THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd. November, 1954.

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

PRESENT:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, B.A., C.M.G., Q.C., (*Premier*); Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS; M.D., C.M. (*Minister of Social Services*), Hon. M. E. Cox, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Hon. R. G MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD (*Leader of the Opposition*); Mr F. E. MILLER, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY and Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*).

Prayers were read.

MR. LEWIS entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meetings which were held on the 19th and 21st October, 1954 respectively having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. VAUGHAN entered the House and took his seat.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the statement of accounts for the year ended the 30th September, 1954 from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. Philip. I have also received statement of accounts from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. Peter for the same period.

PAPERS LAID

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Report to the Government of Barbados by Dr. A. M. Fulton on the Bridgetown Abattoir, Cold Store and Market.

Hon. M. E. COX: The Public Wharves (Control) Regulations, 1954.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to approve the allocation of the balance of the stabilization fund, 1954, among producers of fancy molasses.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of $7,217 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1954-55, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1954-55 No. 24, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of $2,301 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1954-55, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimate 1954-55 No. 25 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting, in order to consider the two money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services: to move the House into Committee of Supply.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,— I beg to move that the honourable junior member for St. John (Mr. Vaughan) be Chairman of Committees until the Chairman of Committees arrives.

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

The motion was put and agreed to.

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

Resolution No. 22 to Purchase Motor Vehicle For Police

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, stands in my name; but I regret to say, the matter is not completely at my finger tips, and therefore, I am asking leave for the Hon. Leader of the House to take charge of this Resolution.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, — This is a Resolution for the sum of $2,311 for the purpose of purchasing a Police Van. The position is

this: a van which was in the vicinity of seven years old was damaged beyond repair, and can no longer be used. A new van is therefore required to take the place of the old one. I would say, that the Insurance Company was fairly generous to settle this matter for the sum of $1,500. As I said, this van is seven years old, and it is more than likely that in another few months we would be called upon to vote money for the purchase of a new van, if this van had not been damaged. There is the sum of $889, which remains unexpended from a vote for this year for the purchase of a van.

In reality, if you take the $1,500 paid by the Insurance Company plus the $889 which remains unspent, and take it from this sum of $2,311, it will be seen that all we are asked to produce from the Treasury to-day, is $889. That is the position, sir, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,— Not being familiar with these things, I would like to enquire what was this vehicle insured for at the time of the accident. Evidently, the Government got very generous treatment. Is there a floating policy, or was this vehicle insured for a specific sum?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I will see that I get the information which the hon. member requires, in a few minutes.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman,— I am not attempting to answer the hon. member's question, but I take it, that these vehicles are insured similarly as to how business houses insure their vehicles. When a new vehicle is put on the road, it is insured for purchase price; and every year after that, there is an allowance for depreciation. That depreciation is deducted every following year from the insurance policy. If you start at $3,000 and at the end of a year you take off 20%, when you go to renew the insurance premium, you insure for 20% less than that.

If this vehicle were seven years old, I think they got a very good price for it; but I do not think, it is right to say, as is stated in the Addendum, that they have saved $889 on the purchase of the vehicle. If you have a block vote, and you go into the market, and you buy these vehicles at market value, you just did not spend the whole amount. You have not saved $889. That is only an estimation in the Addendum with which I do not altogether agree. This is a means of saying that we have saved this amount, so that the Government can get a small sum to purchase another vehicle.

Messrs. BRANCKER and F. L. WALCOTT entered the Committee and took their seats.

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

Resolution No. 23 For Water Supplies & Medical Services.

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

"Resolved that the sum of $40,818 be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1954-55 Part II—Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1954-55, No. 23, which form the Schedule to this Resolution."

Head I—Water Supplies, is for the sum of $40,000. Honourable members will remember that in 1952 when the Five Year Plan was brought up, a sum of $200,000 was included in the Estimates to provide for standposts throughout the island. During the first year, the sum of $155,000 was spent; and in the second year, the remainder of $45,000 odd dollars was also spent. As a result of the speedy activities of the Chief Engineer of the Water Works and his Department, in so far as making these various installations are concerned, it has been necessary during this financial year to increase that item in the first place by $150,000. Since then, Sir, that money has been practically exhausted; and the Chief Engineer of the Water Works Department has pointed out, that he can spend another $40,000 before the end of the financial year, if this money is voted early.

As soon as this money is voted, orders will be placed for the supply of pipes and fittings. The Chief Engineer has asked that an additional sum of $40,000 be provided, in order that more mains can be laid, and additional standposts and services installed.

I think that honourable members are well aware of the activities of this Department. I think that every honourable member can say that he has seen mains being laid in the various parishes throughout the island; and I shall ask hon. members to agree to vote this $40,000, so that the Department will not shut down as a result of not having sufficient money to carry out this work.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head I stand part of the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second the motion.

Messrs. E. K. WALCOTT, CRAWFORD, E. D. MOTTLEY, SMITH and Mrs. BOURNE came into the Committee and took their seats.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—Few will cavil at additional expenditure for water; and we are in fact, always pleased to be asked to vote money to meet requirements for additional mains and standposts. As a matter of fact, the more you spend on water the less you should spend on Medical Services; because, sanitation and hygiene are so inseparable from good health, that the more water there is available, the better the health of the community normally is. But I would remind the honourable Introducer of this Resolution, that some time ago, there was discussed in this Chamber, the system or method employed in laying additional mains and standposts. Does the honourable member still adhere to the old fashioned unsuitable method of considering it only from the stand point of the numbers of people, which is a very happy way of working it, from the point of view of the metropolitan parish? I will point out that from the standpoint of distance which people have to go for water, is not the most happy method. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that a plan be devised that wherever houses are, people should not have to go more than a comparatively short distance for water. Sometimes people have to walk a mile or half mile to a standpost.

3.35 p.m.

If your yard stick is 100 people, 50 or 25 people per stand post, when it comes to the rural areas, that yard stick is far from satisfactory. There may be some people in the district, who may be a half mile from a standpost. You will also find that there are districts with a few houses, but there is no standpost within a short distance of that district; therefore, steps should be taken with your next provision for additional standposts, to ensure that each one of these areas or small districts, or villages, get an amount of water by means of a standpost. It is essential that the Government provide standposts free of charge.

This $40,000 Resolution should meet with an easy passage, because we all agree with it; but I am urging the Hon. Minister to consider the revision of the policy of extending mains and stand posts

in the rural areas, so that the question of distance would receive the attention which it deserves.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—In spite of the great effort which is being made to improve the water system of this island, there is still great dissatisfaction in the minds of many people; especially people in the country districts. I would like to suggest to the Government, that a greater effort should be made to expedite the allocation of these standposts, especially in the country districts. Last year, in the parish of St. Philip, no standpost was put down, or no new main. This year, a little extension is being made in the Foul Bay district; but there are still great demands for additional mains and standposts in many of the other districts. And I say, that the speed with which this work is being done, leaves much to be desired. There are many people who are unemployed, and I am sure, you can use more gangs to put down these water mains. I think the hon. Minister would do well if he go to the Department and see that this extension is expedited. People are coming to me daily and asking me about the extension of the water service for them. They come from Kirton and as far as the Crane.

This water question, I think, is one of the greatest problems of this island. As the honourable sen ior member for St. Lucy declared, the distances between pipes and the various communities are too far. I want to suggest to the Hon. Minister of Communications that with regard to many of those tenantry roads which are being rebuilt by Government's funds, the Government should see its way of turning in water in many of them. I do not want to be tedious; but I do hope, that the Government would try its best in spite of the progress which it has made in respect to this matter to expedite water service in the country districts.

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

Mr. HAYNES: Like the honourable senior member for St. Lucy, I would like the Hon. Minister of Communications to reconsider the position of standposts in the various parishes. I know that the parish of St. Andrew has received a document showing, that there are 13 standposts over the number for that parish; but I think that statement is perfectly misleading. It may be so in respect of the parish of Christ Church. That is a very large parish with a large population, and it must be borne in mind that many houses have their own private service. The next thing which one has to bear in mind is that villages in parishes like St. Andrew are very small and far between; therefore, the question of population should not arise. Wherever people live, they want water.

Sir, I was hoping to see an amendment to the Water Works Act which was brought in last year replaced on the Order Paper; because, I consider that Bill very important. I do know that certain members seem to have some doubts about it; but to my mind, it is very important to this problem of removing standposts, and the arrangements which now take place between the Water Works Department and the Commissioners of Health of the particular parishes. As I have said, I was hoping that the Bill would have been put on the Order Paper this session; but unfortunately, I have not seen it.

I am hoping that Government will consider the question of the re-allocation of standpipes on the question of villages, and not on a population basis. Unless you do that, I do not see how some villages can ever hope to get water.

If we are 13 standpipes over now. I see no opportunity of our getting any more. I hope that the hon. Minister will see his way to change that allocation; especially in the outer parishes like St. Lucy, St. Joseph and St. Andrew, so that those parishes would get the necessary standposts in the various villages.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—I have repeatedly suggested on previous occasions, that the question of water is of such vital importance that the Government should be justified in making special provisions for some extensive water works scheme. In other words, so vitally important to my mind is this question of water, that I feel as I have said before, a Water Works extension scheme is well justified, especially within the minimum possible time. Previous speakers have stressed, from the amount which we are spending in this financial year on our water service, that the rate of extension of the service has not accelerated with that of previous years; but I want to recall to their minds, that the moment they draw comparisons of what is happening this year with what has happened in the previous years, they are bound to make very serious mistakes.

3.45 p.m.

During the war years and the immediate post-war years, owing to the unavailability of equipment, it was virtually impossible to do more than tinker with the extension of the water supply; so that for the past ten or twelve years, we have been spending amounts of money which were determined more or less, by the equipment we could obtain. Therefore, the moment you start drawing comparisons between the figures of what you spend now, and what you spent during 1940, it would appear that you are doing a lot now; but in reality you are not doing as much as you should, bearing in mind the fact, that for years little or nothing could be done. Now that equipment, and I venture to say money is readily available, I feel that this question of the extension of the water supply should have A-1 priority outside the ambit of the Five Year Plan, and the amount allocated under that plan. We are justified in giving this question very special treatment and utilizing any funds which we can get or borrow, in order to make water immediately available to the largest possible section of the population.

To be specific now, sometime in June this year, I enquired from the Minister of Works the reason why the two standposts which are allocated annually to every parish, were not installed in St. Philip last year. My honourable colleague has already commented on the serious handicaps through which people in that parish labour, on account of their being compelled to traverse long distances in order to get to a standpost. Since this parish comprises the biggest land area of any parish of this colony, and since it is given standposts on the same basis as the others, it means that you are aggravating the situation, when you do not even give the people the two standposts which they are supposed to get. It was my suggestion in June, that since not a single standpipe was installed last year, the least that should have been done this year, would have been to give the parish four standpipes. So far, there has not been any reply given to my query; and it would be a pleasure today, if the hon. Minister would say what is the Government's policy in this matter. The honourable senior member for St. George has already referred to the fact, that in his parish, the two standposts to which the people are normally entitled, were not installed last year; and in his implication, if the Government intended to honour its obligation, the least that should have been done, would have been to install four standpipes in each parish this year.

Normally, I see no reason why a Question tabled in June, should not find itself in November with a

Reply. It is a simple Question which does not involve any long and technical explanation. I repeat, that I consequently expected to be told today, the Government's decision in this particular matter. One has to commend the Water Works Department for the expeditious manner in which it is endeavouring to expend the funds at its disposal; and by the same token, one is also justified in feeling that if greater funds were earmarked to this Department, they would have been expended in no less expeditious a manner. I hope that in spite of the generous allocation under the Five Year Plan, some attention will he paid to the possibility of a further commitment on the part of the Government, purely for extending the water supply.

Mr. BRYAN entered the Committee and took his seat.

Mr. ALLDER: Now that we have a high salaried official at the head of this department, and the necessary machinery which one feels should expedite the distribution of water mains and subsidiary mains along the various villages, the Government should put it at their disposal to get as much out of this official as possible, in view of the fact, that he is on contract and that this contract may expire in a short time; and if the extensions of this service are not carried out as soon as possible, then we might meet with difficulties in renewing the contract of the present officer.

There is another point which I would like to stress. Checking from the Department's Report, it is said that because a water main has been laid in each particular area in Bank Hall, partly every householder has installed the service into his premises. The Report states that a tidy sum has been collected as a result of the laying of these mains; and that should be used as a pointer to the Government, to see that the service should be carried out in the suburban areas and even in the rural areas. It is not a matter of "piece mealing." The water supply of this colony is of vital importance. It is time that we get away from this idea of erecting two stand-pipes in a parish in every year.

3.55 p.m.

The fact is, new tenantries are being developed; and the Department should see to it, that before houses are erected, there is a water service to accommodate the people. But the present method is this you allocate so many standposts per number of population in the given areas, which is wrong. And as the honourable junior member for St. Andrew has said, you sometimes get a small village of a dozen houses, so that the present method of distributing the water service in the colony would cause the authorities to ignore that small village; especially if it is in the country area.

It is high time we realise that we have reached the stage where workers should not have to walk such great distances to get a pail of water. People are beginning to appreciate such amenities; and the Hon. Minister in charge of this Department knows that even in St. John, there are some poor people who are quite willing to assist in paying the cost to have a main run into their avenue, rather than having to depend on the Government footing the whole bill. Here is a case where the Government is somewhat shortsighted; because if they see that a couple of people are willing to pay for water, they should immediately give the water to the people; because, the more the householders take the service, the more revenue the Government will get. From that revenue, government would be more able to carry water into all the villages and by-ways, to those people who cannot pay for it.

I saw in a built-up area around Howells + Road that residents have been waiting to get water run into their premises. Even for the Department to lay the main in the area, some months elapsed; and I cannot say at present if, although the main has being laid, water has been turned on. I passed and saw that the main was being laid, but while passing, I saw people coming from that avenue going to the stand-pipe. It is a shortsighted policy.

Water is a necessary service; and it is the duty of all Governments to supply it, whether the people pay for it or not. I am hoping that in a process of time the rates will come down. I believe, as a matter of fact, I know, that the Department makes profits in selling the material which is used when a new service is being carried to a householder. Sometimes their prices are higher for galvanized pipes and lead pipes than the prices of some of the business houses in Bridgetown; and the only thing which compels the people to do business, is because the Department demands a set standard of equipment which you must use, if you want to get the service. I am hoping, that the rates will come down in due time; because, I feel that water should always be free. And if people have to pay $70 or $80 for some pipe line, and for the turning one of the service, that is sufficient; and the remaining quarterly rates should be a nominal rate to balance the budget of that department.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—This is a Resolution which gives great hope that this growing need of the people, is being looked after; but Resolutions like these for an increase in capital expenditure, never say whether the amount that was previously voted, was sufficient to procure all the materials estimated. Therefore, we cannot tell, (although the figures show that the amount is close to double the amount estimated in the Five Year Plan) whether the Government has got twice the amount of materials and work, for that amount.

What I mean is that if a department comes for a supplementary estimate for any item in its estimates, you may say that it is due to the increased cost of material or to a bill being sent in late; but you give this department under Capital Estimates $150,000, and when it is gone, they come back and say they can spend another $40,000 if it is voted in time. But we can never hear whether the price of what they bought, went up or down; that is something I would like to know. I would like to know if, apart from labour which I think has gone up, the price of materials imported (like pipe etc.) by the Water Works, has increased since we passed the Five Year Plan. That will allow me to figure out, whether this amount of money was spent mainly because they are really doing more work, or whether it is costing more to do what they estimated at the beginning of the year.

I hope that the hon. Minister understands the very simple point I am making; and that he will give me the answer to it. The Department is doing very valuable service, and therefore we vote money for it. I would like to know, whether we have got that money's worth as estimated, and whether we are going to get $40,000 worth more.

4.05 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman—I would like first of all, to reply to the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. Apparently, the honourable member is labouring under the delusion, that the basis of allocation of these standpipes is population. I merely mentioned that on the last occasion, when I was speaking on a Resolution to approve a Book of Reference plan for the extension of a standpost in the Housing scheme at Clinketts, St. Lucy. I mentioned then, and

I again state, that at no time was the basis of population used for allocating standposts in the various parishes. It has always been, as far as I have been able to understand, and with all the information I have received on it, a sort of arbitrary method. Sometimes, although it is the general rule to put down two standposts in each parish every year, yet some parishes have been able to get three or four as the case may be. It all depended on how some Sanitary Commissioners pressed Mr. Chase at the Water Works Department. As I have said, the allocation was never on a basis of population; and it is not on that basis today. The honourable junior member for St. Andrew made that same mistake. If it were so, I am sure, that St. Lucy which is one of the most sparsely populated parishes of the island, would never have so many standpipes in excess of the many heavily populated parishes. I would like first of all, to remove that impression from the minds of any honourable member who feels that allocation is made on the basis of population. I am sure that the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has seen statistics with regard to the distribution of population; and having seen that, I am sure he cannot honestly say, that more care is being taken of the metropolitan parish being in this respect, than any other parish, because the population in the metropolitan parish is quickly approaching one third of the population of the whole island.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable senior member for St. Philip made a plea for expediting the laying of mains. I think he made a little more than a plea. He expressed the view that the time had come when, perhaps, we might concentrate more seriously on the Water Works Department to the extent of having a loan for the expansion of the water service. In so far as that statement is concerned, I want to assure honourable members, I am wholeheartedly in agreement with doing what is humanly possible to improve the water service throughout the island; but the honourable member must remember that this Government, as it is constituted has only recently been in full charge of this service and also bear in mind that this Government has only recently taken over this what I would call a legacy, where village after village in which we have travelled, we have seen the absence of water for very many years. Honourable members know, that it is only in recent years, (I think it is since 1948) that some bold attempt has been made to improve the water services of this island; and that has been done only under the Labour Government. Sir, while we appreciate the remarks made by honourable members, and while we feel more than glad to have the water service extended as quickly as possible, yet we have to take into consideration the other demands which are made on the Treasury. Sir, say you collect $13,000,000 this year, you cannot only concentrate on the Water Works Department and leave out the other Departments. You must also give some consideration to, for example, the Hospital, your schools, your post offices to be built, your housing and tenantry roads, your scholarships, your technical schools, your agriculture and fisheries, your markets, your need for cold-storage, your airport facilities, your irrigation services, and many other items too numerous to mention at this stage, on which you have to concentrate and allocate some money as the case may need. I want to show honourable members that while I agree that the pace of the water services should be stepped up Government will have to take into consideration those other things which are needed in conjunction with the water service.

The honourable junior member for St. Andrew spoke about the Bill which was presented to the House during the last session, which contained a clause giving the Sanitary Commissioners of the various parishes the right in conjunction with the Water Works Department to remove standposts to various sites. I want to say, that it might be well under the Ministerial set-up, to do so; especially with a Minister who is prepared to see such things for himself. But from my experience, I am not very much in favour of giving the Sanitary Commissioners the right to remove those standpipes. I will say no more at this stage on that matter.

Now the honourable senior member for St. John made a point about the Water Works Department making money and profits, on the items which are being sold at the Department. The honourable senior member for St. John further said, that the items which were sold by the Water Works Department were far more expensive than those sold in commercial business houses. I want to say, that is an incorrect statement. If you were to go around and ask various people who buy supplies from the Water Works Department, they would tell you in no uncertain manner, that the articles from that Department are far cheaper than those sold by commercial houses.

4.15 p.m.

What happens, Mr. Chairman, is that the cost of installation is a question of the cost of labour. The cost of labour starts from the moment one of the Department's vans leaves to do the work for you. The charge is made from the time that the workmen leave the Department until they return there. It is a question of the cost of labour. The honourable senior member for St. John claims to be a semi-Labourite and therefore———

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of explanation. The honourable member is trying to show that my statements are not true; but I have had recent experience with regards to the prices charged for material by the Water Works Department which is being run by the Government, and those charged in the commercial firms of the city. I did not mention anything about the overall cost. The hon. Minister should listen carefully when statements are made, because he confuses himself and then accuses others wrongfully. I was not referring to the overall cost which includes labour; but if you go to the Water Works Department in order to buy galvanized pipe, you have to pay more for it than you would pay outside from a normal commercial house.

Hon. M. E. COX: I would be glad to receive the figures from the honourable member showing the disparity in cost in respect of a specified item. However, I am satisfied that the cost of these items is not as high as it is in commercial houses. As regards the question of the Water Works Department making money, I would stress the point that the Department collected $313,355 in 1953, and the expenditure in 1953—54 was $671,389, therefore, you can see that at least the Department is subsided to the tune of 50%. It is not a question of making any money; and especially in a Labour Government, one would not consider the question of a Department like this making money. As I have said already, the water service is an essential service; and it is a social service. As an honourable member has said, if you improve the water service, you stand the chance of reducing the cost of your medical services. I want to show honourable members, that it is the Government's intention to do whatever is humanly possible within its limited resources, and within the amount we collect, and which we can allocate to the Water Works Department, to provide as many mains and standposts as possible.

The honourable senior member for St. Philip has referred to the question which he asked, about his parish not having been given any allocation of standpipes in 1953; and he also referred to the honourable senior member for St. George asking a similar question. I do not remember the honourable member tabling that Question; I think he asked it just as he asked his question today.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of Order. Merely to satisfy the hon. Minister on that score, I will say that the Question is No. 73 in the Question Book for 1954; and that it was tabled in June, 1954.

