

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 10th Nov. 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. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*), A. E. S. LEWIS, *Deputy Speaker*,
Hon. M. E. COX (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*) F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E., Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry & Labour*),
F. E. MILLER, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Hon. C. E. TALMA (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting which was held on the 26th October, 1954, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

Mr. VAUGHAN entered the House and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1954.

Hon. M. E. COX: Bill to amend the Seawall Air Act, 1950.

Mr. SMITH entered the House and took his seat.

QUESTIONS.

The following notices of questions were given:—

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT:

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture:

What is the amount of money collected in each of the following three funds.

- (1) The Labour Welfare Fund.
- (2) The Rehabilitation Fund.
- (3) The Price Stabilization Fund.

(b) The expenditure of each Fund up to the present date.

2. Is the Government prepared to use any of the amounts standing to the credit of the Price Stabilization Fund, (other than what is used for the Labour Welfare Fund), for any other Welfare Schemes for workers in the Sugar Industry.

To enquire of the Premier:

Will the Government state what are the rules that govern the award of War Service Credit to members of the Public Service.

Mr. VAUGHAN:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications

Is the Minister aware that the incremental basis for the increase of salaries for a certain section of the unestablished Staff at Bowmanston Water Works entails the reaching of their maximum pay some years later than workers of similar status in any other department of Government.

Will the Minister explain the reason for this.

Will the Minister urge Government to correct this state of affairs as speedily as possible.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

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

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

Refurbishing of Government House

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—The first item under the Committee of Supply, is a Resolution to place the sum of \$7,217 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1954-55 Part 1, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1954-55 No. 24 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

This money, Sir, is proposed to be spent for the purposes mentioned in the Addendum and the Schedule. Honourable members who have gone to Government House from time to time, know that we have nothing really to boast about as to its general appearance, size and the grounds, as compared with one or two other Governors' residences in the Caribbean area. It is obvious, that it is the general feeling in every Caribbean community at the present moment, in view of the impending visit of H.R.H. Princess Margaret, that we in the West Indies should do something worthy of our position as an old part of the British Empire to make her visit a memorable one.

The object of bringing down this Resolution at this particular time, is to do now for Government House, what would have been done normally at the time of the Estimates; and in addition, to do a bit more than would have been done at that time, because of her visit. Those of us who have had the opportunity of going to Jamaica when Her Majesty the Queen visited Jamaica last November, were very much struck with the appearance of Government House there. Those of us who knew King's House before the Queen's visit, and who saw the preparations for Her Majesty's visit, could not help feeling that there was hardly place outside of the United Kingdom or the Dominions, which made a greater impression and had decorations more suitable, than King's House in Jamaica. One saw the lovely carpets, inside furnishings at their best, and a vast amount of flowers in the various rooms reserved for the Royal family. The furnishings were magnificent. It is true, that King's House is a much bigger place, and as a result the rooms are much bigger than the rooms of Government House in Barbados; but our Government House has a charm of its own. I think all of us, no matter how anti-imperialists we might be, would like to know, just as in our private homes we have to welcome visitors and we like to have our house swept clean and the furnishings bright, we would like to know that we do not fall behind the colonies in the appearance of our Government House, during Princess Margaret's visit. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anymore. The Addendum is fairly full. With regards to the carpet and floor coverings, I would say that it would be only sheer poverty which would cause a person to dream of keeping those stair carpets at Government House on such an occasion. I am making this appeal, (not to help an individual obviously,) but I am doing so because I am sure, that the people of Barbados would like to see that in their provisions at Government House, they would be providing a place which would not let down the fair reputation which we have attained in the eyes of the rest of the British world. Nor should we allow it to be tarnished. With respect to certain verandah chairs which are the usual verandah chairs we see all about, there are some at Government House which look very rusty; and the reference "painting, decorating and repairs, interior work" is made in respect of those verandah chairs. Reference is also made to the male and female staff toilets, and also to touching up the exterior. There is no doubt that the lavatory for the staff is in an appalling condition. I had a look last week at the exterior of Government House, and certain parts of it are sadly in need of brushing up. With respect to the provision for underground wiring, I am sure the honourable junior member for St. George would agree, that it is a very useful thing to have, in place of the temporary wiring which was installed up in a *ad hoc* condition. As the Addendum points out, some of the rooms are very much in need of painting and decorating. When it comes to the new stuff being bought for Government House, it

does not mean that certain things will be discarded. It does not mean that the drawing room carpets will be sold by public auction. That would go down stairs into the dining room; and the dining room carpet is of a kind which can be dissected and can be used in different parts of the Government House. Therefore, this is no question of getting rid of things to put in new things. What new things are bought, will replace those at present in the most prominent rooms; and what I would call the mediocre stuff, will be placed in the rooms which are not seen too often.

