you have done is to say that one of the Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal should be Registrar of Friendly Societies. What is the point of asking me to assent tonight to something which you say is only of a temporary nature? Is this an emergency? It is no point of asking me to do so at this stage. This is not a matter just of salary for that officer. I would not be doing justice to myself if I agree with this provision now. And again, there are other members whose views were different to mine on this matter, but they are not present in this Chamber now to express themselves. Their views should also be taken into consideration by Government. It is no fault of mine that Government did not make up its mind about this matter before but it should not use these Estimates, as a means of introducing anything of so vital a matter as this.

(A VOICE: Government has expressed its policy on this in the Five Year Plan.)

What is in the Five-Year Plan about this that you have explained? Look how many things that you have had to come and explain fully to this House although you wrote something about them in the Five-Year Plan. Point to me of anything that is in the Five-Year Plan that explains this matter. When something was written in the Five-Year Plan on Friendly Societies, we had just received the Wells Report but the Government has not dealt with it. Let us see what is in the Five-Year Plan about this matter. Just as with ministerial buildings, did you state in the Five-Year Plan that you were going to put new parliamentary buildings at the Esplanade? You have come today and said you are doing that. When you said so today, was I not entitled to say that the best place for them would be out on Pelican Island?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: All I said in my interruption of the honourable member was that this is not the first time that Government declared its intention on this matter; Government stated it in the Five-Year Plan.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This is what is stated in the Five-Year Plan relative to Friendly Societies:—

“The extensive operations of friendly societies in the Island and the social work involved make it advisable that there should be a whole time Government Inspector of friendly societies. The recurrent expenditure is estimated at \$3,600”.

Now, Sir, you read that the estimated annual expenditure was likely to be \$3,600. Obviously, the Government had before it when it put in that amount the Wells Report and as it was planning for five years, it had to put in something about it. But this does not mean that the Government had dealt with it thoroughly. I may say at this stage that I would be the last man to disagree with the proposition but we should be fully aware of what Government intends to do. To just put Inspector of Friendly Societies in the Estimates and to pay somebody a salary of \$2,280 per annum may be a waste of money. What

is he going to do? All you are saying that he is going to check up the books of Friendly Societies. What can he implement if he does that alone? What is wanted now is somebody to instruct some of these friendly societies how to carry out their functions. Sir, this matter was objected to on the last evening, now you are pushing it through when the only honourable members who would have anything to do with it are members of the Government and members of the party in power. I will ask the Clerk of the House at this stage to get me a copy of the Report on Friendly Societies by Mr. & Mrs. Wells.

Now, the Friendly Societies Act of 1905 speaks about inspection. It is stated under Section 74:—

“Upon the application of one-fifth of the whole number of members of a registered society or of any branch thereof, or upon his own initiative, the Registrar may—

(1) appoint one of more inspectors to examine into the affairs of such society or of any branch thereof and to report thereon, who may require the production of all or any of the books and documents of the society and may examine on oath its officers, members, agents, and servants in relation to its business and may administer such oath accordingly; or

(2) call a special meeting of the society or of any branch thereof in such manner and at such time and place as the Registrar may direct, and may direct what matters shall be discussed and determined on at such meeting which shall have all the powers of a meeting called according to the rules of the society, and shall in all cases have power to appoint its own chairman, any rule of the society to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided that—

(a) the application herein mentioned shall be supported by such evidence for the purpose of showing that the applicants have good reasons for requiring such inspection to be made or meeting to be called, and that they are not actuated by malicious motives in their application, and such notice thereof shall be given to the society as the Registrar shall direct;

(b) the Registrar may if he thinks fit require the applicants to give security for the cost of the proposed inspection or meeting before appointing any inspector or calling such meeting;

(c) all expenses of and incidental to any such inspection or meeting shall be defrayed by the members applying for the same or out of the funds of the society or by the members or officers or former members or officers as the Registrar shall direct;

(d) this section shall not apply to any application of a branch of a society, unless with the consent of the central body of such society.”