Hon. M. E. COX: However, the position is, that whereas there was a sum of a hundred and fifty five thousand dollars allocated for additional mains and standposts in 1953—54, we only had the sum of $45,000, and therefore, I would not say that at least each parish should not have received one standpost. The position is largely due to the small amount of money which is allocated. Nevertheless, I am sure that the Department will try its best during this year to make up for the deficit of last year, just as we are doing in the case of St. George. I think I have covered all the points which have been made by honourable members.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to comment on the statement that it is proposed to make up this year, for the deficit of last year's installation of standposts. I can assure the honourable member that he will readily concede, that after all, this allocation of $45,000 for last year which is less than one third of the amount of the year before was not done by any external agency; it was done by the hon. Minister and the Government of which he is a member.

Hon. M. E. COX: There was no Ministerial set-up then. What was done, was done by the Water Works Department and the Sanitary Commissioners of the various parishes.

Mr. CRAWFORD: There is nothing of the kind. The Estimates Committee will go through the amounts which have been asked for by the respective Departments, but no doubt, members of the Government would be responsible for the formulation of policy, and the increase or decrease the amounts submitted by any Department. They were under no obligation to accept the figures submitted by any Government department. When it came to housing, they increased the allocation if they thought fit to do so. It is therefore incorrect and unfair, to shelter behind the Government's bankruptcy of policy, by suggesting that because of the institution of Ministerial status, they are bound to accept figures given by the Department relative to the extension of the water service.

Hon. M. E. COX: I did not say that we had to be guided by what the requirements were by the Departments. I was speaking of the various Sanitary Commissioners who submit to the Department, the number of standposts they want in the various parishes. I was not referring to the $45,000 at that stage.

4.25 p.m.

That does not make it correct. If I wanted to carry the matter further, I would ask the hon. Minister whether they accept the Department's figures for expenditure in St. Michael. The position is this: I do not want the public to get away with the misapprehension that because you had no Ministerial Status then, the Government had no control over the amount of money expended on water extension or the manner in which it was carried out. In other words, the inauguration of Ministerial Status really gave a certain amount of Parliamentary nomenclature to powers which they enjoyed before the introduction of Ministerial Status. Members of the Executive Committee in charge of water, housing, roads etc., previous to Ministerial Status, had the same power as they have now; because, under the Bushe Experiment, they were completely responsible for the expenditure of Government's policy and for the expenditure of Government's money.

All it means in fact is this: for some reason or other, the hon. Minister and his Government did not feel last year that more than $45,000 should be spent on the extension of the water service. The fact that this coincided with applications by the Highway Commissioners of the various parishes, means that all the Government intended to do was to give what the Commissioners asked for and nothing more. If they were concerned with the extension of the water services, they would not have accepted the figures of the Commissioners, but would have increased them, or if they were less concerned, they would have decreased them as they thought fit.

That contention is, that the Government was totally at fault when it decided in a year like 1953, to spend only $45,000 on water extension. It betrays a lack of appreciation of the urgency of extending water to the people. I remember saying in 1953, that it was a shame that even in Bridgetown, you still had people carrying water on their heads every day. I said that that did not obtain in Port-of-Spain; that in Port-of-Spain every single house had water in it.

I am pleased to see that there has been a virtual reversal of policy; and instead of spending $45,000 in this financial year, we are spending a figure four times this amount. I still say, however, that it is not going fast or far enough; and I want the Hon. Minister to bear in mind, that we had water extension proposals before the Five Year Plan. The old Ten Year Plan had a big water development scheme in it. But as I said, a little while ago, these proposals were bogged down; because, during the war and immediately after, you could not get equipment. Now that it is available, sir, let us get all that we can and make all the water we can available to as many people as we can in the island.

The Government has increased the water rates. They are getting more revenue for the department. Since they are making people pay more for water, it is expected that they will give more people water. At the rate at which we are going, it is highly possible that the amount allocated within the Five Year Plan for the extension of the water services will be exhausted before the end of the period. I sincerely hope that will take place; and when that happens, I want the Government to say that they are not stopping there; but will get more money either by way of loan or from General Revenue, to carry an even further extension than was contemplated at the time of the introduction of the Five Year Plan.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would like to say a word or two by way of rejoinder to the hon. Minister. They said, that the yard stick used is not based on population. I would keenly be interested to know, on what principle it is based. Is it based on distance? The hon. Minister said, that St. Lucy had so many standposts in excess. That statement is inaccurate. I take it, that he has in mind the statement which he read in this House sometime ago, as to the number of standposts in every parish. As far as St. Lucy is concerned the number which the hon. Minister read was inaccurate. It was in excess of the actual number of standposts in the parish.

We were surprised to hear that we had so many; and when the Commissioners checked, we found that the number was below the number which the hon. Minister stated. He may have got from some quarter,

the information which he read out, but that information was incorrect. Even if his figures were right, we do not want to talk about "so many in excess." That gives us the idea that you feel, we are being too generously treated with water. Water is the first and most important and indispensable service in any community. The things which the honourable member catalogued in such detail just now (housing, roads, fisheries, etc.,) not one of them is entitled to take precedence over water. There must be water first, and then roads and housing. In other words, the order is (a) water, (b) roads and housing.

One other point was made in connection with the additional standpost being laid in accordance with the requirements of the Commissioners of Health. Speaking as a Commissioner, I will say that we are written to by the Department or by the Ministerial Office as the case may be now, saying that it was proposed to give us next year, either two or three standposts, (never more than three) and where would we recommend that they be placed. Commissioners of Health are severely limited in connection with the number of standposts. We have no freedom as to the number; only as to the site, which is of course a great factor.

The hon. Minister can bear me out, that early this year, we had a number of standposts erected in St. Lucy at places where we recommended. We submitted a list to the Ministry, feeling that perhaps only the Water Works Department would know about them, and we wanted the Minister to know personally. The hon. Minister responded very quickly. We received a letter from his office one afternoon and he descended on us the following morning to discuss the list we have submitted, and which was in the vicinity of one dozen standposts. Anyhow, I understand that the Minister was told that we were not necessarily expecting all this year, but would like as many as possible.

Hon. M. E. COX: I would like to make a short reply to the hon. senior member for St. Lucy. I am still satisfied that the figures I quoted at the time were correct. The Water Works Department not only knows the number of standposts in the various parishes, but they have a map or chart of them, so that they can refer to each point and tell you where a standpost is. I am convinced that the figures which I receive from them were correct.

I would also like to say that when I referred to an excess of standposts in St. Lucy, I did not mean to infer that this parish had more standposts than it should have had. I merely said, if it were on a population basis as the hon. member wants this Committee to believe, St. Lucy would not have had as many as it has; because St. Lucy, is one of the sparsely populated parishes in the island.

There are more standposts there per head, than in any other parish.

4.35 p.m.

Now, sir, a point was made about the Government increasing the rates for water, and by that method, it is receiving more revenue. I have already explained to the House, and I would repeat, that the increase which the Government made on this water service, was to meet the increased cost which the Electric Company charged the Government for lifting the water. It was $45,000 which the Electric Company charged the Government for lifting the water; and I may also point out, that whereas we brought in the increase for water rates after the financial year, the Government had to pay the increased cost for lifting the water long before that time. Again I want to say, that the increase in the water service was due to the increased charges by the Electric Company. The Government increased the water rates to bring in $50,000 and the Electric Company charged $45,000 for lifting the service; therefore, it is not true to make the public believe, that the Government increased the water rates so as to put more money into the Treasury. The reverse is true.

Sir, if the Electric Company tomorrow increases their rates by 2/- a unit, we will have to pay it unless we pass a law to prevent it. Let me say, that the water from the Belle Pumping Station, as well as at Bowmanston, and a new well which is opened at a place called Sweet Vale, is now being lifted by electricity. As I was saying, if the company were to raise their cost to two shillings a unit, we will have to pay it unless we brought in a bill and passed it to disallow the increased cost.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, the longer you live the more you learn. Are you telling me, that with a public utility service like water, because the Electric Company has increased its rates, the Government should also increase its water rates so as to equate the increase cost that the Electric Company made on the Government? That is absolute nonsense. It all depends on the point of view from which the Government views the matter. We must remember, that Government is not a commercial establishment which must work in such a way that its revenue from a particular source must quadrate the expenditure. Do you mean to say, that every time you increase salaries of the people who are engaged in your water supply service, you will also have to increase the water rates of the consumers? I think Government is absolutely wrong in its conception of the value of water, and the service to the community. I think Government does not appreciate the fact that water is indispensable. They are lots of poor people who have a water service, but cannot afford to pay more rates; they only get the water service, because they have no one to bring it for them. The Government has increased its taxation directly and indirectly in every direction; and although Government may have had in its budget for taxation the increase in the cost of water, I see no reason why it should be increased. Water is no luxury. It is even different from services like a telephone or electricity. The hon. Minister made the statement that the Government has increased its water rates to pay for increased rates made by the Electric Company on the Government. My statement was, that the Government has increased its water rates.

Hon. M. E. COX: The hon. member's statement was, that because the Government has increased the water rates, it has got more revenue out of the people.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Anyone should know that except an infant of nine months. If you pick up the Estimates and look at the figures for revenue for last year or this year, you will see, that there is an increase in the revenue from the Water Works Department. Let us also conceive, that the expenditure has also increased; but we must also bear in mind that the Water Works Department is not the hon. member's private business or mine; it is a Government Department. Would I expect from this Government today, should we have to pay more salaries to the employees of the Water Works Department, in order to equate the expenditure, that Government will come here and ask us to increase the water rates to consumers? The hon. Minister is suggesting that between the last time and the time that we paid this increase to the Water Works, there has been no increase in water rates. Within the last 15 years, the cost of electricity went up about three times; and the cost of labour also went

up, but there was no increase in the water rates. I am suggesting that this increase in the cost of electricity for lifting water should have been absorbed by Government revenue in another manner, than by tacking it on to the increased cost of water rates.

Mr. LEWIS: I think we have gone a little wrong on this matter today. I would like to let the hon. Minister in charge of this measure know that the increase in water rates was part of the Five Year Plan of Development and Taxation and the vote for increase rates for Electricity came after that. The increase had nothing whatever to do with the increased rates for electricity. I well remember a statement which I made, when I said, that you are collecting money to finance your Five Year Plan, and the increase which you have just put on the people, you will have to carry it all to the Electric Company. I also told the Government that if it had had more foresight, it would have generated its own electricity; and not allow the taxes which it was collecting from the people who pay water rates, to go to the Electric Company to prevent that company from borrowing money to extend its business.

4.45 p.m.

The explanation which we have heard today, is a political explanation; but it is not the facts. However, that is not my point at all. I understand that because it was expected that the Labour Welfare Fund would have been used for this purpose of taking water to the people. That is what we have heard, was the explanation for the small sum of money in 1953. You had $45,000 last year, and $195,000 this year! Last year we were told that we were getting all the material we wanted. Anyhow, I would just like to remind the hon. Minister that this is the burden of my complaint. If the material have gone up in price since the introduction of the Five Year Plan, (because it will mean that we set out to pay $200,000 but we have got now to spend $400,000;) we are not being told about prices at all. Even now, we have a block vote.

Hon. M. E. COX: I must apologise to the hon. member. The price is approximately the same; but it is a question of speeding up these installations. Many more installations were made this year than last year, and we are prepared to make more installations. (Mr. LEWIS: I am glad to hear that.) I repeat, it is a question of speeding up these installations.

The question that Head I stand part of the schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative

Head III.—Medical Services

Head III — Medical Services, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that Head III. stand part of the schedule. As hon. members will see, the amount of $350 is required for the provision of sanitary conveniences at the Mental Hospital. The Director of Public Works has pointed out, that it is appropriate that these repairs be carried out now; and he has proposed that the sum of $350 will meet the Bill. The other amount of $468 is in connection with the supply of electricity at "Avalon." I beg to move that Head III stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I am glad to see while reading his Report, that Mr. Foster, the Organisation and Methods Expert, has agreed with me that at the beginning of the financial year, we are getting a misleading statement as to the financial position of the colony. I have been saying this all the time. This is the explanation which we are given in the Note to this Supplementary Estimate, relative to the supply of electricity at "Avalon": "The sum of $500 was provided in the Estimates for 1953-54 under Part II Capital Expenditure, Head III — Medical Services, to meet the cost of laying an underground electric cable from the General Hospital to "Avalon". This work was completed late in the financial year, 1953-54, and the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation did not tender their bill, which amounts to $468, until after the close of the financial year."

Mr. Chairman, we want any money which has to be spent, and any bills which are outstanding to be told to us at the beginning of the financial year; so that we will know what the financial position of the colony is. It is of no use having money in the Estimates for a job and you do not put in the amount to cover Bills etc., which have not been tendered; and then you give the impression that the $500 which you voted had been spent and that the balance at the end of the year is so much. That is a very wrong method. There are things which are ordered through the Crown Agents, and nothing is put in the Estimates in connection with these things; the year has passed and when you come to the middle of the next Estimates, you want money to pay for an item which is now arriving. If you have ordered anything, you must have a record that the order is outstanding. Even if the price has increased, at least you could put in the old price in the new Estimates. If it is a whole item, you re-introduce the item in the Estimates, and that will give you a true picture of the state of affairs. Here it is, that these people have forgotten to send in a Bill, (I do not know how they manage that,) and now you have a Bill for a Supplementary Estimate of $468. I do not think that it is fair to the Government to deal with things like that. It is the Government's fault if it is done.

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

On the motion of Hon. M. E. Cox seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS the Resolution for $40,816 was passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the Chairman, reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee of Supply were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. Cox, the House was adjourned for half an hour.

On re-assembling:

REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following from the Hon. R. N. Turner, Chief Secretary,

2nd November, 1954.

Sir,

With further reference to your letter of the 15th October, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor will receive the Reply of the Honourable House of Assembly to His Excel-

lency's Speech in the Legislative Council Chamber at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 16th November.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. N. TURNER,
Chief Secretary.

The Clerk,
House of Assembly,

LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—With your permission I would like to ask for leave to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes, in order to discuss a matter which I consider of some importance to the country.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received information from the honourable senior member for St. Philip, that he intends to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes to debate a matter of public importance. I will inform the honourable member, that I consider that it would be more appropriate to ask for leave to make this motion as soon as Government Business is concluded. I have intimated to the Minister concerned, the honourable member's desire; but I do not think I can allow him to interrupt Government Business at this stage.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Did I understand Your Honour to say, as soon as Government Business is concluded? Normally, Government Business may go on until 1 o'clock in the morning. I am asking for leave to move the adjournment now; because, in the first place a motion for adjournment takes precedence over other motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not this type of motion. In respect to this type of motion, permission is usually given. That has been the practice before the introduction of the Ministerial Status. The motion for adjournment which takes precedence over other motions, is the motion for the adjournment of the full sitting of the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I was asking for leave, so as to give the House some idea of what I wanted to discuss, and in order to influence the voting one way or the other.

Mr. SPEAKER: If permission is granted and it comes to a vote, that will be alright. The hon. member might well wait until the Government has discharged some of its business.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If Your Honour suggests that I should wait until a little later in the evening I will do so.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT *RE* DEEP WATER HARBOUR DELEGATION

Mr. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— Before the Government resumes business, I should like to make a statement concerning the recent visit to London of the delegation from this colony, on the Deep Water Harbour project. Members of the House must have read, as the general public doubtless have read, the communique which was issued simultaneously in the English Press and the Barbados Press, and was subsequently the substance of a broadcast over the Radio.

I think it is appropriate that we should at this stage, make a statement in the House, (even although before the institution of Ministerial Status there have been occasions when statements of the sort I am about to make have been made;) but there have been extremely few and far between. It is almost impossible for an occasion like the sending of a delegation on such an important matter to pass without a statement being made, as is the normal practice on similar occasions in the House of Commons.

In parenthesis I may add that on Tuesday night of last week, I happened to be in the House of Commons when the Foreign Secretary made a statement of the sort I am making now, on his recent visit to Europe to conclude the Nine Power pact; and Mr. Nutting made a statement on the Suez Canal negotiations and settlement. Possibly it may be said, that the House should have been informed before the general public. The only reason why the communique was issued, was mainly because we have been fortunate to get a certain measure of support in some sections of the Press in England. When I say that, I do not mean to say that other sections of the English Press have not supported us. But the type of newspaper which would be read by prospective investors is the only type of newspaper to which an approach has been made; and furthermore a request was made by some of them to us, as a delegation, for information about the Deep Water Harbour project. If the *Financial Times,* or the *Times,* or the *Express* group of newspapers gave us a boost, it is immaterial, if the *Daily Sketch* or the *Daily Mirror* have said nothing about it. It is because when the matter was, so to speak red hot it was essential that the British investing public should know as early as possible the outcome of the talks, that it was agreed that this communique should be published in Great Britain so as to get it in the British Newspapers, which already knew of the visit of the delegation from this island.

There is not much that I can usefully add to the communique. I will say in a general way that we were as successful as we could wish to be; the main thing being that we needed the approval of the Colonial Office. The benefit of the Colonial Office was to persuade the British Treasury to agree to it. Let me state for the benefit of members of the public who might be inclined to think that we are in a subservient position because we have to seek the approval of the Colonial Office to borrow money, that even the Dominions who go on the London market to borrow money, have to get approval. Last week, New Zealand had to get approval to borrow money although it is a Dominion. So let us not hear any member of the public making a suggestion that we had to go hat in hand. If you want to raise a loan, you have to get such approval.

We were eminently successful, because we have got an agreement that, in the words of the communique, Barbados would be granted the means of external borrowing facilities for the purpose of raising a loan. Those words were framed to cover the possibility that we might borrow, not merely on the London market, but on the International one. In short, if we had to approach the International Bank for a loan, the British Government, far from putting obstacles in our way, would say that it was alright. The expression "external borrowing facilities" covers not only the London Market, but borrowing otherwise.

That is the main object; and if I am unable to tell the House the specific sum that we may wish to borrow, I am fairly convinced, that up to the four and a half million which was a contemplated figure, we could borrow if as a result of the further advice which I shall mention the sum is not less than that. The reason for not having specific figures is that even the most sympathetic—I might almost add—advised us to revise our plans. I am thinking of one person the chief adviser of the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation who sat in on our talks and who advises the Ministry of Transport on ports and Harbours in the British Empire, and who actually was

not present at a subsequent meeting because he had to go on a similar mission to some other part of the world. He had been to Gibraltar, and was going to Cyprus. His advice was that the tonnage which now comes in and out of Barbados was such, that he did not think that where our Deep Water Harbour facilities were concerned, it was necessary to have four berths. Every time that you approach the shipping people they add and add to the number of berths; because, ships' captains and owners feel that there should always be a berth available so that their ship can load or discharge and turn around right away. We were told right and left that the shipping people would say four, while other people would say that four are too many. We had the advice that this was a technical matter which should be ironed out, before the actual sum needed for the Deep Water Harbour was arrived at.

As the communique says, the project was agreed to on all sides as desirable even before we left here. There was a cable which came to this Government from one particular quarter that the Deep Water Harbour scheme was an admirable scheme, if possibly an ambitious one.

5.40 p.m.

The Financial Secretary and I passed through Canada and saw the representatives of the Canadian National Steamships and the Saguenay Terminals, and they have promised to send their Marine Superintendents who can give advice from ship-owners and shipmasters if we ask for their advice. We hope that the four sets of experts will be available here at the same time. In no case, certainly not in two cases, the question of professional fees will be paid as distinct, from their expenses and subsistence. One can only think that these are generous offers. It is obviously better, if all of them can come together; however, it is difficult for me to say when they will come. I know that the bulk shipping people would be quite prepared to come as early as next month. It may be possible for those persons to be here then; but obviously, it would be better if they would come with the others.

I do not think there is anything more I can say, except that I want to pay special tribute to the Financial Secretary for the tremendous help he was to the delegation; especially owing to the fact that he was working under great strain. I regret to say, he had a shadow of domestic disaster hanging over him; and in no circumstance did he show it. Certainly he did a magnificent job during the period he was in England. With that possible calamity staring him in the face, he nevertheless was always ready with his figures; and I must say, I doubt whether the most thorough cross-examiner at the Barbados Bar could equal the United Kingdom Treasury Officials in the nature, and the number, and the intensity of the questions which they put to him on our financial position; because, it must be remembered that the question of Colonial Development and Welfare is bound up with the question of financing the Deep Water Harbour. Because of the fact that some people thought that we are biting off more than we can chew, we had to show what we have done with the money that came our way and what we will do with the next allocation from C. D. & W. funds, what we can collect during the next period of five years, what we are going to do while at the same time we are building the Deep Water Harbour. That was the whole hurdle which we had to get over. It was thrown at us from more than one quarter. I think the greatest tribute which could be paid to the efforts of the delegation, was the fact, that two leading Colonial Office officials admitted that for some years they had been very sceptical about being willing to approve of this scheme, owing to the fact that they thought it would be a tremendous scheme for Barbados to undertake, depending as she does on sugar alone. However, they said that the case put before them was so compelling, that it made them feel that Barbados, without development, was nowhere; therefore, Barbados should have a Deep Water Harbour. We could not afford to do without it. They were glad then to feel that they were helping Barbados in its future progress and development.

Well, as was set out in the communique, it was a useful project; one which should be proceeded with subject to determining the exact size of the Harbour. I do not mean necessarily the length of the Harbour, and the wharfage, but the number of berths. Subject to that, it should proceed as soon as possible. It was agreed on our part, that the Government of Barbados should consider the project as among the highest priorities in the development programme.