Certain members of this House have seen the different rooms of Government House and have seen what things are like in them. I am not saying, that things at present are not so bad as they used to be. I was shocked when I visited Government House during the administration of Governor Bushe, and discovered that certain furniture were made out of packing cases. You would expect to find that in poor cottages, but you would not expect to find that at Government House.

Sir, all of us know that sooner or later, we have to put a little paint here and there about our cottages to brighten them up; especially so, when we expect relatives from America or when Christmas comes around. I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$7,217 do now pass.

3.35 p.m.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: In seconding this Resolution, Mr. Chairman I would say that the honourable Mover of it has rightly described the conditions at Government House. I would say that there are certain carpets at Government House which are in a very bad state. In some places the carpets are more faded in spots than in others; although, I may say, that there are carpets which have been bought since the war. Apparently, they have not stood up to wear in the tropics.

With regard to the question of lighting, it is estimated that between \$150 and \$200 a year is spent on erecting the lighting in the grounds, and up to now \$92 has been spent; but the Electrical Engineer feels that if we had this underground system it will cost \$492 to install it, and it will last for about 15 to 20 years, which is a distinct saving. As far as the carpets are concerned, I want honourable members to understand, that it is not only because of the visit of Princess Margaret that we have brought forward this item; in any case, the House would have been approached for an amount to replace some of the carpets which are now in such a bad condition.

Mr. LEWIS: Nobody will condemn the attempt to make Government House look its best for the visit of the Princess. We have heard that some things are needed, apart from the fact that a distinguished visitor is due to occupy that place. But this Addendum condemns us severely in the eyes of the Princess. I wonder if she were here to read this Addendum, whether she would come to Barbados at all. To tell me that at this time in our history, we have to admit that we need to make provision for lavatories for the staff, I do not know that a Labour Government should come to the House and ask for provision for lavatories for the staff up there and be refused. I know that this Head of the Estimates is severely criticised; but to tell me that we are now coming for provision for proper lavatories for the staff at Government House, is something of which I am very much ashamed.

To say that you are touching up the exterior of Government House because it is attacked by mildew, I would say in reply that the House has voted \$2,000 every year which can be used for that purpose. The Governor's Head is the only one under which you will find the heads "Incidentals" and "Miscellaneous". We have the Item "Maintenance of the furniture and equipment" and we have "Incidentals", \$600 under each Item. Any mildew which has come to Government House, must certainly be the normal amount which you will expect every year; and some provision for touching up the exterior of Government House should be a regular annual expenditure.

As regards the installation of permanent underground wiring in place of the temporary overhead wiring, you will remember, that when there was a change in the office of Government Electrical Inspector, there was a new broom which wanted to sweep clean; and also wanted to make a new impression. The hospital wanted new wiring and Government House also wanted new wiring, and that was not so long ago. I did not look for the Resolution which came down here, but it was a Resolution for a considerable sum of money for the entire rewiring of Government House; and you cannot tell me that wiring at Government House does not mean the rewiring of the whole of Government House. This wiring means all the wiring which you would expect to find at Government House. We have to spend \$492 for something which we thought had been well taken care of, when there was a change in the office of Government Electrical Inspector.

Perhaps we would expect that the provision of carpets and so on must be made; but I think it is disgraceful that in a Resolution of this sort, we have had to include the provision of lavatories for the staff and wiring for the garden. We have just had an estimate for the entire wiring of Government House, and we have had distinguished visitors up there since then.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—I have often tried to suggest to the Government, that while the taxpayers are expected to pay for the maintenance to Government House, greater care should be taken to avoid one department costing the colony too much money. I have been looking up the history of the cost of running Government House for the past number of years, and I notice that up to 1948 it was only costing the taxpayers \$29,000 a year. Since 1948 the cost has been going up very rapidly, and today it is in the vicinity of over \$40,000; and now this Resolution will put it in the \$50,000 bracket. I have often tried to convince myself, that this is not a matter of patronage as far as the Head of the Administration is concerned. However, I have tried to avoid that feeling; but I cannot come to any other conclusion, but that it is a question of exclusive patronage being extended by the Government to the Head of the Administration. I say that, because over that period, we have been asked to vote sums of money for the purchase of things which could not be considered as things which merit priority, as far as the financing of items in the colony is concerned.