Mr. Chairman, you will see that this Act deals with inspection of friendly societies and this is the Act under which the honourable Minister proposes to appoint this inspector. If for all of this time it was not thought fit to appoint an inspector of friendly societies, why should Government insist on making provision for one at this time? It is now early morning. We are asking the inspector now to perform duties that the Registrar is called upon to do. The Registrar of Friendly Societies is the person who is empowered to call upon any Society to produce its books. As can be seen, the duties of the Registrar are very wide under this Act. Here is what the Act says:—

“The Registrar or any member or any person having an interest in the funds of a registered society or branch may inspect the books at all reasonable hours at the registered office of the society or branch, or at any place where the books are kept, except that the member or

person shall not, unless he is an officer of the society or branch or is specially authorised by a resolution of the society or branch to do so, have the right to inspect the loan account of any other member without the written consent of that member or of the Registrar."

Mr. Chairman, you are now putting something in the Estimates for an Inspector of Friendly Societies, but it is the Registrar who has the authority to inspect the books of Friendly Societies and the position today is that you cannot change the Act to put these things in the hands of the Inspector. We must also bear in mind that the Wells Report was before Government since the 15th May 1952. May I ask if it is reasonable for any Government to have a report before it for two years for something that is vital to the community without discussing it? Bear in mind also that the Minister of Social Services has been partly responsible for this department for the last six years. If any person who should have read this report and should be aware of what is its contents, it would be the hon. Minister of Social Services; yet he cannot tell this Committee what are the contents of that report on this matter. I regard this as an injustice and that is why I am going to speak on it as long as I can. I cannot see the reason why the honourable Minister is insisting on making provision for it in these Estimates. It is going to be a sad day for this country if it reaches the stage where instead of having parliamentary democracy as is practised in Great Britain, we have the merest semblance of what is practised at the Kremlin where you have the politburo deciding something and the parliament having to accept it.

I will now read some portions from the Wells Report. He recommends as follows:—

"We have from time to time in the course of this report referred explicitly or by implication to some of the measures which are in our opinion necessary to improve the standing and usefulness of Friendly Societies in the West Indies."

"In aim the Friendly Societies here as elsewhere are admirable, and in the West Indies an especial value attaches to bodies serving the needs of the poor, since these colonies are unable at present to support the cost of social insurance schemes. Clearly, however, institutions claiming to serve such a purpose must attain a reasonable standard of efficiency and good management, otherwise they may well be an evil rather than a good."

"It is necessary first to raise the general standard of management of societies throughout the West Indies. This will have to be done in the first place by legislation."

Mr. Chairman, this is a report for which Mr. and Mrs. Wells have been paid to write. They are suggesting that we raise the general standard of management of our Friendly Societies by legislature, but what is happening now? The Government does not intend to deal with this report and the Minister in charge has put something under this Head to provide for an Inspector and is saying that it is only a temporary measure and in the course of time it may be overhauled. If you want to deal with Societies wholly, why make provision in this manner? The report says that the first thing that should take place is legislation. It goes on to say:—

"We recommend that the Ordinance or Laws in force should be revised to provide for the following matters:—

1. *Compulsory Registration*

"We remarked above that registration of friendly societies is not in all colonies obligatory.

We are of the opinion that in order to give societies and their members generally the benefit of the relevant statute, the registration of all friendly societies with a membership of over, say, seven persons should be compulsory. There should be penalties upon the Officers of Societies who neglect to seek registration."

"Newly formed societies should be required to notify the Registrar immediately upon formation and may then be given a period of grace of, say, six months, in order to enroll members and collect dues. There should be legal provision that, during this period of grace, their affairs are open to inspection by the Registrar. He could then advise them generally, and in particular instruct them as to the proper form of accounts to be used."

2. *Registrars*

"In all colonies there should be a Registrar of Friendly Societies with staff at his disposal, sufficient for a proper oversight of the affairs of societies. This is a recommendation which we have developed in greater detail in our various interim reports; some points involved are referred to in the following paragraphs."

3. *Inspections*

"The Registrar of Friendly Societies should have the power to visit a society for the purpose of inspecting its affairs on his own initiative, either in person or by proxy, without notice given or cause shewn. He should have power to inspect all books of account and documents, and to demand the production of the cash held by Officers for the purpose of checking it. There should be penalties for any person obstructing him or his proxy. The Registrar should also have the power to attend either personally or by proxy any meeting of a Society."