It was put to us — and one can see, why things like harbour works should be financed completely by loan. Things like that are there for all time more or less, and posterity will have as much benefit or more than the generation that builds them; therefore, finance to build a Deep Water Harbour should be purely raised by a loan. One can see when we had to press the point, that we should avoid excessive interest; and it was the sort of thing which called for a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. You will note that the word assistance is used when it comes to that fund; because one has to cover the possibility that of Colonial Development and Welfare allocations, some of it may be in the nature of a grant and some may be in the nature of loans.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have covered all the points of the Agreement. There is only one other technical point which may arise, and it is with respect to the depth to which it is proposed to dredge the prospective harbour. As hon. members are aware, the consulting Engineers suggested that for the purpose of getting enough of your own material, (that is to say, enough that you would not have to purchase from anybody else,) you should dredge the harbour to a depth of 35ft. It is one of the technical things to be decided, because it is necessary to know whether we should dredge to that depth. On the other hand it may be argued, if you are reclaiming 132 acres of land, it might be advisable to do that extra dredging, in order to have the stuff to fill in the reclaimed site We also must have persons with experience of unloading and loading of bulk sugar; and I shall state here now that Government will be coming to the House soon with a Resolution asking to pay for the expense of bringing to this island an expert with knowledge of loading of bulk sugar. We hope that when he comes, it will be possible for an expert of the Ministry of Transport to come along at the same time as the consulting Engineers. We are endeavouring to get everybody with experience and expert knowledge here at the same time.

I am very glad, Mr. Speaker, to make this announcement of a very successful mission. I feel sure the House will feel in their hearts as I feel, the debt of gratitude we owe for the work done; especially by the other members of the delegation, in persuading by arguments and an array of figures which were put before the officials we met, as to how necessary it was for us to get help from the United Kingdom Government.

I would just like to add, (inasmuch as I told the House when I was going that it was a possibility that the delegation would go to Washington and Ottawa to discuss emigration matters, and that the visit depended on information, which we were to get from

those places as to the appropriate time when we should come, that we got that information in the form of a long case, which set out the position of employment in the United States and the possible employment of a very limited number of West Indians. As a result of that cable, there is no need to go now. There is another method to be adopted. Let me say again, that as a result of a cable received, we did not go to Washington or to Ottawa; but I am happy to say, that the matter is being dealt with on the highest plane, as far as the United States is concerned.
5.50 p.m.

That matter is being dealt with say, on the highest plane as far as the United States is concerned. As far as I can see at present, the Canadian position need not be dealt with now. When I say that the matter is being dealt with on the highest plane, honourable members will understand that it is necessary to deal with the American position on the highest plane. I must say that because I did say before I left here, that there was a possibility of our going to Washington. It was only on Monday of last week that we received information that there was no point in going there.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I should like to ask a question. We seem to be following a new theory.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member asking a question?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not know the Rule, whereby you can make a statement apart from permission being granted, or on a specific motion. The Hon. Premier spoke for about half an hour without a specific motion; and I want to enquire from Your Honour for the future, what will be the position when statements are made in the House. Are you accepting a statement which is not a prepared statement for the House, as one to which on any future date you can make reference; or will you accept a debate on speech which is made in the form of a statement?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question is easily answered. The Hon. Premier asked for leave to make the statement, which he has made. As long as a Minister asks permission to make a statement and he is granted leave, he makes that statement. That is in keeping with the established practice in other places. If the honourable member wants to make a motion to consider the statement which has been made—

Mr. LEWIS: On a point of Order. The honourable member says that he was in the House of Commons when a similar statement was made. I want to know, whether it is a custom that when a Minister makes a statement on a matter, he will give time on another day for a debate to take place on that matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not within my knowledge.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave to deal with Orders Nos. 9, 11, and 16 as the next Orders of the Day.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ORDER NO. 12

Principal Peasant Agricultural Officer

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: To move the passing of the following Resolution: A Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 12 Order, 1954."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—I am asking leave to deal with this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As honourable members will see from the Addendum to this Resolution:—

"Following upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Dos Santos Commission with effect from 1st April, 1952, the number of Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructors was increased from one to four, with a corresponding reduction in the number of Peasant Agricultural Instructors from seventeen to fourteen. Prior to this change the Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor was required to hold the minimum qualification of the Diploma of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture or its equivalent. It is considered that one of the Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructors should possess the minimum qualification mentioned above together with about ten years' practical experience and should be responsible, under the Deputy Director of Agriculture, for the training and control of the other Instructors. The original post of Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor has been vacant since the promotion of Mr. C. A. E. Beckles as Co-operative Officer in September, 1951."

The new proposed policy for the Agricultural Department is so far as the extension of this service is concerned, is that under the extended system, the island will be divided into three provinces. There is province "A," which is the southern province, and which will comprise of St. Michael, Christ Church and St. Philip. The Central province will comprise of St. Andrew, St. Joseph, St. George and St. John, and the Northern will comprise of St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. James and St. Thomas.
6.00 p.m.

As a result of this new policy, this new post is now being created. The officer will be in charge of the entire extension service, and under him, one Senior Peasant Agricultural Inspector will be allocated to each province. You will therefore find the Principal Peasant Agricultural Inspector occupying a role whereby, he will have complete control over the three Peasant Agricultural Instructors. Each Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor will be in charge of one province or area.

In the Northern Province there will be five Peasant Agricultural Instructors under a Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor, and the stations under the control of those Peasant Agricultural Instructors will be Jerusalem Agricultural Station and Bullen's Agricultural Station; and they will have under control approximately 9,649 peasant holdings. In so far as the Central Province is concerned, there will be another Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor in charge of that area; and he will have under his control, four Peasant Agricultural Instructors under whose control will be Haggatt's and Groves Agricultural Stations and 7,429 peasant holdings. In respect of the Southern Province, there will be five Peasant Agricultural Instructors under the Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor, and the Agricultural Stations in that province will be Sayers Court. and the Home, along with 10,642 peasant holdings.

I have explained how under the new system the island will be divided into three provinces or areas, and each province will be under the control of a Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor, and they in turn, will be under the control of the Principal Peasant Agricultural Instructor,— the new post which this Order seeks to create. The Director of Agriculture has recommended that one of the posts of Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor be abolished, and the post of Principal Peasant Agricul-

tural Instructor created in its place; and that the Principal Peasant Agricultural Instructor should have qualifications equivalent to those formerly held by the Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor, and that he be put on the junior technical officers scale.

As the Addendum states: "It is most desirable that one of the Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructors should possess the minimum qualification mentioned above together with about ten years practical experience and should be responsible under the Deputy Director of Agriculture for the training and control of the other Instructors."

It is clear, sir, that this officer, because of his greater responsibility and training, should be accorded a higher status than that of the other Peasant Agricultural Instructors; a position which existed prior to the re-adjustment which took place in 1952.

The main task of agricultural extension, is to educate people out of thoughts and actions in which they have become entrenched over several generations, by means of demonstrations on government lands and individual peasant holdings. The use of new techniques and the procurement of goodwill and confidence of the people is essential for the successful accomplishment of the task; and much depends on the supervision, assistance and guidance given by the Principal Peasant Agricultural Instructor to his staff in the field.

Honourable members will see that the creation of this new post, will in reality, be a means of putting the Department on a better footing. The extension work of the Department is one of the most essential functions which the Department has to perform. I think, sir, that because of the duties which this new officer will be called upon to perform, it will be appreciated, that he must be a man of similar calibre to the Deputy Director of Agriculture; because, he may be called upon at any time to act in that capacity. In any case his functions and duties will be of a very responsible nature, in that he will have to see after the technical training of the other Peasant Agricultural Instructors under his control.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker,— All of us, I think, are certainly conscious of the fact that if we are to increase the importance of agriculture in this colony, (a thing which is so vitally necessary,) it is essential that we have Orders of the kind as was introduced by the hon. Minister. We want to give consideration to the small land holder, — within the last few years officially known as the peasant; but who is still known in our country districts as the small holder. We must educate him to the possibilities of almost doubling the production from the small plot that he holds.

That being so, sir, we have got to zone. The policy of the Minister responsible for agriculture, has got to include a form of zoning of sizes of plots for the production of certain crops. A man with one-eighth of an acre, for instance, should not be encouraged to produce cane; because, he can never get an income from a plot of that size planted in cane. What we must aim at, is not a small subsistence for the peasant, but that he should be able to make his entire living from his plot. What we must do in this country, is to multiply the independent farmers.

The majority of small holders in this island still have to look to the estates for a few days work per week; which would not happen to the majority of them, if we were to instruct them along the proper lines. One eighth of an acre of land allocated to the production of green vegetables, cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, string beans and things like that, will give, (I am not talking from my own imagination, but am more or less quoting the opinion of agricultural experts) with scientific cultivation methods, a living to a rural agricultural family. That is what we must aim at.

6.10 p.m.

It is not merely enough to extend your Agricultural services. Peasant Instructors are essential, but they are not enough. You will have to increase the credit granted to a small holder to help him till his land. And if land must have the meaning which I want to see it have, (that is to say, if the land of a peasant is to provide him an adequate income,) you must extend a much larger credit to him than you are extending now through the Peasants' Loan Bank. You will have to credit the peasant with facilities for irrigation. That means, you have got to develop all your irrigation possibilities throughout the island. I know it is going to cost money, but you must not be afraid of the cost, especially when you think of the future results. In these modern times, deserts have been turned into gardens, but only through extensive credit to agriculture, plus a scientific development of agriculture. Modern Agricultural Science plus extensive credit facilities, will produce the independent farmer which should be the ambition of all of us around this table. It is one of the very few means we have at our disposals, for reducing considerably, the unemployment in this colony. When we develop the vegetable industry of this country to its highest possible pitch through our small holders, we are increasing considerably, the wealth of the owners of those small plots in the first place, and in the second place, we are increasing the wealth of this island.

These pocket-handkerchief plots are very often sneered at, and with a reason. Pocket-handkerchief plots entirely divorce from credit by the Government to the owners and from scientific instructions, are more or less economically useless; as far as the ambition goes for the independant farmer. For some years there have been experiments in the colony of Trinidad with two-acre, three-acre and four-acre plots, to see the maximum wealth which could be obtained with the guidance of the Agricultural Department to the peasants concerned plus the credit afforded them by the Government. It has been seen that rural small holders can make an adequate living for himself and family from an average size plot. It has also been stated, that land tenure in the West Indies is a tenure of small holders, and the Colonial policy is to see, that as far as possible, the average small holdings in these areas develop their plots to the maximum.

The West Indies, as far as we know today, do not possess any natural wealth in any quantities, from which we can hope to build or to make any adequate output. We do not possess minerals, and except for the colony of British Guiana, there are no waterfalls for natural production of hydro-electric power. In these small places our only asset is agricultural land. We therefore have to buckle ourselves down, and concentrate on increasing our wealth from agriculture. I believe it is true to say, that one of the reasons why Colonial policy emphasizes the importance of discovery where wealth from the small plots (can be so derived as to become an income for the average rural family in the West Indies,) is for the forecasting of the future policy of having the land broken up into small plots. If it is true to say that with three of four-acre plots, or even plots smaller than those, there is a possibility of the average West Indian rural family earning an adequate living, then the problem of unemployment may be solved to a

large extent, from the breaking up of plantations into those small portions and re-distributing them to the people.

6.20 p.m.

That is what the agricultural experiments will ultimately have to discover. There is the plantation system with its history of exploitation, with its present inability to employ surplus labour, with its creation of the rural slums of this West Indian area; is that inevitability for economic survival? If it is, then we have to look to somewhere else to supply our growing peoples, but not one agricultural scientist or economist can state with any degree of accuracy or with any degree free from rational contradiction, that this inevitability of the plantation system must go on, or that we must starve and remain poor. No scientist or economist can say that with any authority today; he cannot say so, because he cannot state it without fear of rational contradiction. The matter has not been tried out; but if, as a result of these experiments it is proved that the small landholder in the West Indies, guided by agricultural science and given credit by the colonial Governments, and that the policy can result in a system where those small landholders can make an adequate living for themselves and their families, only then will the colonial Governments have accomplished or rather solved the problem of West Indian poverty. The abolition of slavery was a unique step. It was such a historic step in its day, that you cannot blame the statesmen of that day for not having foreseen the problem which they were creating in the next century. In the 20th century, the problem of Colonial Governments is not the abolition of slavery, but the abolition of the plantation system. That is our problem. It is a problem which we have to face. Suppose we divided up the land tomorrow, it would be worked with the present system of cultivation; and with the lack of greater knowledge on the part of the peasant, we would sink into deeper poverty than this generation has known. With the development of technical knowledge and the increase of credit, our people must no longer be growing up with the idea that land cultivation is a menial occupation. Who farms the land in Great Britain, Norway, Denmark and the United States? Our boys have been there, and they have seen the type of people who farm the land and use their hands to help get in the crops; but the cultivation of land is looked down upon here, because most of it is done under semi-slavery. With all the lip service and the idealism which we may at times register for agricultural labour, yet in the depths of our subconsciousness we despise it. That state of affairs must be abolished. It will be abolished only when the agricultural labourer ceases to be an agricultural labourer and becomes an independent farmer. That must be the aim of all West Indian Governments in the future; that must be the aim or a deeper policy which we must adopt. The plantation system can no longer find work and support for our growing population. Even during the crop season, there are thousands of people about the country side who are idle. Therefore we have got to work towards a policy whereby that state of affairs can be changed. Just as in the 19th century the British Parliament abolished slavery, so the West Indian Parliaments in the near future must be in a position to abolish the plantation system which is a new form of slavery. The deepest and the most depressing problem in the whole world is an agricultural proletariat, where those who work the land are the least important of human beings in the entire community. A metropolitan proletariat is more natural to the workers. More or less an agricultural proletariat is almost a contradiction in terms. As far as I know, it is only in the West Indies that you have an agricultural proletariat. It is the child of slavery, because without slavery it could not have arisen. It is the result of the bringing in chains of several thousands of black strangers in these communities to develop the estates. But we have gone beyond that. There is no work for the employment of people. The plantations can no longer fulfil their economic purpose in this land of ours. The plantations can no longer find work for those who have willing hands to work, and who will still work

6.30 p.m.

It is axiomatic that West Indian Governments should find a solution for this terrible condition which should not exist in the 20th century with all of its scientific knowledge of planting, and of what agriculture means. Throughout the world, agricultural credit is one of the most important means for the development of agriculture. In the United States of America farm credit, as they call it, is so important, that no politician of either party, and no group of politicians, dare to ignore it. In England, all Governments have awakened to the necessity, to the vital necessity of subsidising agriculture by enormous sums, in order to ensure the survival of the country during a conflict. Towards the end of the 19th century, English agriculture went into decay; but since the 1914 — 18 War, all British Governments have made agriculture a most important economic interest.

Denmark, little Denmark, by the pure development of a scientific agriculture, has arisen from a poor nation into one of the most social comfortable nations in Europe. Their cows produce more milk per unit, I believe, than any other cows in the world. Here it is, Sir, what do our small holders know of animal husbandry? This is one line of development, one line only which if carried to the pitch to which it can be carried, would increase both the wealth of the individual owner of the cow, and the wealth of the colony; and not only wealth, but nourishment.

In Barbados we have a regrettably high infant mortality rate. I saw in Medical Reports that this terribly high infant mortality rate is due in great part to congenital malnutrition,—starvation of the mother. If mothers drink milk their babies and the bodies of the children will be strong enough to provide against the risks and hazards that come within the first few months after birth. Congenital malnutrition is a great cause of the high infant death rate, which we have in this country. With the development of a proper cattle industry among the peasantry, this is one of the evils which this colony could reduce considerably.

So, Sir, I welcome any Bill, any Resolution, and any measure coming from the Government for the extension of agricultural services; but I warn the Minister for Agriculture that this is only the beginning. You are on the right track; but my only hope is, that it will not be the single track. You have got to create a technique which will give the peasant knowledge of how to get the best in various sizes of plots. With an acre of land or two acres, is it best to develop fodder crops entirely for the feeding of three cows? And with half of an acre, is it best to develop green vegetables to get the greatest return for the owner of that area?

I am not an agricultural expert; but I have been so interested in the agricultural economy of this country, that I have read almost every pamphlet and every report published by the Agricultural and Economic Experts on the West Indies. There is not one of them who does not stress that we could get considerably greater production from the soil, than

we obtain today. There are sceptias in our midst, and perhaps from their social origin they are conditioned to be sceptics. They are those who believe, that it takes two acres of land to grow fodder for a cow. It really depends on the grass, the supply of water and other things. Just to give out information like that, and that it takes two acres of land to grow fodder for a cow, is worth nothing. Two acres in a rainless area, two acres without the possibility of irrigation, or two acres with some sort of scrub grass may not support, or will only support one cow.

I have read that in the Island of Puerto Rico one acre of land devoted to the production of fodder grass, will support three cows. That is the kind of agriculture that we want to see developed here. If there is one industry to rival sugar, it is a dairy industry; and it promises well. I am not speaking as an expert. The details which I am giving now, are details from agricultural experts who have tried out experiments. In a general way, however, I have read enough to have the conviction that with the development of our agricultural economy, it is possible that we can almost double our present production; and consequently, give greater social security to the small holders than there is the possibility of giving today.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the future policy that Governments of this country should pursue. Either they pursue that policy, or they perish.

6.40 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—We have listened to a very illuminating address by the honourable junior member for St. John, and I would like to thank him very much for it; because, I did not know so much of the subject until he had spoken. But the question is: how far does his address bear on the question before us? What has it to do with the re-naming of one of these Senior Peasant Instructors as Principal Peasant Instructor, and asking of him more qualifications? I would have liked to hear him on that point; or to know, whether it would be better to have two Principal Peasant Instructors instead of one.

What I would like to direct to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is, that it seems to me, as if we have no policy as regards the Instructors of peasants. At one time we had a Deputy Director of Agriculture who performed miracles in his instructions to the peasants. Now that he has gone, it seems as if we have not got anybody who can do that. Therefore, it seems as if we have to alter up the Department to suit. In the Addendum you have said, that the original post of Senior Peasant Agricultural Instructor has been vacant since the promotion of Mr. C. A. E. Beckles as Co-operative Officer in 1951; and you have also said, that Agricultural Instructors to the Peasants, are very necessary. It is very good to know that we are asking for more qualifications for this post. We have taken Mr. Beckles and appointed him as Co-operative Officer, but I do not know, if he is taken from doing his previous work, or if he is unable to instruct peasants now that he has been appointed to a different post.

Sir, are we creating these posts as a matter of convenience, or have we a policy to work on? Do we know if we want so many Peasant Instructors to instruct our peasants? I would have been very grateful to the honourable junior member for St. John, if he had touched on this point.

I would like to call attention to Clause 3 of the Order. I pointed out on previous occasions, that these Orders are usually dated to come into effect before the House approves of them when there is special reason for it. I have pointed out that things like this Order coming to the House for consideration, can have no effect until they are approved by both Houses of the Legislature; and since you do not know the date when the House of of Assembly or the other place is going to give consideration to the matter, fixing a retroactive date may be difficult. But there are two ways of doing it and one should be "shall come into operation—" and the other "shall be deemed to have come into operation." Clause 3 is worded as follows:

"This Order shall come into operation on the 1st day of October, 1954."

I would like the hon. Minister to know, that the Law Officers have agreed with the opinion which I gave on this matter on the last occasion; and I can prove it from laws which they sent down here. You cannot say, "on the 2nd November this Order shall come into operation on the 1st day of October." This Clause should be worded differently. I think the time which these things should come into operation is a matter for the Houses of the Legislature: As I have said, this Clause is not properly worded, and this Order is being dealt with at this late hour. I will therefore ask the hon. Minister to take note of what I have been saying, and get instructions on it.

The next thing is, that we are considering the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 12 Order, 1954, and No. 14 and No. 15 are on the Order Paper and No. 13 was passed sometime ago. I opine that there will come a time when we will not know what to look for, with respect to the Civil Establishment Orders. These Orders are not bound other, a consolidated Order, so that we would know what to look for; and so that we can see at a glance what the Civil Establishment is. This is the eleventh month of the year and we have had 14 amending Orders of one kind. I am wondering how the Government and the people concerned, keep track of them. I think the Government should pay some attention to this matter. I had been hoping that the Government would have given some information to the House as to whether it is a good idea to have somebody with higher qualifications, to fill the post of Principal Peasant Agricultural Instructor; or as to whether the post was necessary. The Department of Science and Agriculture like the Water Works Department, is a department that can say, "we want this, and if we cannot get it agriculture in the country will die." Is this post necessary? Have we a policy when we can say that we consider this post so vital, although it has been vacant since 1951? Sir, these Orders are made up in a way which is different from the old Laws There is absolutely no mention of qualifications in the Order which we are dealing with; yet the question of qualifications is mentioned in the Addendum to the Resolution. As hon. members know, when this Resolution leaves us the Addendum will be deleted from it.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—It is not easy for us at this stage to ascertain the full value of this change which we are about to make; nor can we tell at this time, whether it would bring in any new benefits to small holders of this island. But I do know, with the growing problem of over population and unemployment, this Government is bound to find some solution and to find it soon, to this problem. In attempting to make this change and to create this post, that calls for more serious supervision, and imparting of the 'know-how' to the small holders. We are templating to give to small holders a new incentive to cultivate their parcels of land more zealously, and more intentionally; and I do think this change will be needed if we wish to pursue that end.