3.45 p.m.

It seems as if the Hon. Premier has been trying for a couple of years to increase the Governor's salary. It seemed as if, it would be a difficult thing to do. It seemed as if Government servants in the lower brackets and the taxpayers were not willing to swallow such a pill. What was therefore done, was that two thirds of the wages at Government House are now paid out of the Treasury instead of out of the pocket of the Head of the Administration, as was done before. That was one of the things done in a disguised manner, to bring about the same effect on

the income of the Head of the Administration, as if you had actually told him that you would increase his salary from \$1,200 to \$1,400 per month. It was just a smart way to give him that increase; and I will continue to suggest to the Hon. Premier, that what he is doing continuously as far as Government House is concerned is wrong; and in process of time he will realise that it is wrong.

Last year we added an amount of \$800 to the regular cost of running that place. Today the Resolution before us is not exactly for \$800, but it is near there. I would like to know, if the Premier expects us to feel that the furniture at Government House is really made of packing cases covered with cretonne. Obviously they are some ladies who try to experiment with some decorations and who try to exercise their skill and art, and who would have certain small objects of furniture made, and who would add colour to it by covering it with cretonne etc. That does not mean that the furniture at Government House is still dilapidated. The honourable member must realise, that not only do the members of the Executive go to Government House, but occasionally circumstances compel other people to visit there. And I can say that as far as the last time I have been to that place is concerned, I found that it is, (if not the only one,) one of the most lavishly furnished houses in the island. In my going around to a couple of rooms which are permitted to people like us, I have seen that the furniture is in substantial order; and not as the Premier has been trying to make us believe, that they are made out of packing cases.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I must interrupt the honourable member. I never said anything of the sort. I said that in Sir Grattan Bushe's time that was so; but it is not so now. The honourable member constantly makes untrue statements; and I will no longer do as I have done in the past—allow him to get away with downright untruths.

Mr. ALLDER: Besides that, Mr. Chairman, already this year furniture and equipment has been bought to the tune of \$800; and I am sure if these things which the honourable member is mentioning now were that badly needed, the provision instead of being \$800, would have been for more.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I must interrupt again. The honourable member has the Estimates in his hands, and deliberately misquotes, \$800 is for maintenance of furniture and equipment and the Note says "covers wages and general maintenance." The honourable member cannot speak the truth if he tries.

Mr. ALLDER: What I would tell the honourable member is, that the massive chairs which we see at Government House cannot merit an expenditure of \$800 per year to keep them in order. It is only this year that the honourable member saw fit to reduce that vote from \$1,200 to \$800. How in the name of God, can the honourable member cause someone to feel that the furniture at Government House would take \$800 a month to keep this furniture in order?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Again I am forced to interrupt. In the financial year 1953-54, the vote was also \$800. When a person quotes from memory and goes wrong, you can forgive him. But the honourable member has the Estimates in his hands, and he can read and write up to a point. When he says \$800 this year and \$800 last year, I will leave it to the House to say what he is.

Mr. ALLDER: Every honourable member knows that the vote was \$1,200 up to a year or two ago. That is what I said. It was either reduced this year or last year. The honourable member cannot say that it was not \$1,200 the year before that; and he should also remember the noise which took place here every time we discussed this Head of the Estimates. The

easiest thing for the honourable member to do when he cannot justify what he is doing is to accuse us of being liars. That is the only defence that he has. I will tell him that he needs a greater defence.