"In Colonies where the movement is considerably in size this recommendation could be carried out by attaching to the Registrar's staff one or more Inspectors whose duty should be to pay visits to Societies from time to time. Their visits need not and should not always be inquisitorial in character, but they could also give the Officers of Societies friendly advice and help. We are well assured from our experience that the existence of such Inspectors would be welcome by many Friendly Society Officers. Much will of course, depend upon the ability and character of these Inspectors."

Now Mr. Chairman, all this is in the Wells Report. Can you sincerely tell me other than if you be a dictator of the worse type that you would be unwilling to have this report discussed before you bring a measure to make a change as that which you are doing? If you need a change—and you do need one—you should follow what is written here, that is, your Inspectors should be persons able to give friendly advice and help. They say: "much will, of course, depend upon the ability and character of these Inspectors." And that is so because the Inspectors are the persons who have to carry out the work for the Registrar. In Trinidad, where the Friendly Societies are established and placed on a different basis to Barbados; where you have a man in the person of Mr. Noel Bowen who is Registrar of Friendly Societies and at the same time Registrar of Trade Unions and who had some training in that respect in the United Kingdom, you will find that that country has put its business on a proper footing both as regards to Trade Unions and Friendly Societies. As I have said already, why is the honourable Minister of Social Services insisting that provision for an Inspector should be included in

these Estimates? To show how important this matter was looked at when the honourable Premier delivered his Budget Speech, he never mentioned a word about it. These Estimates were drafted without it. Is this an afterthought?

The specific reference which Mr. and Mrs. Wells made in their report of Barbados is with regard to auditing. The paragraph reads as follows:—

"As we discovered in our survey, the appropriate system of audit will differ according to the size of the movement, and the resources of the country. We also feel that, all other things equal, it is not desirable to make too radical changes. Accordingly, we have in our interim reports made recommendations in this matter designed to meet the particular needs of the colony without any special regard for uniformity throughout the Caribbean. These recommendations may be briefly summarised here."

And this is what it says of Barbados:—

"In Barbados, where audit is at present undertaken by the Auditor-General, we considered that the existing system was satisfactory, and felt that there was no need to change it."

According to the report, you have Mr. and Mrs. Wells saying that in Barbados where the system of audit is done by the Auditor General that it is satisfactory. This is the system by which the Registrar can compel the societies to send in their books and have them audited; therefore, as an interim measure out of the same Act, all that the Inspector when appointed can do is what the Registrar tells him to do. Sir, I am taking a very serious view of this method which the Government is doing in dealing with this matter. They have some members who regard a seat in this House of Assembly better than truth and principles. I feel we would be returning to slavery if we accept dictatorship. I do not want to see it in this House of Assembly and that is why I am going to express my views fearlessly. If I come here and have to express somebody else's views, well then, I will prefer not to be a member of this Chamber.

In Trinidad, the healthy development of friendly societies depends to a great extent on the Registrar. As I have said, he is specially trained for the purpose. As you are aware, the Registrar of Barbados is not a person who is trained for this work; he is a judge, but he can be a magistrate or a solicitor; thereby this job being just something added to his duties, he may not carry any special interest in this work. I consider this as one of the social services which should have persons looking after it who are really concerned about the work and who know something about it. It is for reasons like these that I feel this matter should be discussed and not hurried through as we are doing now. You have set down a salary scale of \$2,280 x 120—\$3,000 for this Inspector. What basis have you adjudged that salary to? How have you come to the conclusion that it is a right salary to pay? You have not told us that.

Now in this island, you have the Director of Agriculture who is also Registrar of Co-operative Societies and your Registrar of Friendly Societies is Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal; therefore, it can be said that you have a sort of "higgly-niggly" system in which the Registrar of Friendly Societies is a lawyer and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is an agriculturist.

Sir, every line in the Report on Friendly Societies by Mr. and Mrs. Wells should encourage any Government which is interested in seeing that friendly societies fulfil their obligations to the people to read and study it and then to implement some of the

recommendations. I do not like making this comment but it does appear to me that the honourable Minister of Social Services has not shown an interest in the matter because if he did, he would be able to make out a case for inserting it under this Head at this particular time. What is in the Five-Year Plan has nothing to do with this question. This attempt to force this matter in these estimates should be resisted and I am going to resist it as a matter of principle.