6.50 p.m.

The honourable junior member for St. John made reference to the necessity for animal husbandry and a greater improvement in the agricultural process in

this island. When I was a boy, even up to about 20 years ago, (Laughter) this island from one end of it to the other, was full of work-oxen; these oxen were well fed and well looked after; but with the inception of the mechanical age, these oxen were disposed of, and I would like to know why their places cannot be taken by milch cattle to the same extent. The cane fodder which used to be utilised, is not taken any notice of today. I want to know, I repeat, why the places of these oxen cannot be taken by milch cattle, by means of which we could create a dairy industry in this island; so that we can have all the milk we want, without having to import so much milk from Holland, Venezuela and other places. When we import this canned stuff, we foster employment in the places from which we import it; whereas the people in this island are suffering from unemployment. (A MEMBER: Do you want to go back to the horse and buggy days?) I want no such thing. I am suggesting that we want to improve the whole agricultural set-up in this island.

Although I am supporting this change, and I am in hearty agreement with it, I do hope that in the end, the whole agricultural set-up in this island will be improved. We want to create an incentive to the small holders of this country so that when their crops are ripe, they will know that there is a sure market to receive these crops; and that they are not left to the whim and caprice of a few hawkers to do what they like. I hope the Hon. Minister of Agriculture will keep those points before his mind's eye. In making this change let us make the necessary provision for helping the small farmer dispose of his crop. I want to say that all these matters need to be gone into firmly, so that a proper method will be adopted for the help and benefit of the small farmers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As I intimated at the beginning of my speech, a new agricultural system is being created whereby 11 new stations will be constructed at various points in the island; and that will entail the expenditure of $120,000. The creation of this post is bound up with the new policy; I say that for the benefit of the honourable junior member for the City. This is a new policy in so far as the agricultural extension system is concerned. There will be 11 new houses. The three senior Agricultural Instructors and the four Junior Agricultural Instructors will each be granted a house with half an acre of land attached to it; and they will be scattered all over the island. Instead of the 6 Agricultural Stations which we have at present, there will be 17 of these Stations and the Principal Agricultural Instructor will be in charge of everything.

7.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, reference has been made to the number of peasants. It is good to go by figures. The number of peasants holding between one and ten acres number 4,237, and they control 7,072 acres of land. Those holding between an eighth of an acre and one acre number 23,383, controlling, 1,101 acres of land. Peasant holdings under an eighth of an acre number 3,132 controlling 200 acres of land.

The honourable junior member for St. John raised many points which are being considered by the Government. For the benefit of the honourable member I will give these figures: the average number of tons per acre reaped by estates as compared by peasants are, 1940, 22.80 (estates) and 13.15 (peasants); 1941, 23.29 (estates), 13.24 (peasants 1944, 25.73 (estates), 15.32 (peasants); 1946, 28.57, (estates), 20.59 (peasants); 1947, 25.87 (estates), 15.90 (peasants); 1948, 19.55 (estates), 10.02 (peasants); 1949, 24.30 (estates), 23.96 (peasants); 1950, 32.64 (estates), 28.51 (peasants); 1951, 40.05 (estates), 36.10 (peasants); 1952, 33.5 (estates) 1953, 32.59 (estates), 20.90 (peasants).

If you compare these figures, you will see that the difference per acre is 11.69. You will also see that the plantation system, as far as the planting of sugar cane is concerned, is more productive and is more beneficial to the economy of the island, and to the prosperity of everyone. I think that I should also make mention of the essential factors in this attempt to improve peasant agriculture. The first factor of the extension service to be carried out by the Department of Agriculture, is to educate the peasants and to persuade them to adopt a technique based on research both here in Barbados and elsewhere. The second factor is, further research into methods of improving yields from crops other than sugar cane, and the development of a more intensive form of agriculture of small holdings. The third point is to improve marketing facilities for agricultural produce.

Those are the main factors, and you will see, Mr. Speaker, that those are the same points which are engaging the attention of honourable members who have spoken on this Resolution. This is a new agricultural extension system under which the island will be divided into three areas, with this Principal Peasant Agricultural Instructor, the senior Peasant Agricultural Instructors and the Peasant Agricultural Instructors, as I have described. These officers will experiment, not only on the plots owned by peasants, but also on plots owned by Government. They will operate on an island wide basis; and they will be able to follow up and give advice from time to time, and become more acquainted with the problems of the peasants, and thus prove more beneficial especially as far as more intensive production is concerned.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker,—I do not know, if the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is correct, or if a mistake has been made. I think I heard him say, the Government proposes to establish 17 Agricultural Stations. Let me say, that before the Government attempts to do a thing like that, they should realise that 17 Agricultural Stations of the type already existing, would be too many for a small community like this: and their establishment must gobble up all the revenue which the Government intends to spend on the extension of agriculture.

This would only be a glorified scheme for the purposes of window dressing; and it would not produce what the Government wants an extended agricultural scheme to produce. We have the experience already as to what it costs to run the existing stations; and the benefits which are derived from their running are not commensurate with the cost. Therefore, I want to warn the Government that this colony is too small to have 17 agricultural stations, unless the Government does not really wish to accelerate the productive capacity of the island, but to find a few jobs for a couple of individuals who might be put to man these Stations. What the island wants now, Mr. Speaker, is not all these Stations, but measures to increase the average number of peasant proprietors through Governmental assistance, by way of long term credit or nominal rental.

What is more, Sir about two years ago, Trinidad allocated two and a half million dollars to encourage food production. I think that in this year's Estimates, they are about to provide seventeen million dollars, (I am not sure about the figure,) to be spent over a period of years: because, they have seen the necessity of ceasing to subsidise outside labour. They have realised that the island must be made as self-sufficient as possible. For that same reason, Sir, there is no use establishing a lot of sta-

tions, especially, since the honourable Minister has said, that an allocation of $120,000 will be spent on this project. One can quite easily see that 17 stations, or 11 along with the six which are now existing, would actually take the whole amount which is allocated under this Head.

I hope to be able to make a further statement in this matter when and if, the honourable Minister does bring down the provision of this sort for the establishment of these Stations. I am hoping that not only will the Government pack individuals into jobs, but see to it, that those to whom we give these jobs, are the best qualified people; and that relationship either friendly or by blood, is not considered. Whatever is said, sir, the productive capacity of our land is not as good as it was, when we had Mr. Halcrow attached to the Department of Agriculture. The Government failed to encourage that efficient officer to remain with us. The Government has failed, because Mr. Halcrow has gone, and the peasants have suffered considerably, due to the absence of the advice and assistance which this officer used to give.

7.10 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I had no intention of rising to speak on this matter, especially after the Honourable Minister has spoken; but the last statement which the honourable Minister made, has caused me to rise to my feet. Really, I was not interested in this proposition. The honourable Minister spoke of a particular policy of the Government. There is now a system going around, of selling out plantations, tenantries and so on. I would therefore like to ask the honourable Minister, what is the position of the Government in regard to those people who are selling land of existing tenantries. Your Honour knows as well as I do, that there are two of these now on the market. We know of one that has been sold already, and we know of another in St. John where people from that parish, have come to us for information on it. I do not know if the people have deserted some of their representatives in St. John.

Mr. VAUGHAN: The social origin of certain people, conditions them to be out of sympathy with those views.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It does seem as if the people have deserted some or the representatives of St. John in this Chamber; especially the one who has made the explanation. However, Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to put across, is that there shoud be some statement given on these matters. From what the last honourable member has just said, it would appear as if because these peasants do not own the land, and if the land is sold out without some protection being offered to them, that many of them would have to remove. When certain statements are made on certain aspects of policy, and they are couched in certain language, you do not know what it really means. You can be told subsequenty that you knew what was the policy because it was told to you.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 14 ORDER, 1954

Typist & Long Grade Clerk for Dept. of Science And Agriculture

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day to be dealt with stands in the name of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture: to move the passing of the following Resolution, to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 14 Order, 1954.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution is in respect of the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 14 Order, 1954. As the Addendum sets out; the Order provides for the creation of the additional posts of one Long Grade Clerk and one Stenographer-Typist to be attached to the Department of Science and Agriculture.

The services of an additional Long Grade Clerk are required mainly for the collection and preparation of statistical records relating to changes in field productivity resulting from the adoption of improved methods in cultivation and soil management, and the value of various practical experiments undertaken at the Livestock and Agricultural Stations. The lack of such assistance, resulting in the failure to assess the practical benefits of such experiments within a reasonable period of time, is seriously reducing the value of the work carried out at these Stations.

That explains the necessity for having this Statistical Clerk. We must have this Statistical Clerk, who apart from being a good mathematician must be trained to carry out work of that nature. If the post is created, a saving would be affected so far as time spent by other officers at that Department, who are now called upon to assist in that direction. If honourable members would like to know of what duties the Stenographer-Typist would be called upon to do, I would give the following particulars: The creation of the post of Stenographer-Typist is rendered necessary as a result of the expansion of work in the Department mainly through the assimilation of Development and Welfare Schemes and the operation of the Co-operative Societies Act.

Honourabe members can see that there will be great need for this Stenographer-Typist. As a matter of fact, there was need for a stenographer-Typist of a proper standing in that Department for the past two years. Although a temporary arrangement was made, yet there was no reality of having one of a general standard. For that reason this new permanent post is now created.

Now that the Director of Agriculture is seeking the creation of these two posts I am asking honourable members to give this Resolution their blessing, in order that the work of the Department should function. If the full benefits of the various experiments are to be derived, we must necessarily have a competent Statistical Clerk and a reliable and competent Stenographer-Typist.

Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Sir, I like the honourable junior member for the City, would like to know who is responsible for the general policy of the Civil Establishment of this island. Are we going to pass every Tuesday an Order to make provision for an additional Clerk for the Civil Establishment? Some weeks ago we were told about a system of secondments to the various departments of Government. Sir, you do not know when these Orders are going to finish. You do not know what is the compliment of the Civil Establishment of this colony to which you are providing with more staff. You are told, that if you do not vote for this Order, you will be starving the Agricultural Department of the necessary staff.

Now, you are getting what the honourable Minister calls a Statistical Clerk; but in reality, you are

getting a novice, because the person you are getting has no previous experience in statistics before he joined the Service. Because a person might be an efficient mathematician, it does not necessarily mean that this experience gives that person statistical experience, if not, they would not now be calling for a Statistical Conference in Trinidad for the various territories in the Caribbean. The getting of statistics in every branch of work, is something which is becoming a science, and it is one of the things which this colony does not have a Department for, only what might be counted as necessary for the individual department.

Sir, what I am objecting to, is the general way in which we are dealing with this matter.

7.20 p.m.

What I am objecting to, is the method of dealing with this matter. As regards the Steno-typists, we do not know how many they have. Is the Hon. Minister prepared to say that the Government is more enthusiastic about co-operatives, and what is the plan for extending the co-operative Societies? Can you say what steps are being proposed to institute any co-operative system in respect of fishermen? I do not want the implication to be given that the Government intends to do something about co-operatives, unless they know that there is a stimulus for it. Three or four years ago, Mr. Beckles was to have gone somewhere in connection with this matter of co-operatives. I know that Mr. Beckles would be offered a post in Tanganyika.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is straying a bit from the subject matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Addendum to this Resolution says this: "The creation of the post of Stenographer-Typist is rendered necessary as a result of the expansion of work in the Department mainly through the assimilation of Development and Welfare Schemes and the operation of the Co-operative Societies Act." This is in connection with the Co-operative Societies Act. If they want this Steno-typist, I am asking what is the work of the Co-operative Officer and the general policy now for co-operatives in this island in so far as the Government is concerned? What do they intend to implement as co-operatives? We do not see, or hear, or read, much about co-operative work. I have already made my points on the question of providing these people in the service. You are not sure how many people you have in your employ; and as regards this question of Co-operative Societies, while I do not disapprove of providing the staff, I say that you should know what has really been going on since Mr. Beckles has been appointed to his post.

Mr. LEWIS: Before the hon. member replies, there are two statements which have been made by him in connection with this matter, to which I would like to refer. One is, that there has been a great need for this post for some time, and the other is that the Director of Agriculture has been asking that this post be filled for a long time now. The Director has been asking that this post be filled for a long time. Is it because of the operation of the Co-operative Societies Act and the assimilation of Development and Welfare Schemes? Yet, we find that this Order is No. 11 on the Order Paper; it was made on the 30th September; the Order which we have just approved was made on the 23rd of September, a week before that. This House is asked to consider two Orders to further increase the Civil Establishment Order of the island, and both are asked to be brought into operation on the 1st day of October, 1954! If it is true that the Director has been behind the Government to fill this post, which is of such great urgency, do you not think that these Orders should have come before the House together? This is a matter of amending the identical Order, the Civil Establishment (General) Order. Another matter is, that we have passed Order No. 13 before Order No. 12. I really do not follow this matter; but I think it is time that we should know something about Mr. Foster's Report. The hon. member says that a higher standard for stenotypists than that which exists in the Department is necessary; are we getting that higher standard for a maximum of $100 a month? I would like to know how high a standard you will get for this amount, when these people are in such great demand in commercial houses. You are offering a $100 a month as a maximum, and you talk about getting people of a higher standard to do this work? That is very baffling to me. If you vote against this Resolution you will hear that you are preventing the Department from functioning. However, I hope that they will send a Commission to enquire into the Department of Agriculture, into organisation, methods, and everything else. If you will permit me, Sir, I would like to ask what is the Government doing about filling the post of Entomologist in that Department. Are they taking any steps to fill that post?

7.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: For the benefit of the hon. members, I will say that it was as a result of Mr. Foster's recommendations, that these two new posts are being created. As to the point raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter in respect of Government's policy concerning Co-operatives. If the hon. member will recall, he will realise that a Bill is before this Chamber at present, whereby certain exemptions will be granted to registered Co-operative Societies. Under the provisions of that Bill, it is sought to exempt these societies from the payment of stamp duties, income tax and trade tax.

Over and above that, I can inform hon. members that the Government has recently decided to send a co-operative student to a seminar to be held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. That goes to show, that the policy of the Government is, as I have said, to stimulate the growth of Co-operatives, and to assist in the growth of co-operative movements, not only by exemption from stamp duties, income tax and trade tax, but by improving their knowledge of such an important question.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there are many other points to be answered. The creation of these two posts is long overdue. Since 1952, the Director of Agriculture has been trying to have them created.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,— There are two points which I hope the Minister will answer, although I regret having to bring him to his feet again. I would like some information on the point raised by the hon. junior member for the City as regards the Entomologist; also, could the Hon. Minister shed some light on whether the new Agricultural Chemist will have some academical degree in the subject of soil deficiencies?

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (AMENDMENT) NO. 15 ORDER

Stores Clerk For Public Works Department

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker,— The next Order is a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Amendment) Order, No. 15 of 1954. The Addendum explains the mattter quite fully. Some time

in November last year, the Director of Public Works represented to the Government, that there was a need for employing a store-keeper in his Department. He pointed out that under the Five Year Plan, a considerable amount of work would be done; and that stores to the tune of $200,000 and over, would pass through his Department annually. He also pointed out that the present method of stores keeping was not satisfactory, in view of the fact, that the Accountant had to do some of this work and a member of the unestablished staff was also doing some.

The request of the Director was thoroughly examined by the Government and was found to be absolutely necessary. Hence, this Resolution is now before the House. I think that all hon. members will agree, that a considerable amount of work is being done by this Department; and that the speed at which this work is being carried out is marvelous. I also think that hon. members will agree to the approval of this Order, so that the hardship which now exists, can be removed.

In answer to a point made by the hon. junior member for the City not long ago, in connection with the date put on these Orders, I would like to inform the hon. member that these Orders are made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under the Civil Establishment Act of 1949. Therefore, when the Order is made some date has to be put on it. The House cannot amend an Order, and we must place a date on it corresponding to the time by which we feel the Order will get through the House, and come into operation. (Mr. LEWIS: That is not so!) I am sure that I am correct in saying that.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,— The only occasion on which you put a retrospective date for the coming into operation of an Order is when you are, say, taking over the roads of St. Joseph, and you want to indicate that you deem to employ a man as from, say, the 1st of September; or when you have an Order for back-paying people. If the Hon. Minister will look at the usual run of Orders made under the Civil Establishment Act, 1949, he will see that these Orders go into effect in a certain way. It is not necessary to put an operational date on every Order. In the general way, an Act comes into operation when it is signed and published. If you wish an Act to come into operation on a forward date or a retrospective date, the method used, is to say that the Act is deemed to come into operation or to have come into operation on such and such a date. past. They made a mistake on some occasions with one or two Orders, and they admitted that it was a mistake.

That is how the Law Officers have done it in the past. They made a mistake on some occasion with one or two Orders, and they admitted that it was a mistake.

What has struck me as being peculiar, is that it appears that the creation of these posts is one of the things that Mr. Foster recommended; and then the Government saw the wisdom of agreeing with the Heads of the Departments. The first of these things had Mr. Foster's name spread all over it. The Hon. Minister of Social Services came in here and said, that there was a rumour that it was Mr. Foster's recommendation and that it was not so; then he was confronted with his own Addendum, showing that it was Mr. Foster's recommendation.

7.40 p.m.

I am sure that the Five Year Plan has been in operation for a few years. The Director of Public Works must have been telling Government that this is necessary. I think it is a very terrible thing for Government to admit, that this department has nobody to keep its stores and the ledger. The Addendum reads as follows:

"The establishment of a post of Stores Clerk ($1,320 x 72 — 1,680) in the Public Works Department is considered necessary for the proper control of the stores and materials used by that Department. The Stores Clerk will be required to maintain ledgers and accounting books connected with materials, to price and write up the cost of stores, to maintain that the prices paid are the lowest obtainable and to be responsible for the receipt, issue and safe custody of stores and materials."

What were we doing before? Certainly, you never knew what you had in stores in that Department. That is what you are saying. It appears to me, that since the Government is favourably disposed to Mr. Foster's recommendation, they are now saying that this Department has been asking for this post for years. The vast amount of money which passes through this Department annually, is nearly a million dollars; yet you are now getting a stores clerk. According to this Addendum, all of this has been going on in this Department without anybody taking stock; now they are saying it is absolutely necessary. It appears to me, that the Government should pay a little more attention to recommendations from Heads of Departments. If Mr. Foster did not come down here, we would not have got advances from the Treasury in sums of not more than $250, to meet cash payments on account of incidental expenses. We would not have been given a stores clerk for this Department, nor would a statistician and steno-typist be appointed to the Department of Science and Agriculture. I feel this is another reason, why the time has come that the Government should institute a debate in the House on the recommendations put forward by Mr. Foster; so as to let the House know, how you view these recommendations as a whole. I think that is the right and proper thing to do. As I have said on a previous occasion, we have paid to get his Report, therefore, we are entitled to know what Government is prepared to do about these recommendations.

However, I view this as a very serious matter; but I sincerely hope that it is rectifying an inefficiency. I think the Government has to compliment the employees in that Department who have been helping to keep a check on the materials of the Government; since we have not heard of any loss. I think Government should compliment the employees of that Department, especially the Unestablished Staff.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not think my colleague was altogether right. I hope he is wrong. Is it correct to say, that no store-keeper or anybody else was in charge of the stores of that Department? Or is it that it is not a post established? Or is it that you now need an additional clerk for that Department? My experience is, that there is someone responsible. As a matter of fact, if you happen to go to that Department to acquire any kind of material, even though there may be two or three clerks present in the office, you can be told that the clerk in charge of the stores, or the store-keeper, is out. That has been my experience; and that is why I am saying, I hope my colleague is wrong. I am hoping that the hon. Minister would give the answers to these questions. You must have had someone in charge.

Now, if this Resolution is for the purpose of establishing the post of Stores Clerk, Public Works Department, or the giving of a title to the

person who is put in charge of the stores there, it is all well and good. What I am at a loss to understand, is why should you follow a multitude to do evil. If you are establishing a post of Stores Clerk, and putting someone in charge of the stores at the Public Works Department (which are of the magnitude that has been stated here,) according to my way of thinking, the salary of that post is small. If the material in that Department is anything like $200,000, it beats me to see, how you can put a man in charge and only pay him $120 a month. The hon. Minister must know, that every clerk is not allowed to sign an order, nor can he tell the price of certain articles, nor would he be able to find where particular fittings or parts are stored. You must have someone for that purpose. If you are going to establish the post, will the hon. Minister say, that this salary is adequate for the responsibility which is attached to that post?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I am going to speak as an expert who has advised the Government on these matters. I am a super-expert when it comes to this matter. We have just passed an Order to give effect to the establishment of a Statistical Clerk in the Long Grade Service, that is, a clerk, who starts at $600 going to $2,280 per annum. Now you are going to establish the post of Stores Clerk, which is a post with great responsibility, and you are creating a salary structure for it at $1,320 x 72 — 1,680 per annum. You are establishing in the Civil Service for the first time, the post of Stores Clerk; and you are paying him above the point which you start other Civil Servants in the Long Grade Service; yet the salary does not rise as high as Clerks in the Long Grade Service. The Government is at liberty today, to take any Clerk from any part of the Civil Service with a salary exceeding $1,320, and transfer him to the Public Works Department, and make him the Stores Clerk. Now, you are creating this post *ad finitum*. Is the Minister in a position to say, that at the Public Works Department, there is sufficient work in that post for which you will need a clerk all the time? Why are you going to create the post to put somebody in it, when that person must necessarily at some time or the other, leave it owing to the salary structure and then you may have to come back here and ask us to increase the salary structure? What is the virtue in creating a different salary structure for a Stores Clerk? I am going to vote against this Resolution on a matter of principle; and because, I do not regard this Order as one which is made on a scientific basis. I do not think it is right. If people tender advice to the Government, they should tender advice which is sensible. This is nonsensical. Sometime ago the Hon. Minister of Communications told us that they had fired somebody from some part of the Service for stealing.