In a colony like this, where the honourable member is now walking about the villages and going to poor people's houses and seeing pots with nothing in them when the cost of living is so high and unemployment is higher, the honourable member cannot justify any attempts to allow one post to cost the tax payers anything like what Government House costs. The amount will soon be in the vicinity of \$50,000 if the honourable member goes on like that. I have read Debates of this honourable Chamber, Debates which took place when people who were considered to be reactionaries were over-running this country. The then Governor's entertainment allowance was not increased; because those members felt that the colony could not afford at the time, to increase the vote so that the then Governor could put on a lot of cocktail parties. Since I came to this Chamber, we have taken over this Government (we, the so-called Labourites) when the entertainment allowance for the Governor was £500 per annum.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Entertainment Allowance is not in this Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I am going to discuss the whole Head of Government House. I am going to discuss it because I am right.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable member allow me to speak? I am asking the honourable member to keep to the Resolution. No Entertainment Allowance is in this Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: It is within my right to discuss the whole cost of Government House. The honourable member always puts people wrong. I can discuss the whole Head and the honourable member knows that too. I am saying, sir, that since I came to this Chamber which was only in 1948, the Entertainment allowance was £500 per annum.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the honourable member not to discuss Entertainment Allowance in this Resolution. I am asking him to keep to the Resolution.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Since I have been here, sir, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has thought fit to increase this Entertainment Allowance to £1,000. He has seen fit to increase it to that amount, without taking into account the other perquisites and the additional costs which he has taken on and thrown on the backs of the taxpayers. I am sure that at other institutions in this colony, there are conveniences which are more pressingly needed; but these conveniences are for the accommodation of poor people who through necessity, will have to go into those institutions. The honourable member is trying to make the occupiers of Government House happier than the government would make themselves. He seems to have his reasons for so doing. I am hoping Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member will soon come to his senses, and set a limit for the cost of running Government House. When these small Resolutions are brought down and we do not attempt to draw the Government's attention to the fact that we are keeping our eyes on the rising cost of the running of Government House, within a short time, it might reach the vicinity of \$70,000. I am sure, sir, that in other colonies whose resources are greater than ours, their Government Houses are not kept as up-to-date as ours. It is time for us to cease to accept the view, that suffering must only be compatible with certain sections of the community, and that it must

be something unknown in other small and exclusive groups.

According to the remarks of the honourable junior member for the City, the only department where you see "Miscellaneous" and "Incidentals" running race with each other is at Government House. "Incidentals" is set down at \$600. Good Luck for us, it was reduced by \$100 this financial year otherwise it would have been \$700. "Miscellaneous" amounts of \$960. Now, these small heads are not seen or noticed by members of this Chamber. Of course, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph would say that it is below the dignity of the common man to know of what these tiny sums are spent on, which come under the Items "Incidentals" and "Miscellaneous."

I am wondering, sir, why whenever the honourable senior member for St. Joseph wants to shower his blessing on the Head of the Administration, (not necessarily this one but those before) he always attaches to the Resolution or whatever the measure might be, some small things which would apply to the servants there. On the last occasion he said, it was thought that the servants at Government House were paid such outrageous wages, that he found it incumbent on himself to take over such cost and to give them an increase also. He did it so that the Head of the Administration should be relieved of that hardship; and he put this increase on the already overburdened taxpayers who are less able to carry it than the Head of the Administration. The honourable member is now talking about providing lavatories for the servants up there. What did they use before?

Why don't the honourable senior member for St. Joseph reduce the Entertainment Allowance and put it at £100. The honourable member should realise by now, that the people are dissatisfied over the Entertainment Allowance. He should realise, when he has to go around until three o'clock in the morning that they are disgusted; and he should know it is these small things which have caused us to be disgusted. Probably, if it were possible for me to be able to do any thing more than talk, the honourable member's position might be better and more secure; but because we can only talk, (and according to the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, we can only get up on our hind-legs and talk,) that is the reason why the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has adopted this attitude.

I am going to warn the present Government now to change its policy, so that its actions should be in line with true socialism; and would raise the standard of the bottom man, and cease to continue to push up those who are at top.

4.05 p.m.

I cannot do anything more than register my protest against the continuous rise in the cost of running Government House. I will do that even in the face of disgust of the Hon. Premier. Some day every chicken must come to its roost.