Mr. Chairman, I regard this matter as one that should be postponed. It is too substantial a matter to be dealt with now. I am registering my disapproval of it at this stage on two grounds; (1) The Government has not given the House of Assembly the full facts of the case; and (2) The Government has not given the House of Assembly the opportunity to examine the matter before coming to it with salary proposals. This Government in its haste to get something through is not even prepared at this moment to say at what stage it is going to overhaul the working of friendly societies and make amendments to the Act according to the Wells Report. It is doing nothing but putting money in the Estimates to provide for an Inspector. The Inspector can do very little at this stage to help friendly societies in this Island. He cannot give them any advice. As it appears to me, this is purely a waste of money and a waste of time. Although it might be passed, it is still a good thing that we have a system where one can express his feelings and the Government cannot have it all its own way. I consider the circumstances of this matter just like one of those historical cases where you find people joining with each other to something which they know is obviously wrong. It is not always that the something which they do is wrong but the principle is wrong. Sometimes it is done in the hope of getting rewards. At this stage, Mr. Chairman I beg to move that you now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

The question that the sum of \$54,264 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move Mr. Chairman that you do now report the passing of resolutions in Committee totalling \$11,767,574 for the services of the Colony according to the Estimates for the year 1954-55.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Honourable G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Honourable M. E. Cox the Resolutions were read a first and second time and were agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1952

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Item No. 12 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 Premier: Second reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the colony for the year ending the 31st March 1955.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this next order is a Bill intituled an Act to grant a certain sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the Colony for the year, 1954—55, ending on the 31st day of March, 1955. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. M. E. Cox seconded the motion.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill and that the instructions be when the Bill is in Committee that it be taken as read.

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in view of the direction given I beg to move that the Clerk call out the number of the section of the Bill and that the sums of the total be taken as read.

Hon. M. E. COX seconded the motion which was taken as read.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed
The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Honourable G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Honourable M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I propose to take Item No. 1, of Order No. 2, at this stage. I am therefore asking leave to move that the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

His Honour THE SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the honourable Premier; To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider sums of money for the Service of the Colony.

On motion of Honourable G. H. ADAMS seconded by Honourable M. E. Cox, the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Smith being in the Chair.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This resolution for the sum of \$629,000 gives formal approval for the issue of advances to meet certain expenditure for which provision is made in the 1954-55 Estimates Part II—Capital. The expenditure will in due course be covered by the authority of a loan Act and the Advances will be repaid when the loan or loans are raised.

The items covered by this resolution are:—

Barbados Development Board	\$250,000
Motor Tractors — Peasants	15,000
Pig Breeding — Departmental Scheme	1,000
Mental Hospital Farm	33,000
Abattoir and Cold Storage	10,000
Housing — Civil Servants	200,000
Self-Help Housing Scheme	120,000
	\$629,000

I think last year we began the system of doing it this way, which is considered the appropriate way. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Chairman,—reading the addendum to this Resolution I see among the Items covered by it “Housing— Civil Servants” and the amount of \$200,000 set out against it. I am somewhat worried about this money because sometime in 1949-50 this House dealt with an address asking for

a housing loan for Civil Servants and it was agreed to. The sum of \$500,000 was provided in the Five-Year Plan for that purpose and last year the sum of \$200,000 was put down in the Estimates, but none of this money was spent and what we have now provided in this year's Estimates is just a revote. I made enquiries into the matter and found out that the reason why nothing has been done is because the matter was awaiting regulations. Civil Servants are very worried over it and at the last meeting of the Civil Service Association, Civil Servants made enquiries through their Vice-President over this delay. I would be very pleased if Government would seek to get these regulations governing the way in which loans should be made to Civil Servants for housing as speedily as possible, so that Civil Servants who are eagerly awaiting the opportunity of obtaining loans would be able to relieve themselves as quickly as possible of the strain which they undergo to provide rent.