7.50 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I have never said anything of the kind.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT:—They dismissed him for being honest; he was working with the Government for 15 years, and he has been dismissed for being honest. There was an enquiry made into his conduct, and he has been dismissed without a pension. I say this: it appears as if Ministers are afraid to speak the truth. Well, you do not enquire into an honest man's conduct; but you tried a man and dismiss him from the service. I will put it this way: the Stores Clerk was dismissed for irregularities. The new term for dismissing you, is that there has been a misunderstanding. When your complexion is like mine, there is the use of the word "misunderstanding" in dismissing you. The Hon. Minister can tell this House about matters in that Department.

The proposal in this Resolution is to establish the post of Stores Clerk at a salary of (1,320 x 72 — 1,680). I should like to ask whether they are creating that post for somebody who is already there, or whether they are advertising for a Stores Clerk when he is there already? If you have a good man, then say so. Say that there is somebody who can do the job. Would you like the House to pass this salary? Do you need Mr. Foster to tell you that you need to establish this post of Stores Clerk? They have accepted the legacy of a Stores Clerk from the old Road Board. They took an officer who was not in a certain grade and appointed him in the capacity of Stores Clerk; and if they can do that, what is wrong with going to the Water Works Department or the Housing Board which is a political board, and finding out somebody who is there, with suitable experience for the post?

You have the Storekeeper who has been dismissed, or rather, he has been asked to resign. You had a Stores Clerk working for ($624 x 48 — $1,200) and a store-keeper working for ($1,320 x 72 — $1,680) and I want to say that some of the same difficulties which you already had, you will be faced with again. Store-keepers are very responsible people. All over the world you have had trouble with them. They will deliver something for $10,000 but they will only put down $10, and when you come to check up, you find that quite a lot has been left out. What is the good reason, I want to ask, for the establishment of this post of Storekeeper over there, unless the Government wants to be cheeseparing? They do not say that they want a Statistical Clerk, therefore they put him in the Long Grade. The Government can appoint anybody within the scale.

In this post of Stores Clerk, you want a man with experience; and I do not think that the Government is left without people in the various departments, especially people who have experience in building. For the last five years, the Government's programme has been so extensive that they could not find it easy to get people with experience in these matters. The Addendum says: "The Stores Clerk will be required to maintain ledgers and accounting books connected with materials to price and write up the cost of stores, to maintain that the prices paid are the lowest obtainable and to be responsible for the receipt, issue and safe custody of stores and materials." It is to be the sort of man who has some experience in materials, and reasonable education, so that he can do the work reasonably well. My submission is, that you do not want to create this post at this stage. The creation of this post is only a question of having the Department with another established post, because the difference between this post and the other one is such that you cannot get rid of the other man. You cannot even shift him. If you establish this post, this man will become the Stores Clerk in an established post; and you cannot remove him unless you have the serious grounds of inefficiency for so doing. You cannot remove him until you carry out some enquiry; and he will have to resign.

8.00 p.m.

This is really clerical work. I think the Government would do better to take on an additional clerk, if they want a man to be in charge of the stores in this Department. There is at present, someone doing this work. There must be; but it is not at present an established post. In so far as the Director of Public Works is concerned, he is not particularly concerned

with whether you call the person a Stores Clerk or not. He is concerned with having someone to do this job, and to be responsible for the keeping of the stores.

If the Government goes on this way, they will find themselves inundated with established posts; and they will have to have a Commission of inquiry every time that they want to remove a man. There are some people whom you cannot put to do certain things. There are some people, for instance, whom you cannot put to draw money, because they always seem to make wrong change. In the Post Office you do not have the post of Cashier established.

I do not agree with what the hon. sen. member for the City said, that because a man is responsible for $200,000 in stock, you should give him a salary on that basis. If you follow that principle to a logical conclusion, you would have to give the watchman at the Bank more money than the Governor, and the watchman of the Department of Highways and Transport would have to get more than the Director.

My point is, that you do not have to establish this post in order to get someone to perform this work. What I feel is, that if you want someone to do this work, you should get one of the senior members in your departments. As soon as you establish this post and you get an excellent man, and you do not want the Department to lose him, you will have to increase the salary to $2,280 per annum; because, a Long Grade Clerk gets that.

I do not know what is the position in the bigger departments. As far as the Water Works Department is concerned, I will say that I have seen Long Grade Clerks there selling people things; and the Head of that Department must have somone keeping the stores. When I was a boy, I used to play about in the back of the market, and I used to see the Water Works pipes down there. Someone must have been in charge of checking those pipes.

If you look at the Estimates, you will see the amount of money for which this Department will be involved — Parliament Buildings, Ministerial Buildings, other buildings, the Deep Water Harbour, all those things which will have to be done, and you do not know what it will involve. If you want a Stores Clerk, is it not better to put a man from the Long Grade group into that job; a man, who will rise naturally to the top salary of his grade? If you bring in a man from outside, and you do not want to lose him you will have to increase his salary scale. If you do not lose him, you will lose something else. The Government has not found the $14,000 which was lost out of the Treasury; but it is gone, gone with the wind.

This title of Stores Clerk is a new title. Some Heads of Departments find that they can work their departments without too many titles. Others cannot. The Civil Establishment Officer is no more expert than any of us. It is a matter of commonsense; not something that you have to go to a university to learn. I am of the opinion, that it is not necessary to create the post of Stores Clerk. If you put a Long Grade Clerk to carry out the job, it will be better for you in the future. If you put into that job a clerk on the $2,280 scale you will have that man with you for a long time, and he will be a contented individual when he reaches $2,280. The young boys today want money. They want to have their week-end cars. I warn the hon. Minister.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,—The Addendum to this Resolution mentions that among the duties of this Stores Clerk, will be maintaining that the prices paid for materials are the lowest obtainable. That must be a mistake. No one, would want to have a Stores Clerk attached to a department obligated to buy material at the lowest prices possible. If he is compelled to do that, you may find that he has to buy the most inferior materials obtainable. He will be in an backward position.

Hon. M. E. COX: In answer to the honourable junior member for the City, I will say, that while he has insinuated that the creation of this post is a recommendation of Mr. Foster, it really had its origin in October 1953 when the Director of Public Works made his representation, saying, "It would appear that at present, and certainly in the near future if the building programme is extended, that the services of an efficient store keeper and accountant is necessary to safeguard public funds and material. I therefore ask that consideration be given to the appointment of a stores keeper to the Public Works Department at a salary etc."

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, someone was loaned to the Department to do this work. I say that, because the honourable junior member for the City has said that no one was doing this work.

Mr. LEWIS: I never said that. I said that the people over there must have been doing the work very efficiently, because there have been no losses.

8.10 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: The work is at present being done between the Accountant and a man from the unestablished staff. However, sir, the honourable senior member for the City made a point about salary; and that point, has been developed quite considerably by the honourable junior member for St. Peter.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter said, in his opening remarks, that he is an expert. I agree that he is an expert. I know, that he has had quite a lot to do with the revision of salaries of members of the Civil Service, as well as the reorganization of it, and things of that sort a year or two ago; and even before that time. Therefore, he knows what has happened in the Service from the beginning. I think he will admit, that in the Dos Santos Report, consideration was given to this question of Stores Clerk for the Public Works Department. The honourable member referred to the Department of Highways and Transport, and I am going to refer to it too. At that Department, there is the post of Store Keeper, and the salary attached to that post goes $1,680 per annum. The post which we are now creating, is similar to the one which exists at the Department of Highways and Transport. If you are creating a post, you must attach to it a salary scale in accordance with the salary scale of a similar post. You must treat an officer who does similar work in a similar way. This post of Stores Clerk which we are creating at the Public Works Department is similar to one which is already established at the Department of Highways and Transport; and the salary scale of that post is, $1,320 to $1,680 per annum. The post which exists at the Department of Highways and Transport, perhaps, has even greater responsibilities than that which we are creating; because, quite a lot of stores are purchased and kept by the Department of Highways and Transport. You cannot at this stage, Mr. Speaker, make this a higher post than that at the Department of the Department of Highways and Transport; because as I have said, it is equivalent to the one which exists there. If you make this salary structure higher, obviously you will have to push up the one at the Department of Highways and Transport to the same position.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,— The hon. Minister must bear in mind, that my emphasis

was on the point that you do not need to establish the post. He knows as well as I do, the history of the Department of Highways and Transport. That Department evolved from the taking over of the Central Road Board; and in taking over that Board, you took over people with salaries already established. With respect to the post of Store Keeper at that Department, that post was in existence when the Government took over the Central Road Board. That is not a post which was created by this Government. My emphasis was on the point, that you do not need to establish a post of Stores Clerk at the Public Works Department; you can have a person performing the job without establishing the post.

Hon. M. E. COX: The honourable member must appreciate the fact, that a Head of a Department knows more of his requirements than other people who are outside looking in. If we do not take advice from the Head of a Department, from whom should we seek to take it? The Head of the Department tells us he wants this post established. The Establishment Officer has gone into it, and has found out that it is necessary. Must we not then give the Head of the Department this post? Honourable members have heard that there is so much money's worth of stores at that Department; suppose any of it is taken away, it is the Minister then who should be criticised squarely, because it is his department.

However, Sir, the Director of Public Works is satisfied that this post is necessary to the Establishment; therefore, the Resolution is before us.

The honourable junior member for St. George referred to the question of Government purchasing stores at the lowest prices; and he further suggested that the Government should not want to purchase at the lowest price. I should like to say, purchasing at the lowest price does not mean to say, that we are purchasing material which is inferior. There is a system employed at the Public Works Department as well as the Departments of Highways and Transport in purchasing articles. It is one in which you itemise the various things you need, and after doing so, you send around a list to the various merchants and ask them to submit a price list. After you have got that price list, you then decide on the cheapest buy of the same quality. As I have said, it is not a question of purchasing inferior material; it is a question of competition, even though you might not advertise and ask for tenders. Sir, there is nothing else to answer as far as I can remember. I want to assure honourable members that this Order is necessary; and I am sure, that with the good work which has been done at that Department under the new Director, this House would co-operate in helping that Department to do even better, by voting for this Resolution.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three-quarters of an hour.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn for three-quarters of an hour, was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division. and Mr. Speaker, adjourned the House accordingly.
8.15 p m.

Resumption

EMIGRATION TO ENGLAND.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Philip may move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to discuss a matter which, in my opinion, is a matter of some urgency. I think that most of us are concerned with the burning question of unemployment in Barbados; and we are also very concerned over what is to be done about it. I imagine that most people will be looking forward with anxiety and a certain amount of eagerness, to the development in connection with the Deep Water Harbour, and hoping, that there will be some announcement made at a very early date as to the realisation of the funds with which it is to be financed. However, it now appears, as if hopes for an early commencement of the Scheme are more or less doomed to disappointment; and we have to cast our minds in other directions in order to see what can be done so as to relieve the situation. I do not propose to waste the time of honourable members at this late hour, by citing obvious examples of the enormity of the unemployment problem. There are certain instances which are fresh in the minds of honourable members, with regard to the evidence of the applications by the hundreds of people, for comparatively few posts and things like that; and without quoting any of these instances, I think that most of us in our respective capacities, have to keep our ears on the ground, and have therefore, whether we desire to do so or not, to interest ourselves in the matter. There is no doubt that there are large numbers of people who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in the serious plight from day to day of not having any employment and without any hope of getting a job. A few avenues for relieving the situation occur to my mind, and I propose to deal with only one of them tonight.

In recent times, there has been a very marked exodus of people from Barbados and other West Indian Islands to the United Kingdom in search of work; and I imagine that many of us have felt, that it was a big risk which they were taking. Of course, people who have proceeded to England and who therefore have first-hand knowledge of the position there, are in a better position to say whether people who are going to the United Kingdom, are merely taking a risk or not. I myself have thought that it was a risk which these people were taking, considering the money involved, and the hope that if they got to the United Kingdom they would find some employment which would be remunerative. I was therefore very interested to note, that there is scope for a large number of West Indians in the United Kingdom; and that in Britain today, a large number of unemployed people in Barbados and in the West Indies can find work there. In the *Trinidad Guardian* of October 26, 1954, there was a despatch from London by *Reuters,* which is a world famous news agency, commenting on the number of West Indians who are flocking to Britain almost weekly, in search of work; and the despatch went on to disclose the interesting information that there was work to be found in England. As a matter of fact, if I may be allowed to quote from the report itself, the report said that at the moment, there are more than 45,000 industrial jobs vacant in the five Midland counties of which Birmingham forms the centre. There are 45,000 indus-

trial jobs vacant in the Midland towns and the Midlands comprise the industrial heart of Britain. Manufacturers have shown themselves to be willing and indeed eager, to employ West Indians; and in that, the Trade Unions have co-operated.

I say that to people like ourselves who are almost at our wits ends to discover some solution for the pressing problem of unemployment in Barbados, news like this, offers more than a ray of hope. We are a British colony, and there are 45,000 industrial jobs vacant in the Midlands; as a matter of fact, I am told by people who know the situation, that this is a very conservative estimate. One person who I regard as having first-hand knowledge of the matter, has suggested to me that there are no less than 700,000 industrial and agricultural jobs. (A MEMBER: 700,000 jobs?) I said industrial and agricultural jobs; and it is also common knowledge, that Europeans in tolerably large numbers are being imported into Britain to fill some of these vacant posts. If a respectable News Agency like *Reuters* can put itself on record as saying that there are 45,000 industrial jobs vacant in England, I believe, that we are justified in endeavouring to see what we can do to fill some of those vacancies with some of our unemployed people.

I want to make it quite clear, that I am not suggesting that we should embark on any programme which is designed to embarrass the British Government in the matter of finding work for our people; I do feel that it is not a question now of employing any sort of pressure tactics, in order to get work for our people. I want to approach this question from a rational and a sane point of view. I want us to bear in mind, that the influx of West Indians into Britain has been viewed in certain quarters with a certain amount of distaste. There has been news of racial clashes between Britishers and West Indians. I am not suggesting that there should be any whole scale exodus of West Indians into Britain to embarrass the British Government, or for the purpose of creating any racial problem in Britain; but all I am interested in now, is an endeavour to make sure that if there are these vacancies in England, that we can find work for Barbadians, even temporarily, in these places.

9.25 p.m.

I am suggesting therefore, that although on the face of it there cannot be any suggestion of a planned migrational policy between the British Government and the Barbados Government, I am suggesting, that we might seriously consider the possibility of resorting to the same methods which we have used in the past with the U.S.A. when there was a similar shortage of labour, and West Indians were brought in to fill the gap.

In other words, if it is going to inflame any section of British opinion if we suggest the entry of a large number of West Indians to settle there, I am prepared to suggest, that any numbers for which we can find employment should go to England temporarily and not with a view to permanent settlement. I want to suggest very seriously, that we consider the possibility of sending a committee to the Midland area and any other areas in Britain in which there is a shortage of workers, to discuss with potential employers on the spot, the possibility of utilising West Indian workers to fill vacant jobs; using them perhaps temporarily on a contractual basis for two, three or four years. At the end of that period, if the exigencies of the situation demand it, the contract could be renewed or the workers repatriated.

I think that in Barbados, especially where this problem is very acute, we should keep our feet solidly on the earth in our approach to it. There is no question at this stage of feeling that merely because we are British colonials and there is this shortage of workers in Britain, that the British are naturally obligated to accept our people to fill these posts. Although morally and in principle we may feel so, yet the nature of our case is such, that I think we should approach the entire position more in the light of people begging for consideration than people demanding it. Therefore, sir, I am suggesting that a Committee should be sent to those areas to discuss with potential employers, the possibilities of endeavouring however possible, to secure contracts in the hope of getting our people there and finding work for them even if it is on a temporary basis.

Now, there is the question of how they will get there, and who is to finance their getting there. If as the Reuter report claims, these workers are so urgently needed, and the British employers are so eager to have them, to my mind the possibility exists that there might be employers, who might be willing to contribute towards the cost of getting a limited number of workers there. In the case of American emigration this procedure has not been unknown. In the south and mid-western states of America, and on the western sea-board, our workers have gone there. Part of the expenses of their going was contributed by the employers. I see no reason why, if British employers are willing to import West Indians, and they are willing to guarantee that workers can come in under contract for specified periods, the employers should be against contributing to the cost of getting them there. The remainder of the actual cost of passage, which, let us assume would be in the vicinity of £100 for each worker, might in some cases be partly contributed to by the prospective emigrant himself; and in other cases may have to be advanced by Government. Again, this procedure has not been unknown in the case of workers going to America. We have advanced money to workers going to America to assist them in defraying their expenses of getting there, with the understanding that it would be deducted from their future wages.

Incidentally, sir, I would like to suggest that if as I hope, we might be able to find work for around at least 5,000 of our unemployed in Great Britain under these conditions, and if the Government had to advance even as much as £30 or £40 towards the cost of getting each of these workers there, it would run into a fairly tidy sum; because. if there were 5,000 workers and we had to advance £40 to each of them, you would have to advance nearly one million dollars, which is no ordinary sum for the Government to advance in a matter of this sort; and what is more, it is far beyond the amount we have ever had to advance under the emigration scheme to America.

I am of the opinion that we now have to the credit of one of our sugar funds, (the Price Stabilization Fund) a very large amount, amounting I think to over $5,000,000. I have been trying to get the exact figures to-day, and I could not get them; but I am sure, that it cannot be less than $5,000,000. I see no reason why legislation should not be passed to enable the Government to advance the amount (in the Price Stabilization Fund if it so desired,) required for this purpose; and when the advances were refunded, the Fund of course would be correspondingly reimbursed. That is only a suggestion and it need not be adopted; because, if the Government felt like advancing money from other sources such as general revenue, it would be a matter for them. But if it is felt that we cannot take up such an appreciable sum and advance it from general revenue,

I merely suggest as an illustration, that to my mind there are other sources from which this money might be advanced.

So far, Mr. Speaker, I have merely been thinking aloud, and my purpose for thinking aloud, is so to speak, to stimulate interest in this matter, and to stimulate further debate on it. There will be other suggestions of course, I expect that there will be some far more weighty ones than my own. I personally will welcome them, so long as they will contribute towards a solution of the problem; and so long as in the final analysis arising out of the debate, you get some action and get something accomplished.

There are other types of employment in Great Britain in which West Indians can find work. There has been reference in the newspapers about the need for nurses, and there have been some of our people who have been privileged enough to take advantage of it. But I am thinking of the large number of people leaving school, and the large number of unskilled workers who have something to contribute, and who can easily acquire the skill needed to fill these posts in Great Britain; and at the same time, relieve the pressure of population which will help us to solve our present unemployment problem.

9.35 p.m.

This is a matter to which I want hon. members to address their minds to-night, and with the hope that the matter would be approached by members of this House in a balanced and rational manner; and with the further hope that we should all view it from the point of view of what is best for the island at the moment, and what we can do as the elected representatives of the people to improve what is without doubt, a very serious situation.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: In seconding the motion for the adjournment of the House, I would say that this is a matter which is of very vital importance to ths entire community. Whenever I have spoken on this matter in the House or outside, one thing I have always made clear, and that is: I do not really believe that any elected member of this Chamber, be he a member of the Government or a back-bencher, or a member of the Opposition, can be in anyway opposed to any scheme of emigration, or would stand in the way of any such scheme. During the debate in this House on the Estimates, when dealing with the question of emigration, mention was made of emigration to the United States and Canada. I believe it is well known, what is the position with regard to emigration to the United States; and there are those of us who appreciate the Canadian prejudice. It it more confirmed when we look at last Sunday morning's newspaper and read a certain article which was contained in it. There are those of us who feel, that we are no better than our brothers in Africa, and appreciate that there are times when we have one thing in common. I am not going to deal with anything in Nigeria, Canada, or the United States. I am going to speak from the depths of my heart and as I feel. I make no apology to anybody at all. I am going to speak purely on the question of West Indians finding work in England. Fortunately, they are those of us who can read just as well as members of the Government and English officials in this country. Fortunately, they are those of us who can write; and who have people in England with whom we can communicate. A few weeks ago, dealing with this question in this House, the Hon. Minister of Social Services replied to a point which I made on the question of nurses. He said that the Government was contemplating or attempting to so on, could not be obtained by many people who could not pay, or afford to pay their passages to England. I am throwing out a challenge to hon. members, and I know, it is one which no hon. member can deny. It is this: there is a shortage of over 8,000 nurses in the United Kingdom to-day. Let any hon. member deny that there is this shortage in nurses. When we discussed this question on the last occasion, the Hon. Minister of Social Services intimated that the scheme here in that respect, seemed to be selecting a few girls to be nurses who could pay their way, to go to England to study nursing. I said that it was half way doomed because, the $320 which one has to pay for passage, and to that must be added another $120 for the purchase of warm clothing and so on, could not be obtained by many people who desired to send their daughters up to England. I know of not less than ten people who came to me, asking me whether I could tell them of any person who could lend them money against a property, in order that they could send up their children to England on this scheme. I am making this very strong statement to Government in saying that there are certain paid officials in this country comprising of certain English officials, who are definitely persuading our girls from going to England. One of the officials in examining a young girl told her, "why don't you stay in your own country and nurse your own people." That is as true as St. John 3:16. That statement was made to her after she had passed all the other various examinations. Mr. Speaker, I say boldly, that every obstacle is being placed in the way of sending our people to England by a few English officials, who are making the selection. I hope it does not surprise the Government when I tell them that besides Mr. Louis Lynch, there are a number of people in Barbados and in England who are providing forms out here for girls to go to England; and it is the biggest lie to say, that the requirements for those to enter the nursing profession in England, is a School Certificate. I think that is the hindrance which is put in the way of our girls. I was told by two English women whom I spoke to one after the other, that the average girl who is superannuated in the third form at any of our secondary schools, public or private, is superior to the Irish girl who goes over to England to do nursing.