Mr. GODDARD and Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY came into the Committee and took their seats.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not think that a Resolution like this should cause much heat; but sometimes, some of the words which are used by the introducers of these Resolutions generate this heat. I detest this reference to people's lack of education. As Socialists we should not be doing that; because, Socialism is the means of helping those who are not so blessed with education. In the parish I represent, there are thousands of people who are without proper education. For the benefit of the honourable senior member for St. John I will say, that more

people should realise that there are certain institutions which, if you have them, you must preserve them. Government House is an institution like the House of Assembly. If we do not need a Governor any longer, then we will not need to furnish Government House. I did not subscribe to what is popular. If you spend \$5,000 on Government House, you are spending that money on the Pope; but you are going to spend money under the Local Government Act on the Lord Mayor and so on. Even in Soviet Russia the Red Army on the 20th October, celebrated the anniversary of the Soviet Socialist Republic. I would not begin to let the poor people in this community believe, that if we make Government House an institution which can be admired, that that is a waste of money. At the same time, I do not suggest that we should spend any amount of money on Government House without an examination. I do not take the view, that because you have spent money on Government House before, you need not spend any money on that institution again.

This vote has been increased because of the proposed visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret. From every section of this House it is easy to say, that if you make a speech, you make it on personal grounds or with some ulterior motive behind it. I have said that Her Royal Highness is coming to Barbados and if you are not accepting her as your guest you should have voted "No"; but if you are accepting her as your guest I will ask this question: how many of us spend money on entertaining our friends which money we would not spend on our families? But social life is a part of our getting together. I say: we have accepted Her Royal Highness as our guest, and my consideration is that Government House should be put in order not only on account of the visit of Her Royal Highness but for all times, because it is the People's Government House.

It is very difficult for the Premier or anybody else, to make suggestions to the Head of the Administration not only on an occasion when the Princess is coming here but on other occasions; but from what I have seen for myself at parties which I have attended at Government House, is that there is not that liberalism in so far as guests and invitees are concerned. I want to make this point: I do not regard invitations to Government House as being exclusive, apart from where the Head of the Administration in his own private capacity invites people to Government House. I feel that invitations to Government House should reach down not up, as far as possible among the various sections of the community. What has shocked me in some respect, and what I have seen in this colony (and inasmuch as Jamaica has been mentioned) there does seem that invitations to Government House in Barbados are not as representative of a broader mass of the population as is the case in Jamaica. I say this: it is not a question of any personal invitation, but I doubt whether any members of this Chamber (and there are 24 of us) other than those who are members of the Government, have in their capacity as members of this Assembly been invited to dinner at Government House. On one occasion I saw the honourable junior member for St. Andrew there. I have been a member of this House for 9 years, and I have not seen any member of this House invited to dinner at Government House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the honourable member to keep to this Resolution. I have not seen anything about dinner at Government House in this Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to be kind to you. You should begin to understand that in this issue, we are speaking about a vote which deals with Government House and what applies to Government House. We are dealing with fixing of dinner tables at Government House and so on. I would be the last person to say something which would put you in difficulty. I say this: do not let anybody tell you that what I have said, does not come within the purview of this Resolution. I will be named, because I think it is about right to tell you that I can speak on the question of invitations to Government House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the honourable member to keep to the Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am keeping to the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member does not have to shout at me.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: These things irritate me.

Asides from the Committee

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the honourable senior member for the City to come and sit in this Chair if he wants to say who is to speak.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Why refer to me sir? You are not a bully. I never said anything.

More Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the honourable member to sit.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I have not said anything. What is the idea? I am sitting peacefully here not even paying you any attention. All I was doing is trying to avoid a row. Why not speak to the honourable junior member for St. Peter? The whole thing is that you people who sit in those Chairs are too partial. Why don't you speak to the members of your Party? Cut that stuff out. I am not afraid of any one of you in here; politically or otherwise. You looked across at me. I never wanted that Chair, man! Who do you think you are talking to? People try to be kind to you. Do not think you are bullying people. I never even suggested anything.

MR. SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported to me that in the course of discussion, he requested the honourable senior member for the City to cease speaking and to sit, and the honourable member refused to do so.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—It is well sir, that your office is so near, and you I believe could hear what happened. It is fortunate that Your Honour could sit in your office and hear what started off this argument. Your Honour would appreciate, even if you heard (as I apparently lost my temper to some extent in replying to the Chairman) that he is the last person I would like to offend. But he apparently lost his balance.