I also see provision made here for \$120,000 to finance the self-help housing scheme. I am pleased to congratulate the Government on the scheme and it can be seen from this Resolution that Government does not intend to rest on its oars, but intend to proceed with further schemes throughout the length and breadth of this Island. Sometime ago a Committee was set up to recommend suitable sites for this housing scheme and as far as I have been made to understand the Committee has reported. I understand among the sites recommended is an area situated near St. Stephen Hill. It was on the 5th May, 1953, that I tabled questions connected with that area of land. I enquired of the Executive if it were aware that this area of land was for sale and if so whether it would consider the advisability of purchasing it for the purpose of (a) securing the tenancy of the 62 families now occupying the same and (b) further developing the area so as to accommodate some of the hundreds of applicants for whom no house-spots are available at the Pine and Bay Estates. Those questions were tabled on the 5th May, 1953. This is March, 1954, and the Government up to now has not seen fit to answer those questions. I believe this Government is aware that if this land is sold to some private individual, added to the difficulties of the people who are renting it having to abandon their house-spots and look for money to remove their houses, they would have to look for money to repair the houses as well.

Hon. M. E. COX: I would like to say that three weeks ago I gave authority to the Queen's Solicitor to purchase the site in question. The area is about twenty acres of land at Cave Hill. There would be no question of any of the tenants having to move their houses. The people there were given the assurance that Government would be purchasing the land.

Mr. BRYAN: They may have been given that assurance but I knew nothing about it.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION POSTPONED

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

REFUND OF CUSTOMS DUTY TO BOARD OF GUARDIANS, ST. MICHAEL.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This Resolution is one to place the sum of \$344 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1953-54, Part I—Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate which forms the Schedule to the Resolution in connection with a refund of Customs Duty to the Board of Poor Law Guardians of St. Michael. We make it a habit to grant these refunds. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman; I have been informed that this Resolution has not been printed. I am therefore asking leave to withdraw my motion.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, in each case, the Resolution passed in Committee was read a first and second time and agreed to.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph: Premier—To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Executive Committee Act, 1891.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill state:—

"By section sixteen of the Executive Committee Act, 1891, claims on the Government of the Island requiring a warrant from the Governor-in-Executive Committee to authorise payment must be made up and presented by the Accountant General to the Governor-in-Executive Committee at the close of each month, and the warrants must be issued accordingly.

Owing to the large increase in the volume of Government transactions since 1891, it is no longer practicable to follow this procedure.

This Bill accordingly seeks to abolish this procedure, and the authority for issuing warrants would then be the annual Appropriation Acts. Section 2 of the Appropriation Act, 1952, is an example."

I believe I gave credit to Mr. Foster for making this discovery. Section 16 of the Act says that warrants must be signed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee monthly and that implies that a warrant should be signed before the money can be paid. That has not been done in recent years and maybe as far back as 1891; the warrants are always signed but the money has already been paid out. It is now proposed to abolish this system. There is a certain amount of history attached to this matter. We have just passed the Appropriation Bill authorising the Accountant General to pay out the money which has been set out in the Schedule. Hon-

curable members may remember that when we were dealing with the salaries for Ministerial posts the honourable junior member for the City suggested that it was *infra dig* to have warrants issued by the Governor-in-Executive Committee whereas the Act should be the authority. At that time I smiled and said; "You will hear something about that." This Bill is what I was referring to. In addition to what I have said, there are the Letters Patent Clause 5 of which says that all moneys shall be issued by warrant under the hand of the Governor. You will see that there is authority for the payment of money under the Appropriation Act and there is also authority under the Executive Committee Act. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. MILLER: This is rather important legislation and since there is no immediate hurry for it I do not think it would be well to pass it only with members of the Party being present. It would be better even if you had one member of the opposite Party present. I think this Bill deserves some debate and I am asking the honourable member to postpone the consideration of it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This is merely a matter of our having gone on from year to year not carrying out the provisions of Section 16 of the Act; it is merely a question of repealing that Section of the Act which does not work. Now that we have Ministerial Status it is a part of the process of cleaning up things and it seems to me that this Bill should be passed at the same time that we pass the Appropriation Act. Section 16 of the Executive Committee Act says that warrants must be issued by the Governor-in-Executive Committee monthly before the payment of money but that has not been done as far as we have been able to trace. Soon after 1891 it was discovered that that procedure was not workable; I drew to honourable members' attention the fact that we have gone on from time to time not adhering to that procedure and the Auditor General and the Attorney General have allowed it. When the Governor-in-Executive Committee signs the warrant the money has been paid out already and rather than keep this imposition on the Statute Book we eliminate it because it has served its purpose.