I say again, that a few English Officials over here are putting every obstacle in the way of our girls going to England; and they are also using the most insulting remarks to them. I am suggesting, that we should send up all the girls we can to England, never mind if we embarrass the English people. Let me remind this House that between 1923 and during the 30's, there was a depression in the United States, and although that was so, the authorities there did not say no West Indian of colour could enter. Although America was starving, West Indians were flocking there day after day, week after week, and year after year. No one can say, he ever took up an American newspaper and saw anything written that our people was causing them embarrassment.

9.45 p.m.

And the United States owe the people of this colony nothing; Great Britain owes them all. I am not mincing any matters about people causing embarrassment to the United Kingdom Government. There is a great shortage of nurses. Would to God, rather than say that you should practise family-planning, you would say that it is your duty to recognise human beings as human beings. They want nurses and we have the people. I want to say, that the sooner we go to Queen's Park and some other places and let the general public know what the position is, the better it will be for us. Let any member of this

Government get up in here and officially state, that if you go to England, you cannot find any work. I have made the statement that if you go to England, you should so conduct yourself that others might be able to follow you. I am dealing with the question of nursing; there is a shortage of nurses, but nursing is one avenue of employment. We have hundreds of girls leaving the schools and seeking employment. The official position is, that you go and see Mr. Bovell or whoever he is, and put your name down; and if Lord Gort says that you are not rude, you may be selected. Then it takes another four weeks at the Hospital to decide whether you can get an X-ray picture or not. The communication which I got from England is that the state registered nurses from our Hospitals, are being taken by these institutions and they are paid big salaries. I will say this, they are those in England who are going to Germany in order to get better salaries. There is no use in the Premier saying, that it is no good going to America; the Premier will say that there is no hope of emigration from one British colony to another. I think nothing about family planning; we have the people to do the work. You have right in your midst some officials, (and the Government is condoning it,) who are dissuading these girls from going out; and I refer to the fact, that we had to stop the Social Welfare Department from sending for $6,000 or $10,000 to bring back those girls to this colony.

Forms are brought to me day after day. What is necessary is, that you are physically fit. I want to say this: a few days ago I went to the Baggage Warehouse and I got information as to the number of people who were going abroad. I knew that there was a subtle attempt being made, not to advertise the number of Barbadians who are going to England because a lot of people will be going. But I would say, that starving people are dangerous people. The situation in this colony, is as nearly back to the pre-war days as possible. I think the best thing that the Government could do, would be to advertise that these people are going to England. Somebody has said, that you cannot imagine anybody selling his house, or cow, or donkey so as to get money to go to England; I know that people are selling their properties so as to go abroad. If you have a house and you can raise the money, what really matters is what will you feed your family with on Saturdays. I am not agreeing with the hon. Mover of this motion when he talks about not causing any embarrassment to the British Government. I say that the time comes in public life when you must call a spade a spade. The real point of significance in this matter, is how they treat their brethren.

A few days ago some people left for Martinique so as to get a cheap passage to England. The bucket and shovel people go to America, others go to England; and I say that England owes us everything, whereas America owes us nothing. When you see these people going to England, do you think they are going there because they are spreeing? I went to the Baggage Warehouse the other day because I wanted to see the people who were leaving. They were not any high-class graduates. I am talking about the hard, Barbadian working man who is seeing so hard, that he is prepared to go to England, and if necessary die by the sword rather than remain in Barbados and die from hunger.

9.55 p.m.

Those of us who come into contact daily with the people, (I do not mean those who pretend to come in contact with the people; and who live in Mars) know that when people are hungry and unemployed and really want work, they will sell their houses, cows, sheep or anything at all to get money to pay their passage to England. It is not a question of nurses only; it is the question of Domestic Servants as well.

Just before the 1951 election, knowing that emigration is a popular thing, you came down to this Chamber for $100,000 to send workers to the U.S.A. Some paid back their passage money and some did not. What is really wrong with Government, instead of having a Youth Employment Officer walking around, masquerading, getting figures and doing nothing, finding out the possibilities of shipping to England 3,000 young people between the ages of 18 and 22 within the next three months, if you can get the boats to carry them? All have not got the price of the passage to England; but the Government votes money to send people to America to help the American industry. Some of them broke the contract, and some had to come back; and there was not enough money to pay back their passages. If a prospective emigrant to England can satisfy the departmental setup that he has the necessary qualities to be a successful emigrant, the Government should pay half of the passage money or all of it, or lend him the money.

I have had no less than thirty cases recently, where people with children in a house doing nothing, have obtained mortgages from reputable solicitors for the express purpose of paying their children's passages to England. They feel that since the doors of employment are closed in Barbados, they may as well go out.

Now there is no point in anyone saying in this Chamber or on a public platform, that the Government will do anything to hold up people from going to America; it would be just a plain untruth. But to say that they are afraid to organise and send people to England, is true. Some imbecile wrote in the newspaper that I suggested that the Bustamante Government is paying the passage of Jamaicans to England. I said no such thing. All that I am suggesting tonight is, that if you have a teeming population and an unemployment problem in this country and you know you can find work for people in Engand, the time has come when you as a Barbadian or West Indian must clash with the Englishmen. Some other person wrote saying that I did not seem to know the British Government had a say in passing legislation to prevent Barbadians from coming to England. I know that, and I also know that such legislation is not going to be passed; not today.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Mover in making this motion made an attempt, I believe, to draw this matter to the attention of the Government. But it is no use to come here and blow hot air. What I am surprised at, is the lukewarm way in which he made this motion. He did not seem to speak from the depths of his soul. This is a question which we all know can make one very unpopular in certain circles,—the question of getting up and suggesting that the Barbados Government should pay half or more of the passage money to get these people to England. But if you can do it in the case of America, why can't you also do so in the case of England?

Let any member of the Government get up and deny, that Domestic Servants and people to be trained as nurses, cannot find work in England. If they cannot deny it let them get down to some action. It is about time that some of these officials we have here, be weeded out. I am referring to the Labour Department now, and to the Officer there who makes some insulting remarks to people. They will not do it to the Premier. They would all bow and cringe, before they say it to him. I do not mean

that he could say it to me; because, as every one knows, I am too rude. But he gets behind poor people's backs and uses sneering remarks. Behind the backs of our young women who want to go to England to be trained as nurses; he asks, "why don't you stay at home and mind your own people? They want more minding than the English people." But some of these English officials do not want them to see the real conditions of the poor in England. If that happened they (the officials) would not be able to come down here and lord it over our people; because, our people would know the real conditions back home in England, conditions which are not the prestige of the officials.

If the Government likes, let them walk out when we are passing this Address. I heard that the Premier said, that he could not see anyone in Barbados willing to sell their belongings to go to England without knowing whether they will get a job or not. He should be honest enough to say why that would happen. If you go to Engand and you are not working you will get £2. 10s. a week. In the last war, when the trumpet sounded, it sounded for members of the Commonwealth also; and not for the English people alone. I repeat, if a man goes to England and he is not working, he will get £2. 10s. a week. Some cannot get that here in two months.

10.05 p.m.

I am speaking from the depths of my soul in this matter. Some people, of course, have only got soles on their shoes. Some of the members of the Government if they begin to speak on this matter, would have to take off their shoes to see if they have souls (Laughter). I do not think this is a matter on which we should be divided. If it is the policy of the Government that Ministers should not support Addresses pertaining to matters like this, I am going to say that it is going to be the whole of my public business from now on, to see that something is done to draw to the notice of the people of this country that there is full employment for our girls in England; because a large number of English people are going to Germany and getting better work at better prices, than they can get at nursing. Nursing in England has no interest for them now.

I know of a girl who went from here over to England to work, and since she has been there, she has sent for her sister; and the two of them have sent for their brother. That helps Barbados to solve the unemployment problem.

I appreciate what is happening by the Jamaicans going to England. And you have to watch and judge carefully, what is happening in England as a result of that. Of course it is not a question of causing the people of England any embarrassment. The subjects of Her Majesty the Queen cannot cause Her Majesty the Queen any embarrassment. How can they? Everyone must have read recently, the questions asked by English M.P.'s on this matter. One M.P. made it clear that something is actually wrong in the colonies, if not they would not want to come here to live. He further said, if you do not want the people in the colonies to come here, why not carry the business to the people. That is a very sound economic statement to make. Of course, you are also getting the other view point expressed. Some are saying that those uncivilised people from Jamaica are coming here and some are talking about the question of houses. Let me say that England is not colder than the United States. I understand that the question was raised: "How can you expect to go to England to live and you do not have even an overcoat?" We sent 10,000 people to the United States to work, and they did not have overcoats. When they got there they got the shoes and the overcoats they wanted. Our people would work anywhere. If it is a question of prejudice, then let us stand shoulder to shoulder as Barbadians and fight it. I believe that it is the best thing, (this question of West Indian going to England to find work) that could happen to the West Indies. What is happening in Jamaica is an awakening to us; and that is what is pulling us out of our lethargy.

Of course, no one can go to Canada to change her outlook. It is a fact that Canada is one of the richest countries in the world and the least populated. Is it not a fact that Canada is trying to get English people to come there and live? There are Canadians in England asking the people of England to go there and settle; and not only Britishers, but people from Germany and other countries of Europe. Be that as it may, we as a West Indian people cannot tell Canada to take us. We cannot make the Canadians take us in their country. We cannot ask the people of the United States to take us, because they have their own problems. There is only one solution. I say again, the greatest thing that could happen to the West Indies is that the Jamaicans are going to England in large numbers. We are West Indians. If you were dropped into Kingston or into Bridgetown, you would have the same destiny in common on certain things. Representation to the Canadian Government by Barbados cannot bear any more weight than representation by the Bustamante Government to the same country; neither representation by the Trinidad Government to the same country can bear any more weight.

I cannot agree entirely with the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip. If West Indians in England were causing the English people embarrassment, it is good embarrassment. You have heard, that great embarrassment is caused in England owing to housing conditions, these conditions being very deplorable. That cannot prevent them from going. If I were a Socialist and had made this speech, they would brand me as a Communist. I am no Communist; I am a human being who takes an interest in my people. You must acknowledge that as you are born in this part of the world, you are a child or part of the British Commonwealth of Nations; therefore, you have a right to their standard of living. Therefore, if they have work to do and you have none, Barbadians have a right to go there and do some of this work. If West Indians going to England is causing the English people embarrassment, and I say it will cause them embarrassment, let the people there meet West Indian leaders and have a conference on the matter at high governmental level. England is a nation of shopkeepers, and the time must come when their prosperity will cease. Anyone who has a nodding acquaintance of the United States, knows that you have something like half a million coloured people who live in a place called Harlem, which is not more than five and a half square miles. It would be a really fine thing if in the United Kingom, you were to get such a problem because the people of England will understand their subjects better. I do hope that Barbadians will go up to England not only by the hundreds, but by the two and three hundreds. I also think that it is the duty of this Government to lend them money to assist them in paying their passages.

10.15 p.m.

Some hospital says that it wants 40 people; you get 500 people making applications and you select 40 of them. They are young, strong, healthy women

who are glad to get work. I say that this embarrassment is doing a great good for the West Indies; they have been doing a lot of business with the West Indies. If you did not have the people you would not have the goods to sell; you manufacture cloth because you are looking for markets in which to sell it. It strikes me, that where they see evil, I see good coming out of it. I want to say that if England does not want to have us, they will still have to take us. When representation is made to England can you not obviously see that it is easier to break down barriers? Canada will maintain her stubborn attitude, unless representation is made by a power which will be the United Kingdom who claim to be our guardians, trustees and the like.

While I am on my feet, I will draw to the attention of the Honourable Minister of Communications this fact in respect of emigration. I went to the Baggage Warehouse a few days ago, (this is a most pathetic state of affairs and I hope the honourable Minister will see it for himself) last Thursday to be exact, when a number of these people were going abroad, to find them standing outside in the sun and rain with their relatives. That state of affairs does not take place in big places like Idlewild. I want to say that when the Comptroller of Customs made regulations saying that you had to get a permit to enter the premises, the idea was to prevent people from coming in and mixing up with the baggage, which prevented the staff from doing their work. A barrier was erected so that people could not go where the baggage was. I want to say this: a man from St. Andrew will get a pass and his girl friend goes in with him, while his mother and sister have to remain outside. The Minister of Communications should remedy that state of affairs.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of Order. I am nothing to do with that Department. That concerns the Honourable Minister of Trade.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That makes it worse! (Laughter). I want to address my remarks to the proper Minister; but if they themselves are so confused over their real portfolios, then we do not know who is responsible in the matter. I want to say, that I hope the honourable Minister has not reached the stage where his head is too much swollen. At the Baggage Warehouse a man from St. Andrew came to me and told me that he wanted to get his mother inside the premises. I am saying, that the Baggage Warehouse can accommodate these people; all you have to do is run a line so that the staff can get along with their work. We have to be very careful in making a motion because of constitutional procedure. Mr. Speaker, is it in order for me to move the passing of an Address in connection with this matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has seconded the motion for the adjournment of the House for five minutes.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I feel so strong about this matter, that I would like to move the passing of an Address to the Governor in connection with it. The speech which I am making here should be sent to England, and let people know what is happening. As far as I am concerned, I will get up on every soapbox and tell people what I know; and I know that it will reach England. I sincerely hope that what we are saying here tonight will bear some fruit.

10.25 p.m.

When I sit down I will listen to hear the Premier who has just come back from England. I believe that he has tried to make some investigations about this matter. I warn him, that if he has made investigations, he should come out in this honourable Chamber with everything. There are those of us who are in touch; and I want him to know that the people more especially since we advertised last week that Barbadians are flying down to Guadeloupe and going to England, are aware that they can get work in England. No amount of oratory can dissuade them from going. They are conscious that the Government has done everything as far as work is concerned, but no one can foot them. The Premier cannot fool them that he has done anything to get them to England. Of course, constitutionally, he can tell them that there can be no question of emigration between Barbados and England, between British country and British country. I would not bandy words with him on that. We are not dealing with the question of emigration. We are saying all that is necessary, is to prove that you are a British subject and get a passport, and you have a right to go to England. But the people do not have the wherewithal to go. So we are asking the Government in view of the fact that there is full employment in England, and there is opportunity for 1,000 people to be trained as nurses, will the Government help people to get to England?

The nursing situation has become so desperate in England, that they are training (what they call "practical nurses") women who cannot pass the state examination, but who are strong and healthy enough to work. Do not let the Government come here and say, that the Director of Medical Services or some matron has said that is not true. I will blow them up.

I appeal to the Government not to side-step this issue by saying that no emigration barriers exist between British country and British country. It is a fact that they want these girls in England. There are thousands of Barbadians who want to go out, and the Government should set up some organisation to assist them in doing so. I am suggesting to the Premier that he should not try to side-step the issue by raising the question of housing shortages in England, or to say that people who go there will have no place to live. That is fooling people. We have been reading that in the English Press; but up to now, we have not heard that anyone has died of starvation or from sleeping outside. Let the Government face facts. I am not talking about the other members of the Government; but we have reached a stage when the Premier must realise that where he is concerned, the interest of the people of Barbados must come first even if it clashes with the interest of the people of England. He would never have been the man that he is at the Colonial Office, were it not for the people of this country. It would be base ingratitude to let his feelings towards the situation in England out-weigh his feelings towards the people of Barbados; especially when he knows that the real question is that one or two sections in England, not the English nation as a whole, dislike the entire question of the entry of coloured West Indians into Britain. They do not want a coloured problem in the City of London.

One English lady said to me recently: "Mr. Mottley, do you realise what will happen if you send all these coloured people to England? You will have a tremendous lot of coloured ladies after a while." I reminded her that they only had coloured soldiers during the war, and there were still a lot of coloured babies.

My remarks on that are addressed to all the members of the Government. I will take up the Premier on this, morning, noon and night. The time has come, when it has got to be the Barbados people or the English people. It has got to be this man,

or Barabbas. We must help these people to go despite the few people in England who do not want a coloured problem. The Mayor of Birmingham recently told an English M.P. what he had to depend upon. He told the M.P.: "We have no problem. These coloured people of the West Indies are getting on all right." Some M.P's want to make a fuss.

Nothing that I say is a criticism of the English people as a whole. I cannot repeat often enough, what I have said both here and abroad. I am still proud to be a British subject; and I still feel (despite a few small, petty figures, who come here and dislike my criticism,) that the British is still the best administrators of justice to the colonial peoples of colour. No criticism that I make is a general condemnation of the English. I know there are some who dislike the practice of coloured West Indians coming to England. We have reached the stage where we have the man-power and the Government has the work; and if the Barbados Government can find the money to assist people to go to England it will benefit the entire community.

I regret that I cannot move an Address, because Your Honour insists that notice of such an Address would have to be given before. But it is my intention to bring in an Address and put the Government right on the spot in this particular matter.

10.35 p.m.

Sir, I hope that this discussion will bear some fruit and that, all in all, it will be felt that this is a non-party question. It is a question of getting work for the people, and one which everyone of us should put our heads together and do something about to relieve the situation; and therefore, to bring some sort of happiness to the people of this country.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker,—This question is nothing new. For months now, people from Jamaica have been going to England to find work. They are looking to a new horizon and as a result, they are catching boats to take them across the Atlantic to England, and they are doing so by the hundreds. I get newspapers from Jamaica weekly; and I have read of the numbers who are going to England. Recently, people in Barbados are doing the same thing but without any publicity whatsoever. However, I do know, that the French Steamship Line has been going out steadily for some time now with Barbadians in numbers between 36 and 40. Only last week fifty went out. I know of that, because one of those persons went from my organisation. He had an interview with me before he sailed out, and he said that he has gone with the idea of sending back for his children and his wife. He is a very hard worker from Christ Church. That is by the way.

As we all know, there is a great unemployment problem in Barbados; and the question is nothing new. I do not think honourable members are even fully aware of the number of applications for work which employers in the commercial houses of Bridgetown receive day after day. It is now such a big problem, that many employers are refusing to advertise any vacancies, because they do not wish to have a recurrence of what happened in Swan Street a few weeks ago, when a certain merchant advertised for help. And the people have got to know of the policy of the employers; and as a result, they are making applications all over Bridgetown trying to find work either for themselves or for their children.

The Labour Department has now circularised the employers in Bridgetown, stating that when they wish to employ someone or need any workers, they should make applications to that Department and let that Department send suitable persons to them. I do not know how that is going to work; because the employers in Bridgetown do like to select their own people. It is such a difficult problem, this problem of unemployment in Barbados, that it is refreshing to those who are interested in the people to learn that there is an outlet somewhere, and that some of our people are now going to England. Since they have gone, I have not seen any of them return. I think if the Jamaicans were as good workers as the Barbadians, we would never have heard one word about racial discrimination as we have read of in the English newspapers; because if you are a good worker and the employer is satisfied with your work, there is not going to be as much discrimination as if it were the other way around. It is only when people fight or make trouble, or sit down on the job, that people come to the conclusions and classify all workers as one. It is a fact that Barbados workers are better than Jamaican workers. I am saying, not from a prejudicial view point, that if the Jamaicans who are going up to England by the hundreds had had the same education and the ability for work as Barbadians, they would be welcomed there.

Now that this question has been brought forcibly to the Government to-night, and in the presence of the Hon. Premier who has just returned from England, I do hope, that the Government would be able to make a statement; because, I am sure that this problem must have exercised his mind when he was there, and he must have asked something about it in the proper quarters, and must have been told something about it.

Sir, we wish those who go there from these parts well; and I do hope that more will go. As we all know, Barbadians are good workers and they are going to send back money to their families, and sooner or later, they want their families with them. I have read recently that the economic production of the Mother Country is higher now than at any time in its history. That takes manpower and if it is to increase, it will call for for more manpower in England now that Germany is re-arming and the English people are going there.

I do hope that this debate tonight will elicit from the Government, some idea of what they have been thinking on this matter. I do hope that we will hear what is the true position in England, and if more of our people can be facilitated in going to England.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,— It is a bit difficult what to say in reply to those who have spoken; because, although the hon. junior member for Christ Church says that attention to the problem has now been brought forcibly to this Government, I do not think that his memory is so short as to forget that only two weeks ago in a debate on the reply to the Governor's Address, this same horse was ridden with a great deal of vigour. If as was hinted, the House would welcome some statement from the Hon. Premier, and that is the reason why this question is raised to-night, that is something different. However, I think that the Mover of the motion and the hon. junior member for Christ Church who spoke on this occasion, were more reasonable in their attitude on this matter, as compared with the attitude taken two weeks ago. After all, this is a situation which I cannot see that it pays to get on like the hon. senior member for the City. His attitude cannot help the situation; it would rather hinder a scheme like this. (A VOICE: What scheme is this?) If by shouting, one could get the gates of Jericho open, then the hon. senior member for the City would have had them thrown open long ago.