I was sitting here calmly and I just looked across and nodded at him. (Mr. SMITH: That is not the least bit true.) Man you cannot frighten me! He thinks that he is a bully.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member will address the Chair. Do not reply to asides.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am merely saying, that I looked across in a friendly way to the Chairman and said, "Let the man speak." I saw what was happening; and I said what I said in a friendly way. Instead of speaking to the honourable junior member for St. Peter, the Chairman said to me: if I wanted to have the Chair, I can come and have it. I think that was very unkind of the Chairman when he knew that at any time, I would not throw oil on troubled waters especially between him and another honourable member. I considered it to be going out of his way to offend me. That is what aggravated the situation. When the Chairman told me to sit down, I felt that I was entitled to let him know how I felt about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has explained that he intended no disrespect to the Chair. I would say that when asides are so loud as to give offence to the Chair, these asides may cause these situations to occur. I will also say that the honourable member should obey the Chair every time that it makes a ruling. I do not think there is anything which desires more comment. As long as honourable members on both sides of the House continue to make these asides, these things will happen. Mr. Chairman —

Mr. SMITH: Before I resume the Chair, I am appealing to Your Honour for your protection. Hon. members feel that because they are their own men, they can do as they like when spoken to. The honourable senior member for the City referred to me saying, "Smith, let the man speak!"

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The honourable member should not stand up in this House and make such a mis-statement and such a calculated misinterpretation of what I said. I never made any such statement to the Chair. I made an aside. Looking across the table I said, "Man, let the man speak." That was an aside. If the honourable member is being prompted I can draw swords with him and with any other honourable member. Would I with my experience have got up and said, "Smith, let the man speak?" Would not Your Honour credit me with more sense than that? The honourable member is getting up and trying to infer that I stood on my feet and said, "Smith, let the man speak."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I never said the honourable member stood on his feet.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: If you are a Chairman, you should know that I said nothing unless I stood on my feet.

Mr. SMITH: The honourable member said it loud enough for the Clerks to hear, for the Reporters to hear and perhaps even for the gallery to hear. He may not have said it disrespectfully, but he said it. Your Honour will have to protect me in a case of this sort, and ask the honourable member to apologise. (Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: For what?) If Your Honour does not, I will refuse to go back in the Chair. We have to maintain decency, respect and decorum in this House. If honourable members want to fight, there are none here that I am afraid to fight with fist to fist.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I was the member who was speaking on the Resolution. What is unfortunate is, that in this world there is too much aiding and abetting. Before some would be willing to tell others to cool down, they would be willing to force them to the point of danger and

then do like Pilate. The hon. Chairman was in the Chair, and I was making a point supporting the Resolution. I said there should be a system of more liberalization as far as entertainments are concerned. I said, I was in the House for nine years and I doubted whether the members of this Chamber have ever been invited to Government House for dinner. In spite of all that is said in the context of this Resolution, and all that was said by the Introducer of this Resolution, I was told that I could not deal with the point I was making under this Resolution. How could the Chairman rule me out of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman did not report that to me.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: He was ruling me out of order. 4.25 p.m.

How can we ever debate anything properly in the House of Assembly under these circumstances? It is unfortunate that the hon. Chairman has a habit of saying that something is not in the Resolution, therefore you cannot speak on that. The hon. Chairman is forgetting that a Resolution would have to be a Bible, if it contained everything.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable member cannot question a ruling of the Chair, except on a subsequent motion of censure.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the honourable junior member for St. Peter finished speaking?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: For Your Honour's information, I was only drawing attention to the impasse which took place. If honourable members of this Government would only try to aid people, instead of thinking they can do like Pilate, it would be better for members in this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: As far as I am concerned, this thing came to my ears because the Chairman took objection to an aside which he clearly heard and which was used in reference to him. I may tell the hon. Chairman that I have been in the same position before, when an aside that was intended to be disrespectful to the Chair reached my ear. What did I do then? I threatened the honourable member to name him. I did not want the honourable member to think that I would wax so warm when he was not on his feet. As long as the honourable senior member for the City was not on his feet he was not properly addressing the Chair; therefore, the hon. Chairman need not have made so much fuss over the matter. I may say that if honourable members on both sides continue to make these loud asides, the temper of this House will always rise. Such offences come from both sides; I excuse nobody. I would counsel the honourable senior member for the City to hold his temper. I hope the hon. Chairman would continue with the meeting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of the matter.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter is closed. (A pause) Mr. Chairman? (Another pause). If the hon. Chairman does not take the Chair I will have to adjourn the House immediately. (Another pause) Mr. Chairman? (Another Pause) There being disorder this House stands adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The House stood adjourned until the following Tuesday at 3 p.m. o'clock.