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

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

Clause 1, the title Clause, was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

Mr. MILLER: I feel that the consideration of this Bill should be postponed; to pass a Bill of this nature with only the members of the Party being present is not fair to christianity, democracy or anything else. The Premier is throwing out the olive branch but he makes quite sure that every olive is in his hand. There is no immediate hurry for this Bill and that is not the spirit in which legislation should be passed. I regard it as an advantage if the Premier presses on over my request for a postponement. This Bill will probably be passed quite easily but I think a member of the Opposition should be in the House at the time.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The hon. member is profoundly mistaken in trying to suggest that anybody is pushing through anything; if the members of the

Opposition choose to walk out of the House then they walk out. We pass the Appropriation Bill, we discover that this Bill with which we are now dealing is unworkable and we try to clean up such useless litter on the Statute Book. It is wrong to suggest that this Government is doing anything undemocratic.

Mr. MILLER: I have simply said that having regard to a Bill of this type which will have its consequences, it is not in the interest of hon. members to deal with it now that no member of the Opposition is present. I have studied the hon. member having worked with him; I am simply asking that the consideration of this Bill be deferred. If you adjourn the House for four weeks that does not put you in any corner; the hon. member will threaten that there is disloyalty and when it suits him he will throw out the olive branch when he finds that every olive is in his hand.

The question that Clause 1 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 2 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: Premier:—To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Accountant General's Act, 1951.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This Bill follows on what we have just done. The "Objects and Reasons" state:

"By subsection (2) of section six of the Accountant General's Act, 1951, provision is made for payment of certain fixed claims on the Government of the Island early in the month.

However, in making it clear that such payment cannot be made without the necessary warrant, the words used are "on the warrant of the Governor-in-Executive Committee," whereas the warrant required is sometimes that of the Governor-in-Executive Committee and sometimes that of the Governor. This Bill seeks to amend this provision in the Accountant General's Act, 1951, so as to make it clear that the reference is to the particular warrant appropriate to the circumstances."

This is a cleaning-up process. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: In moving that this Clause stand part of the Bill, I should like to say that the Accountant General has to prepare a monthly statement as to money which has been paid out on the warrant of the Governor-in-Executive Committee. Some salaries are payable on the warrant of the Governor alone, and the proviso in this Clause makes it clear that nothing can be done wrongly. Claims must be paid upon the proper warrant whether by the Governor or the Governor-in-Execu-

tive Committee. I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

LEGISLATIVE DEBATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph: Premier:—To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Legislative Debates Act, 1894.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The question of providing typists along with an additional Reporter is still an issue and I therefore beg to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I have the honour to appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The members of the Debates Committee along with the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Hon. Dr. Cummins), the honourable senior member for the City (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY), the honourable senior member for St. John (Mr. Alder) and the hon senior member for St. Philip (Mr. Crawford.)

ORDER POSTPONED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I ask leave to take Order No. 10 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 therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church:—To move the second reading of a Bill to authorise the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association to construct and maintain one or more pipeline or pipelines for conveying vacuum pan molasses from a point ashore to vessels in the harbour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—It has been drawn to my attention that this Bill has not yet been printed and circulated and I therefore ask leave to withdraw my request to proceed with it.

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

RATES OF INCOME TAX BILL, 1954

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I ask leave to take Order No. 11 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 senior member for St. Joseph: Premier:—To move the second reading of a Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year 1954 and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The Income Tax rates for this year are the same as those for last year. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

The two Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and agreed to.

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY (SALARIES) AMENDMENT BILL, 1954

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I ask leave to take Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: It is thought fit that we should appoint our Messenger in the same way as we appoint our other Officers. This Officer will be

required to perform certain duties in connection with the library and we propose to give the post the appropriate title of "Messenger and Library Attendant". This Officer's salary will have to be agreed to by Resolution. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

The four Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 13th April, 1954, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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