10.45 p.m.

Let me say this: I should like to reply to some of the vile suggestions which have been made against certain people in this island. To-night is not the first time I have heard the suggestion, that these individuals were trying to hinder these girls from going to England. But when in his wild way the hon. member spoke about English officials——

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: On a point of Order. At the outset, the hon. member got up to say what I did not say. I did not accuse any English officials at all. I am not an idiot like him.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has grouped the Hon. Minister of Trade with himself as being in a class of idiots. The hon. member may have the privilege of referring to himself as being in that class, but he may not indulge in any personal reflections against any other hon. member. I will ask the hon. member not to refer to another member as an idiot.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I apologise for that; but when the hon. member says that the statement which I made is not true, I say it is true. I drew the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to the matter.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: When the hon. member says that there are English officials here who are doing everything to prevent girls from going to England, I can only refer to that as a sweeping statement.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The hon. member is incorrect. I referred the matter to the Hon. Minister of Social Services; and I am not making any apologies for it.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I would just like to state for the information of the House, that from the beginning, they were officials here who were very interested in the scheme. Without any persuasion, they discussed the matter with the Labour Commissioner and myself. The Labour Commissioner, who is an English official, wrote as many English Hospitals as he could get in contact with—I do not remember the number of Hospitals now,—but we have had replies from them. There are 23 girls who have already left, and there are about 23 more who are due to leave between now and early next year. This is as a result of the efforts of my Ministry and certain English officials, not only connected with this Government, but also with C.D. & W. (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That is not true.) It is not true to suggest that English officials are not helpful in this matter. I was the person who told the House on the last occasion, that we are willing to assist these girls with one half of the passage money. One person is now being assisted, and others will be assisted so long as they have sat and passed the examinations.

The hon. member should learn a little more about the facts. In England you have State enrolled assistant nurses without certificates; it is not true to say that we are not helping girls without certificates.

I will disclose this information to the House; the Labour Commissioner has written, not only to agencies in England, but he has also written shipping agents asking for information about people who are going to England in search of work. We have discovered that from January to August, there was an average of about ten a month going to England; the big exodus started in September when 57 males and 29 females left. There is a total of 331 people who have emigrated to the United Kingdom in search of work. The reason for seeking this information is not merely to get statistics and figures, and do nothing more about it; it is because, we feel, that if these people are going abroad, we should try and help them by making sure that they are placed in jobs abroad and that they could get some accommodation when they get to England.

At this stage Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES took the Chair.

10.55 p.m.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On the face of it, these people are going to the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom has done nothing about this exodus at present. These people are British subjects, and it is better that you place these people in jobs and have some regular scheme for dealing with the problem, instead of just having people going to England and trying to look for jobs.

You cannot solve this problem by shouting. You cannot pick up a boat load of people and set them adrift. If we are to work on a governmental basis, we will have to see that any people we send abroad, are properly placed; we would have to work out such a scheme with the assistance of the Colonial Office. The honourable senior member for the City suggested that the honourable senior member for St. Philip was too mild. After all, there is no reason why he should be mild about this. When the honourable member said that we should not embark on any programme designed to embarrass the British Government, he knew that obviously, this is a situation on which one would have to work on a proper basis. The honourable member knows that. You cannot just pick up people and send them abroad.

When we send people to America, we see to it that they are placed in jobs there. The honourable senior member for the City suggested that we should send them up to England by the boat loads. The American scheme is not conducted like that. Workers, when they leave here for America, enter into contracts with employers. The two situations are as far apart as the North and South Poles. The honourable senior member for the City is saying one thing one week, and another thing the next week. Last week he said we should do like Bustamante.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I never said that. The only place that appeared, was in the "*Beacon*", where the whole of what I said was misconstrued.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The honourable member asked why we did not do like Bustamante, and help the people to get out of this country. He has now discovered that the Jamaican Government is not paying their passages; but he prefers to pretend that this Government should lend the people money to go to England, and that this Government is not interested. If the honourable member, unlike other honourable members, wants tonight to get the most propaganda out of this emigration problem, he is at liberty to do so. The Government is investigating all avenues for emigration,—Borneo, Nigeria, America, Canada.

I need not answer the question about sending a delegation to England. The Premier was in England seeing Colonial Office officials and discussing with them, the same question. We have discussed it on many occasions. This is nothing new. The Deep Water Harbour delegation left here knowing about this. I say again, all that the Government can say, is that the problem of emigration is uppermost in our minds; and this Government has done, and will continue to do, all that lies in its power to send people abroad.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Sir,— This is not an easy debate to deal with; because, from the Government's side we have heard vague generalisations, while the other side is lukewarm. There has been the charge that members are making political speeches on this subject. Since I have been in this Chamber, all speeches on emigration have been labelled political speeches. I remember that the Hon. Minister of Labour, when he was not a member of the Government, asked the then Government to send people to Nigeria. That is the sort of extravagant suggestions

that you hear from people when they are not in power; and you always warn them, that when they get a little responsibility, they will not associate themselves with such statements.

What I am going to say now, is that the situation today is so serious, that the question of emigration is one of the most difficult issues to face any Government.

11.05 p.m.

What I am prepared to say, is this: I was noticing on the faces of some of the Ministers when this debate was going on, an air of complacency as if they were thinking that all seems to be well. I feel, there is a growing situation here as well as in the West Indies, which we have got to face sooner or later. Looking back at 1937, you can see that the problems then were economic. You could have seen that some of the people who were in power were indifferent and callous; but today, we are not only called upon to see the difficulties of problems, but to arrest them and deal with them. Sometimes you wonder, whether this planet was really meant to be a place for people who unfortunately happened to be born with my complexion because, of the very many barriers and obstacles which are placed in our way. There is an organization in Europe now known as I.C.E.M. (International Community for European Migration). The problem is so great in Europe, that they had to put that organization on an international basis with its heaquarters in Geneva.

I would not suggest approaching this problem from the frontal attack, as has been suggested by the honourable senior member for the City. I want to ask, what Minister of Labour makes any Labour Commissioner responsible for policy in this matter?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Who has said that the Labour Commissioner is responsible for policy?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister is one of those people who has an overdose of conceit. It is showing in his physical proportions, and also by his corpulence. What did he say? He said that the Labour Commissioner on his own thought, without persuasion from him, had written about this thing. On two instances he mentioned the Labour Commissioner's name. What I have to tell him is, sometimes you have to permit the Labour Commissioner to do things, but it is patently clear that in these problems, the Hon. Minister of Labour looks over to the Hon. Premier for guidance. He thinks that the Hon. Premier is immortal; he is not doing to die. He is a Minister, and yet he is going on with that nonsense. What has happened in here for the last three weeks, since the Premier left here? What has been done? That is the sort of situation in which we find ourselves. You find that they are only gloating over these things; they do nothing in here on Tuesdays, but only write from Saturday to Saturday. Sooner or later, that question would have to be taken up in the proper quarters. When you conduct affairs, you must conduct them in the highest possible manner. You do not answer questions in here, you do not debate them properly; but you leave here and write about these things, and you do so knowing full well, that you are a Minister of the Government. You are doing something which you know is dishonourable.

It seems to me, as if the honourable Minister of Labour is more in favour of dismissing people than giving them work. Where does the Labour Commissioner come in, in an issue like this? By all means, if you have a Labour Commissioner you must make him work. In dealing with a problem like this, you must bear in mind, that you are not dealing with emigration only; it is roped up with the question of unemployment. Mr. Acting Speaker, I am suggesting that this is not merely a question of writing and asking people for advice on this question of emigration; this is a question which has to be faced squarely.

(The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER assumed the Chair).

Mr. Speaker, I was saying, I do not agree that this question of employment and finding jobs, is only a question for us. It is an international question; therefore, it should be dealt with on a very high plane. You cannot stay in your own territory and just do things, knowing full well that what you are doing is not giving the people gainful employment. When you are thinking of doing something for those employees in domestic work that is only a guise. You do not worry in an age like this with unessential things. Domestic service is a relic of feudalism and slavery. In no modern coun try do you find maids waiting on persons and bringing them a glass of water. Now this Government is interested in that sort of thing. It has set up a committee to deal with that question. It appears to me, as if members of the Government are still imbued with this old feudal idea of having someone to wait on you. We want to get rid of that sort of atmosphere.

On this particular question of emigration, what should you do? As I was saying, this is an international question. There is a report before the Government now, and this Government has not asked the Colonial Office or the British Government, and, as a matter of fact, not even this House, to take a decision on that Report. I refer to the Report of Land Settlement in British Honduras and British Guiana. What do you find? British Honduras has dis-united itself from the West Indies; and owing to political circumstances you cannot do anything about British Guiana. However, this problem is one which must be faced. We must bear in mind, that Barbados is still a colony of the British Commonwealth of Nations; and Great Britain is the Metropolitan territory. It is my firm opinion, that you should initiate a debate on the highest level with representatives of the Metropolitan Government on the basis of asking them for help. What is the danger in these small discussions on this matter? You will find, that if you make a suggestion, there are people of a certain mentality who are ready to impute improper motives to your suggestion.

11.15 p.m.

I excuse the honourable member; he found himself in the position of being loyal, and loyalty must be something with him. You cannot buy it; you cannot pay the price for it. I see that some of the Ministers are laughing, but there will be a time when they will not be laughing. When you have nothing to be responsibe for, you can get up on the housetop and laugh. We can wait for the appropriate time. I should like to ask, why has the Colonial Office not been asked to deal with this issue. which has reached these alarming proportions? If anyone tells you that coloured people are welcomed in England he is lying. I read some time ago, that a judge, making a statement on the question of coloured people coming to England made a remark about the undesirability of having these coloured people coming there and crimes being committed. Since England is a white community, we have to face things on international level. It is a fact that Negroes live in the United States in large numbers. When you hear objection being made to the American way of living, the United States of America is the only place, where you can find 15 million Negroes. Whenever there are large numbers in the European countries you regard it that you are likely to face a problem. Those of us who have been to Great Britain for sometime, will know that when you go on a Government delegation, you do

not face that issue; you only realise it apart from a Government delegation when you are looking for some of your West Indian friends. When we really want to see where some of our people live, then you realise what landlordism is and how we are treated. I would not advise anybody to go to England, neither world I advise anybody to live there; but on this issue, I regard that the Governments of Jamaica and Barbados should endeavour, as two Governments in the West Indies with this problem of unemployment (being their greatest problem,) to make a concerted effort to place this matter before Her Majesty's Government. Let them get some sort of publicity, and see to what extent this emigration question can be dealt with.

The Honourable Premier should be aware of the problems which the World Organisation has to tackle. Today the problems are so great, that although you had the war in Korea, they are still forcing us out of these places. You do not want the situation to arise,—that it is only when blood is shed, that people begin to find a remedy. This is now 1954; a boy of 21 today does not know what happened in 1937, but rapid changes have taken place between then and now. One of the dangers which you have to face is, that the more you educate people, the greater is their appetite for things. I want to say that the types of crime which are being committed today, were not the type committed in 1937; because, there is more intelligence among the people. If you are seriously thinking about that, you cannot fail to see the delinquent population growing up. I see too many able-bodied young men at the various corners either idling or indulging in vice, because there is no employment for them. The old axiom, "The Devil finds works for idle hands to do," is an appropriate sentence in some cases. What I want to say now is that there are some members of the Government who are too busy to find time to read. Some people believe in the biblical injunction that everyone who says 'Lord Lord' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; some people believe that if you keep on the side where you feel that your bread is rightly buttered, that is the right side to be on. The ones who will make a success of anything, will make a success of it at anytime and at any place.

11.25 p.m.

I am saying, sir, that I feel that an approach should be made by these two Governments to the Colonial Office. When I say the Colonial Office, I do not mean that this is a matter for the Colonial Department of Her Majesty's Government. We have heard about the shortage of nurses and we have heard about certain measures of employment in England. What I know, purely from my dealings with Trade Unions, is that the rank and file of the trade unionists in England did not grow up with coloured people, and they still have a regrettable attitude towards them. You will remember that just recently, the dock strike in England was aggravated by the bringing in of Indians to unload the ships. One of the probems that we have got to face, is that some of the unions have a close-knit policy regarding certain measures of employment.

It is true that in some territories, Governments will ignore the trade unions completely, especially if they do not feel that the unions can be a pawn in the Government's hand. But that is not the case in Great Britain. In that country, even after the war, the Italians who worked in the mines could only work through an agreement which the Trade Unions made with the Government; and the Government found themselves in a position where they could not do anything about it.

I have given some consideration to this matter. In some instances, there is no chance of full industrial employment, but only employment as nurses and domestics. In other cases there is full employment. The honourable senior member for the City talked about paying passages to England. What I am saying is, that if the Government is saying that part of their emigration policy is to assist workers with their passage money to England and America, they can adopt that policy. But what I know is that as a Government, you cannot spend money for this purpose on individuals, because you will be inundated with requests and everyone will want to go out. There will have to be some orderly manner in which this matter is dealt with. I cannot subscribe to the view that you can give people money to go out just like that.

On the other hand, I do not see that there is need for an expert to advise you on this. Some members of the Government seem to feel, that you can do nothing unless you get an expert to tell you that our population is too high, and that we cannot support a population of 220,000 far less one of 400,000. What the Government envisages in the Five Year Plan (the eternal plan, because the five of them will be there for eternity) cannot find employment for the people who live in Barbados. You must therefore look to emigration; and that is a responsibility of the Government.

If you cannot send emigrants to settle in America and Canada, you are still a colony, and there is nothing wrong in this Government and the Jamaican Government drawing to the attention of Her Majesty's Government, the magnitude of our problem. The most serious aspect of the matter, (and this is where the members of the Government must sit up and take stock) is that people like ourselves have taught the man in the street that there is a better way of life. We have taught them to accept the view, that poverty is not something that you must accept as inevitable. If they reach a stage now, where they feel that all that you have been preaching is in vain, what will happen? One of the worst rebellions or civil commotions that you can have, is a rebellion of people against their own people.

I am not taking any political view on this matter; because, I feel that if a member of this Chamber has not reach the stage when he can look at such a matter from an angle other than the political angle, something is definitely wrong with him. Do you mean to say, that they are no large numbers of people even apart from the 24 members of this House, who are thinking seriously of this problem? I am not one of those who feel, that God has given me power to say who should and should not be in this House; nor am I of the opinion, that when you are removed from here, you are removed from heaven.

I feel as a citizen of this country that this is an issue which you should face in a dispassionate manner. Two much security is not always good for individuals. Although our position may be a little more secure than that of the others, we have to look at the problem from the broadest possible angle within the bounds of the community of Barbados.

I am suggesting, therefore, that an approach should be made by this Government, possibly in conjunction with the Jamaican Government, to the Colonial Office, letting them know that we cannot solve within our own territory our unemployment problem; because, reports indicate that if we spend so much money in establishing so many industries, we still cannot provide employment.

11.35 p.m.

Do you know, that even in British Guiana, the World Bank has put a lot of money for development of that country? The figures are astronomical. The hon. member does not realise that £300,000,000 is not beyond the ability of the World Bank to provide. I am not one of those people who would say, that you can wave some wand and get employment for everybody. From the time I was a boy I knew that could not be done. Even from a historical back-ground, this population problem of Barbados is one which is deep rooted. It is not now created. It is only because we are now asking for a higher standard of living for everybody, that the impact of the pressure of the population faces us more than before. As I have said before, I feel this is a problem which should be discussed with Her Majesty's Government by all those Territories which are facing the problem. You can clearly see to-day, that you should begin some debate on this problem on a higher level. It is better to do so at this stage, than to have our people subjected to all the insults and those acts of indignity of which we hear. I feel, if some reasonable construction is placed on debates of this nature in this Chamber, it would also be better for us. That should be the case rather than for some people by innuendo, to make statements which they know are not true or are uncommon. Sir, by temperament I am a person who would take on a challenge. I am very docile; but when it comes to a fight, I will enjoy one whether it is in the morning, noon or night. I may say, that I do not like to interfere with anyone first. Mr. Speaker, I say that because I try to avoid saying anything more than is necessary on an issue such as this. I would however, like to say this: I do not know anything of the actions of the hon. senior member for St. Philip or the hon. senior member for the City in this matter; but as it has come to the House of Assembly, I feel I am entitled to express my point of view on it.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to emphasize the point I made at the beginning of my speech. I think on this question of emigration, the Government should see that it is not only a problem which Barbados can solve alone. I feel a discussion on the subject with Her Majesty's Government should be called at this stage so that the matter could be concluded on an international level. The Hon. Premier is aware of the things which are discussed by I.L.O. Let the Hon. Minister of Labour stop his nonsense of coming here, and saying, that the Labour Commissioner, or the Commissioner of Commerce, or any such person is doing this, that or the other.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I don't mind the hon. member casting aspersions at me but he should tell the truth on some occasions. I said, that so far as nurses are concerned, the Labour Commissioner discussed the matter with me; and it took no prodding from me for him to write Hospitals in England. It was on my suggestion that we went to Canada. The Hon. Premier did not suggest that, so he need not talk about looking to the Premier.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The hon. member tells me of speaking the truth; I would say, he will have to write the truth. The Hon. Minister every week writes something in the *Beacon* which he knows is not the truth. If you are honest to the Government—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister said, that the Labour Commissioner without any prodding from him, wrote letters to Hospitals. I do not know the meaning of the word "prodding". You are going to the people of St. Thomas and asking them to send you back to the House——

Mr. SPEAKER: I will again call to the attention of the hon. member, that he is not addressing the Chair.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister tells me about being honest.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the hon. member talks about honesty, honesty means people who are honest; not dishonest.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,— I am sorry if I did anything to embarrass the Chair; but there is a limit to everything. These are the sort of insults you get from people. I am not going to accept any insults from any hon. member, unless I had thrown an insult at him. I said, that the Labour Commissioner should not be included in this discussion by the Hon. Minister of Labour, because the Labour Commissioner is not responsible for policy; and because what I said is not in harmony with what he would like said, you get this accusation of dishonesty. I would not accept that. Again sir, I am sorry if my remarks were any source of embarrassment to you.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— I hope that none of the three hon. members who have spoken would feel annoyed, if I say, that it is a habit of all of us, the less we know about a subject, the longer we talk; and it is a fact, because if you know of anything thoroughly, you know the points you wish to make, and you make them quickly. I do not blame the hon. members for making long speeches; because, apparently, they were asking for information. You could have seen that that was the case. When the hon. member talked about 700,000 jobs available in England, I do not think that even in the United States, there was ever a time when even 100,000 jobs were available. If England have 700,000 jobs available now, well, all her industries must have collapsed. It only shows how one spoils a case by gross exaggeration.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I quoted a report showing that there were 45,000 vacancies. I would say this, that the person who told me something of it, is a member of this House. He told me where he read the figures.

11.45 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: All of what the hon. member said is true! The hon. senior member for St. Philip was told by a member of this House that there were seven hundred thousand jobs vacant; nobody in his right senses could say that. I am surprised that if the hon. member were told by somebody, other than the Editor of the *Observer,* that there are 700,000 jobs vacant he did not promptly say "What nonsense I am talking". Towards the end of his speech, commonsense came back to the hon. senior member for the City. After all I have been in England for close on a month, and I was in touch with Mr. Bustamante for some time too; and it must have occurred to hon. members what would happen. I have never been to Cardiff, Liverpool, or the Midlands, but there are certain districts in England where you cannot avoid meeting West Indians. It would be impossible not to know what is being said, and done, and thought about this problem of emigration.

There is another problem which I see, as regards work in Britain. There is no question of emigration to Britain, as there is of emigration to a specific country whether British or foreign. I have had some contradictory statements made to me; and on the whole, I am inclined to believe those persons who say that the housing difficulty is greater than the unemployment difficulty. Many people go to specific jobs, because their relatives are there, or because a wife

may have gone to England as a Domestic Servant; (and I would say that some Jamaicans go there merely as dressmakers,) so that on the evidence, I feel that there is more difficulty in housing than there is in employment. It must have been reproduced in the *Trinidad Guardian* that the Governor Sir Hugh Foot has had interviews with people on this question of race riots and so on. He took part in talks about that, and quite recently, a Jamaican has joined with some English people to form an association on this question of race riots. There are certain districts in which the Negroes are told to get out, and to "Keep England White". The problem is not that there is a great deal of unemployment in England. There is no unemployment in England; but with the growth of industrial activities, there are many jobs. The question is: can we afford a wholesale helping of Barbadians to go to England for jobs? As the House has been reminded, the Jamaican Government has not given one cent to any one emigrant to get to England; there was a Jamaican Welfare Officer dealing with students (just as there has been a Barbadian connected with the Colonial Office) helping emigrants to get settled in Britain. A lot is done by Welfare Officers to make people's stay in England comfortable until they can find a job. For instance, Mr. Harold Stuart would see about people being employed; and it is only to that extent that he is there, and will get in touch with people as they go to England. As regards the vast majority of people who go to England, I do not believe that they go there intending to live on the dole; but in many cases, they have to live on the dole until they can get work in some part of the country.
11.55 p.m.

Therefore, the problem as far as Barbados is concerned, is whether we can pay the passages or even lend money to people who want to go; remembering, that the thousands of Jamaicans who are going, do not receive one cent from the Jamaican Government. I do not mean, that because that is so we must do nothing. But when we discussed the question of the Deep Water Harbour in England, every cent that we are likely to spend for the next five years had to be taken into consideration.

Inasmuch as the hon. senior member for St. Philip was really lukewarm on this occasion, I cannot help feeling that sooner or later, the still, small voice of conscience speaks to the hardest heart. He must be aware, that solving the unemployment problem in Barbados is one of the most stupendous tasks which anyone can possibly face, no matter what form of government we may have. He must also realise, that it cannot be solved by airy speeches, and least of all, by abusing people.

I would say to the hon. senior member for the City that unfortunately, some of his speeches are read and re-read in the Colonial Office, like some of the speeches of the hon. senior member for St. John. In the course of the Deep Water Harbour discussions, we had it thrown at us, "You say that you have the whole of the Legislature with you, what about so and so?" The time has come, when the Colonial Office has ceased to ignore the colonies. Every speech made on the floor of this House is read by at least one dozen people in the Colonial Office. When hon. members make irresponsible speeches and statements, until they are corrected by us, or until they come to the sight of people like Mr. Philip Rogers who has seen the West Indies at first hand, and who is now in charge of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office, and who will know when a member is merely hitting at Government, these speeches do us no good.

I am suggesting to the hon. member for his own benefit, and to the hon. junior member for St. Peter, not to give the impression that he has not got over the fact that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is in the place which the hon. junior member for St. Peter had hoped to be in.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The day will come when we will debate that matter in open form; and not in a Chamber of the Legislature. But from the point of view of potential discussion, he should not begin to raise that; because, he knows as well as I do about matters which he discussed with me in Stockholm. Therefore, he knows that the statement which he has made cannot be true. I would have expected the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to have said that; because, it is what he tells his friends.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I know that from the way certain people talk to me. There are certain members whose speeches are read and commented on; and the people often say, we can see that Mr. So and So is suffering from a sense of frustration. One or two of the hon. members' friends said, "what a pity etc." I will not dwell on that any further. I see that my efforts at improving matters will be a failure. That sort of thing will do no good; and it will do no harm either, because the cause is known now.

I would like to say, however, that we still have a reputation for looking at matters political with a greater sense of responsibility than people in the other colonies. When I say that, I do not care what Legislature in the rest of the Caribbean gets annoyed. That reputation has diminished slightly in some quarters; (the reputation for speaking with a greater sense of responsibility than any other Chamber in the West Indies bar none) and that sense of responsibility is felt to prevail in Barbados, not only in the Legislature, but in the island generally.

It is to our credit that this is so. All that I was trying to suggest to the hon. junior member for St. Peter (whom merely to look at, seems to bring annoyance) is that a debate of this sort, or a debate on a matter like the Deep Water Harbour should be conducted with cold, deliberate, careful consideration.

I believe that the hon. senior member for St. Philip must have realised after he began to speak, that there were difficulties which one had to face. I do not agree with him about embarrassing the British Government. No such question arises. I read of some Conservative members of the House of Commons suggesting it, but I have not met any official who remotely suggested that West Indians should not come to England in great numbers. They are people who still possess a sense of racial superiority, and whose objection to Jamaicans coming in is based not only on the alleged criminal tendencies of Jamaicans but also on the fact that their skin is black.

We must realise that there are some European nations to whom race prejudice is almost non-existent. But the English having ruled for centuries and having felt superior even to other white races, would feel more superior towards black people than towards a Frenchman, although they do feel superior to Frenchmen. They would feel more superior towards black people whom they once conquered and enslaved.

Now when we compare Barbados' population of 220,000 with Jamaica's 1,450,000 (seven times as many) and compare the number of Jamaicans who have gone up to England with the number of Barbadians who have done so, it makes me feel that the number of Barbadians who will go to England unassisted except by their relatives, will be a far greater number than the number of Jamaicans, which brings me back to the question that I have posed, and which I am perfectly prepared to answer. We cannot

afford even to lend money on a wholesale basis to people to go to England.

12.05 a.m.

What the Hon. Minister of Labour has said is true. I am thinking about the ordinary emigration. It is no new policy to help nurses nor is it any new policy to help students without means; but it is a vastly different matter to saying "whosoever will may come and will get £40."

I am going to the question of getting a loan. It is true, as the hon. senior member for the City has said, that so far as domestic servants are concerned, the average Englishwoman is going to the factory to work and not in the domestic service, and there is no doubt that there are many jobs available. The question is: is it economically sound for us to send them out there? The question is also: whether we can do this, that and the three hundred other things at the same time. Having calculated every commitment of the Government and considering the question of the Deep Water Harbour Scheme, it is preposterous to suggest any big sum for that. It may be that the Government may be able to do something on further calculations, but I cannot see this Government doing anything as it did when it loaned people money to go to America on an emigration scheme. We have to calculate any additional commitment, with our likely expenditure. In our calculation we have to take into consideration whether we are able to borrow any money, and if so, how much money we would have left over from the Deep Water Harbour Scheme. The question of whether we can lend any proportionate amount of money would have to be considered by this Government subsequently. Looking at it in the light of the discussions from which I have just returned, it would be difficult to make a promise of any financial aid. Our proposed expenditure for the next five years is already in the hands of the British Treasury and the Colonial Office. If I may give an instance of something which is fresh in the minds of hon. members, suppose we say, we must have more Agricultural Stations; we intend to have seventeen, and that would at once upset our proposals for expenditure over the next five years. We have already declared what are our proposals for expenditure over the next five years. We have already said, "we want you to give us so much from C.D & W. and in addition to that we want to borrow a few more millions." Having gone that far, to undertake any new big scheme of finance is to undertake something which would call for grave consideration. Whether we can drop something and spend the money on such a scheme, can be something to which we must give consideration.

The honourable member admitted that he got something from some remarks which I made in the course of my speech last Sunday night in St. Lucy All that I said was, I could not conceive a Barbadian selling his house and furniture, and his last fowl cock, to get £89 passage to England to go to look for a job. It is true Jamaicans have done that over and over again. It is true to say that they sell out everything in order to go up to England but I cannot conceive of any Barbadian doing that If the honourable senior member for the City knows of some who will do that, he has experience which I have not. I was not suggesting, that Barbadians do not want to go to England and try their luck too. I was merely saying, that the approach to life of Jamaicans, is unlike that of Barbadians. Why the Surinam Scheme of emigration fell through, even though you were giving them extra land? They felt that it is better to work for 4/- a day in Barbados than to work for 4/6 in a foreign land. It has been said, what has made Jamaicans go over in such large numbers in spite of what is being said about the living in England, is because they are a lazy set of people, and they say, even if you do not find work you can get 35/- a week.

Mr. Speaker, there is not much more I can say. As far as the attitude of the British Government is concerned, I do not think any person in a responsible position, has said anything against West Indians coming to England. Certainly, there is no Cabinet Minister or Parliamentarian in Great Britain, (with the exception as I mention before of a few extreme Conservatives), who emanate racial discrimination. (A VOICE: Socialists have done that too.) It is not fair to say so. What I do know is, that the Conservatives are asking questions to get themselves on the map. You are getting questions like this being asked: "what is the attitude of the Government of Barbados on the question of planned parenthood?'

12.15 a.m.

Questions have been asked as to the Government's attitude towards the influx of Jamaicans in the United Kingdom. Even the Conservative Government is too intelligent to say that it can do anything to stop that. Barbadians and Trinidadians and other West Indians are subjects of the United Kingdom and if jobs are available, and the particular Trade Union is not opposed to them, they can get those jobs.

With regard to the suggestion of sending a Committee abroad, the honourable senior member for St. Philip is always anxious to send Committees abroad on matters relating to emigration. Sometimes it is not always necessary to send a Committee; sometimes we receive cables saying "Come over, we will take 10,000 emigrants." Why should this suggestion be made about sending out a Committee? As a newspaper Editor the honourable senior member for St. Philip must know, that you do not go around industrial undertakings and ask that people be taken on. There are attempts made to channel Jamaicans, as soon as they can find some type of work which semi-skilled workmen can do in the appropriate districts. You can see one or two porters or ticket collectors on the underground trains. I have seen a Jamaican woman working as a porter in an underground train telling you to watch your step, closing doors and so on. We want a liaison officer to tell people where they will get lodgings, if they have no relatives to whom they can go. From now on I think that the chances of people suffering will be greatly diminished.

When I got up to speak, I really intended to say, if the speeches were shorter: that the whole matter of eliminating friction in places is being considered at the highest level in England by the Cabinet. At this period I do not think I can make much of a statement, until some official statement is made; but if any official statement is made, it will not be on a question of embarrassment. The English people are shrewd enough to say that they welcome West Indians as fellow-subjects, if there is any work obtainable; but to say that any manufacturer will extend his open arms to them, that is not true. Good, bad and indifferent employers exist in Great Britain as exist elsewhere; some people are well disposed towards West Indians; they know that some West Indians are good and they think that most West Indians must be good. There is the problem which might last for centuries, except the next war blots out half of the world and teaches the other half better; it is the question of sex Tenants of white houses have had to go out, because many Jamaican landlords want to push them out in order to take in Jamaicans, I know of an

instance where a house was rented for 25 shillings, and the landlord turned out the tenant and rented it to eight people at 25 shillings each. However, I do wish to assure honourable members that it would be impossible for me to be there in the middle of this problem, and not to have discovered exactly what the position is; and to say, how much I regret that owing to the necessity for satisfying the U.K Treasury with the foreseeable expenditure, this question of loans in a wholesale way to people to go to the United Kingdom, is a matter which will require very serious consideration. If we can get money to be turned over quickly, and we can lend it to people and it will be paid back quickly, there is no harm; but to lend money in a wholesale way to Tom, Dick and Harry, I repeat, that is a matter for serious consideration. To lend money to every chanced person, whether he is likely to pay it back or not, is a matter for serious consideration. If you have £50,000 in a revolving fund you will have many people making applications for loans.

I have told honourable members that this Government has not yet begun to discuss it. There has not been a full meeting of the Executive on it. I am not saying dogmatically what the Government will do or will not do. With the present knowledge which I have and which the Government has, we will begin to discuss what will be our attitude towards the people who come and say they want to go to England. I want to assure honourable members that the Government will not pass up any real good scheme for emigration. That is not mere verbiage; because, even a nitwit government would not oppose anything which would bring credit on itself. Emigration and birth control are the only hopes for Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at much greater length than I intended to. I repeat, that there is no question of embarrassing the British Government. The average Englishman was absolutely calm over the dock strike, the bus drivers strike etc. The honourable senior member for the City talked about black babies; of course they will be. I hope that honourable members feel assured that we have just as good a case as Jamaica. In fact we have a better case, because Barbadians are more reliable workers.

The Government is fully informed as to what is happening, and will be fully informed of what is done by the particular department dealing with Barbados at the Colonial Office. As regards possible financial assistance, that has to be taken in the light of what has just been promised us as regards the Deep Water Harbour and which is based on our present resources. It was not by accident that the U.K. had to hear that the Barbados Government will give the Deep Water Harbour the highest priority. That is why I say that we will have to consider any further expenditure in the light of the vast expenditure that we will be faced with in the construction of the Deep Water Harbour.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I intend, sir, to be very brief in my reply. It is very unfortunate that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has not acquired the habit of thinking aloud, otherwise, he would have contradicted himself on so many occasions in what he did say.

It has been said that I am very mild in my opening remarks. Apparently the only sort of speech that impresses honourable members, is one in which you pull out your hair, or in which you wear a petticoat and pull out one's hair, in order to impress one's listeners with the importance of the subject matter.

The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has attempted to answer what I said,—quite unlike the Honourable Minister of Labour. But what has the honourable member done? Like a drowning man catching at a feather, he has held on to a chance remark by the honourable junior member for St. Peter and attempted to use it to answer what I have said. The honourable junior member for St. Peter made the unfortunate remark that you cannot pick up money willy nilly, and lend people to go abroad because the whole island will want to go.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: That was in reference to what the honourable senior member for the City said. That honourable member talked about lending people money.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I still think that it was an unfortunate remark; but to the honourable senior member for St. Joseph it appeared as a gift from heaven and he started to expand it without thinking of the stupidity of what he was saying.

When the Government is lending people money to go to America, it does not send the whole population. Workers have to pass certain tests, and there is a ballot. You do not pick up the whole population and say everyone can go to America. If people can be placed in jobs in England, there must be some sort of selection basis on which the Government can work, and the honourable member knows that too.

To talk about not being able to undertake any other commitments because of our commitments in connection with the Deep Water Harbour, is the height of absurdity. The construction of a Deep Water Harbour will take five years. The scheme is spread out over a period of five years. If you lend people money to go to England, you will be paid back within five years. You can arrange your repayments so as to meet your commitments in connection with the Deep Water Harbour. You will be spending so much on the Deep Water Harbour every year, and by the time you come to the fourth or fifth year, any money that you advance from General Revenue or from any other source would be repaid.

The tactics to which the honourable member resorted, were those of a drowning man catching at a feather. But the honourable member knows that his argument has no validity; none at all. He has not said one single thing which would tend to establish the fact, that the suggestions made by me are impractical. He said that we could not take up money to send people to England, because the Jamaican Government is not doing it.

12.25 a.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I was at pains to point out that the fact that the Jamaica Government was not doing it, was no argument for our not doing it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We are not concerned with what Jamaica does. The efforts which Jamaica is making internally to solve the employment situation, we are not making here. Jamaica is spending millions of dollars in Agricultural development; but we are doing nothing comparable here. If Jamaica refuses to assist anyone with Government funds to go to England, it does not mean that we should necessarily do the same. According to the latest report, 1,100 West Indians are going to America, and out of that amount Jamaica is sending over 700.

We are considering our own problem in the light of our own particular conditions. Whether Jamaicans are going up or not, it is a matter for Jamaicans. We should do what we think is the best thing for us to do under the circumstances.

Finally, there is the question of saying, I should know that getting work for people, is not a question of getting applications and running around. Would you imagine, Mr. Speaker, that the author of that

remark is the same person who, on the floor of this House about three weeks ago said there is justification for spending Government funds for sending the Governor abroad to discuss emigration. It is not merely a question of Barbadians entering England; it is a question of getting work for them and what not. Do you mean to say that because it is Great Britain and we are of a British colony, we do not need anybody of importance to discuss this question with British employees? Do you think that we can wait on a British employment agency to find work for Barbadians? I do not know if it is because of the hour of the night that the honourable member is not quite clear in his mind, but he has not said anything at all so far, in answer to what have been said on the floor of the House in connection with this matter.

On the question of financing or sending down a scheme, I would ask him to repeat what he said. One could see how conflicting he was to himself. The honourable senior member for the City did say, that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph had just come back from England and it was almost sure he had discussed the question with the Colonial Office. Sir, we know the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. We know the air and the manner in which he discussed this question of a lot of West Indians going to England. The most he would say is: "I apologise over the fact that they are coming up." I think I hear him saying: "I am sorry our boys are coming up here to give you this trouble. As you know we in Barbados only send up students; mind you, we have nothing to do with those boys coming up; they are coming up on their own."

With regard to the speech of the Hon. Minister of Labour, let us assume that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph was not here to answer what was said on this matter, and the Hon. Minister of Labour had to reply on behalf of the Government. He said that the Labour Commissioner wrote shipping agencies, and discovered that at first, the persons going up from here was a mere trickle, but now he is saying that over three hundred have gone. The Hon. Minister of Labour is supposed to be in charge of emigration. If he were the beginning and final word on this matter of emigration for the people of this country, God help the people of this country! If he is supposed to be the Minister of the Government responsible for emigration, and this is the way he is going about it, then I say it is a mean advantage to pick up $700 out of the Treasury every month and pay him. The honourable Minister get £1,500 per annum plus his travelling and plus entertainment allowance. By his showing on the floor of the House he does not worth $17. In this entire matter he has made no attempt to investigate this scheme; as a matter of fact, he has not even attempted to listen to what is said. There is a definite statement that there are at present 45,000 vacant jobs in the United Kingdom, yet he has not inquired whether those jobs are vacant. The Hon. Minister of Communications is saying that if people go to England, we would help them to get placed.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker,—I have not said a word in this debate.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I never referred to the honourable senior member for St. Michael at all. I said the Hon. Minister of Emigration.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Already the Hon. Minister of Emigration has done this country a lot of harm on this matter of emigration. Quite recently, there were two American officials here to select Barbadian workers for the United States, and both of them told someone that Barbadians did not want any emigration, because the Minister of Emigration told them what fantastic prices agricultural workers are getting here, and what sugar factories are paying them. Their remark was: if that is so, what do they want to go to America for? That was their reaction to it. The Hon. Minister does not have any more sense than to tell them that sort of nonsense.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,—I have never heard a bigger liar in my life. I have never mentioned anything about what factories get. No question was ever asked any of us. We discussed the scheme and the official reaction to our discussions were, how important it was to give West Indians the same preference as they gave Puerto Ricans and Americans. The honourable member gets up and tells a patent lie. This is an absolute lie.

12.35 a.m.

(A VOICE: We heard so).

Mr. CRAWFORD: If the honourable member so desires, at any time I am prepared to confront him with the people to whom the people made that remark. (Hon. R. G. MAPP: Name them.) And for the honourable member's further satisfaction, I will tell him that I am not the only member to whom it was told. That can be verified by the honourable senior member for St. John, the honourable senior member for the City and other honourable members. When people come out here to recruit workers, that is the sort of thing they get from a Minister! Anyhow, I am saying with regard to the last remark of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, that in proportion to our population, it may well be that if the exodus increases, more Jamaicans may find themselves in England; and it may be said that is unfair to the unemployed in this country. Where does he expect the people of this country to get that £100 from? Some will go to England after making the utmost sacrifice, but the vast majority of people will not be able to go. I am sure that if the present position with regard to vacancies for workers continues to exists in Great Britain, and if there is no official objection on the part of the British Government to the influx of Barbadians and other West Indians to fill these posts, the Government will be forced to reverse its stand, and will have to help to assist people in getting to England whether they want to go there or not.

The question that this House do now adjourn for five minutes was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. CRAWFORD and E. D. MOTTLEY—(2).

Noes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. M. E. Cox, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. BRYAN and F. L. WALCOTT—(8).

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday next, the 10th instant, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

Tribute to The "Times"

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Speaking on this motion, I want to take the opportunity to say that I ought to have mentioned that this Island owes a very deep obligation to the *Times* newspaper of London, for the aid which it has given us in negotiating the loan for the construction of the Deep Water Harbour. The *Times* is still the greatest newspaper in the world, and without the help given by the *Times* in

the articles which appeared from time to time, there would be a danger of our not getting the money. I want to emphasise that. I also think that I should mention Mr. Oliver Woods by name. He knew all about the discussion and he did his best to boost us. I therefore think it should go on record that we thank the *Times* for the valuable aid which that newspaper gave us in supporting the scheme in respect of the Deep Water Harbour.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I feel that if remarks coming from the Conservative Opposition can assist this country in any way, from what I read in the *Times,* I quite agree with what the Hon. Premier has said. On a previous occasion it was drawn to my notice in connection with the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation, that there was a great difficulty found in getting people in England to invest their money. The *Times* is still the one newspaper in England which encourages people in making investments, small and great. I, too, should like to put on record my appreciation of what I have read in the *Times.* I do agree that despite what representation had been made in respect of the Deep Water Harbour Scheme, and the *Times* had not been convinced about it, we would not have received that support.

12.55 p.m.

On the other hand, Sir, I saw a paragraph produced in the *Advocate* which not only gave praise to the Premier and the people of Barbados generally, but also paid tribute to the person whom we of the Opposition suggested should go to England—Hon. H. A. Cuke. That paragraph which appeared in the *Times* also paid tribute to the sanity and reasonableness of the employing classes in Barbados; and just before recommending that we should be assisted, it mentioned that there was in Barbados a sound, christian teaching. They then recommended us to the assistance of the British investing public.

I would like to have it recorded in the Debates that we of the Official Opposition record our appreciation of the assistance given by the *Times* in this matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There are two suggestions which I have to make. The first one is, that if in future the Government has a statement to make like the one which the Premier has made to the House tonight, it should be in such a form as to make it become a document of the House. As it stands now, the Premier said something and he did not remember he said it. As it now stands, all that will happen is that what he said will go down in the debates.

The next point is, I am suggesting to the Leader of the House that as far as adjourning this House until next Wednesday is concerned, since we have had Ministerial status, the House has been continuing to meet once a week. They are about fifteen items on the Order Paper. It is better for the House to meet two days a week and clear the Order paper and then adjourn for some time. Coming here 52 weeks a year on the basis that we must meet once a week, is not business like. What I am suggesting is that you can do better business if you meet twice a week; and you will not have to meet for these long hours.

Mr. CRAWFORD: There is just one point I would like to raise. While I am appreciative of all that has been said in the London *Times,* I am apprehensive that this praise of the *Times* might be somewhat premature. It may appear that Barbados do not have much of a case, and that we are so appreciative, we are being a bit premature. We have got this money yet; and I think it would be more appropriate if, after the loan has been financed, we place our appreciation on record.

The question that the House will now adjourn until Wednesday 10th November, 1954, at three p.m. was put and agreed to, and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

1.00 a.m.