

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 21st October, 1954.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 4 o'clock p.m. today.

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M. D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*), Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*), Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Chairman of Committees*), Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*), Mr. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*), Mr. F. E. MILLER, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

MINUTES.

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

Messrs. HAYNES and BRYAN entered the House and took their seats.

REPLY TO GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 26 RE INTER-ISLAND SHIPPING

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to consider the Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 26/1954.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker,—On Tuesday last honourable members were asked to meet this evening to discuss the question of an inter-island shipping service. I regret to have to inform honourable members, that due to a recent cable which I received from Trinidad only yesterday, I am afraid that we cannot proceed with this discussion today. Therefore it is only left for me at this stage to say that the Executive Committee met this morning and decided that in view of recent developments, and more particularly in view of the cable which we received yesterday, it would not be advisable to continue with this debate today, because it might tend to prejudice the position.

I myself was still willing to start the debate; but I did see the force of the argument after it was

thoroughly threshed out. Trinidad has proposed that a conference be held in Trinidad on the 27th inst. with a view to—

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the honourable member can only now be making a statement.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am making a statement. I thought that was always understood.

Mr. LEWIS: I rise to a point of Order. If the honourable member is making a statement no honourable member can reply to it. The hon. Minister can move the adjournment of the House and discuss the matter, telling us what he knows.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not lie in my direction.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—On a point of Order. I want to get the position clarified. I thought that the honourable member would have moved the adjournment of the House, but he has made a statement to which we cannot reply. I do not think that any harm could be done seeing that this is something which everyone is anxious about. Although the Executive Committee has taken counsel in the matter, I was wondering whether it would not be better to discuss it now without finalising it, so that when the hon. Minister comes back with it, it would be in ship shape.

Hon. M. E. COX: I appreciate the remarks made by the honourable senior and junior members for the City; and I would like to assure them that without knowing the slightest thing about the whole situation, neither of them is more willing to have it discussed than I am, and to have it discussed at a very early date. But I am afraid, I cannot agree with the two honourable members that we should start a discussion on it this evening. We brought honourable members here to discuss this matter; but as a result of a cable from Trinidad saying that a conference should be held on the 27th, the Government has decided to send a delegation to the conference to represent the Barbados Government. After the decisions of the conference have been reported to the Government, the proposals will be brought to the House to be discussed and finalised.

We want to thank honourable members for turning out; and I regret placing them in this inconvenience. I am sorry that it was not foreseeable before we moved the adjournment last Tuesday.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot reply.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am moving that the House stand adjourned until next Tuesday.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House will automatically stand adjourned.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The House can stand adjourned until tomorrow. The House was on Tuesday last specifically adjourned until today.

The point about it is this: No Government in the world should be afraid of hearing certain statements. The hon. Minister made a statement to the House. Members should be taken as men, and not as children. There should not be this way in which things are being conducted. Last Tuesday, on the eve of the adjournment, we were told that this matter was urgent; and we were asked to come today to deal with it. I got up and asked, if we met on Tuesday instead, whether it would disrupt in any way. I am not speaking of the inconvenience it might have caused honourable members; but what grieves me, is to see that you offered a reasonable suggestion on Tuesday and today, the hon. Minister comes in here with a statement that the Trinidad Government says you must hold a conference on some matter. I am not going into that matter. When a member comes in here and expresses a view, I feel some sort of consideration should be given to his suggestion. If that were done, the hon. Minister would not have had to get up and make a statement. We do not control the Government. That a meeting of the R.E.C. must take place before we discuss this matter, is not the point which is worrying me. What is worrying me is that we have been called out today, and now we are here, we can do nothing because there is nothing to do.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am seconding the motion for the adjournment of the House. Sir, I, too, associate myself with the sentiments of the honourable junior member for St. Peter. Three weeks ago, when we were handling this agreement which came along as a Message from the Governor, there was a sort of rush to appoint a Select Committee, and the next day, I believe I am correct to say, we, the members of the Select Committee were asked to come and give consideration to the Message. I think it was a good thing at the time, that we did not get a quorum. It was looked upon as a matter of urgency. While I am not attaching any blame to the hon. Minister, he definitely said then, that the matter had to be considered by a certain time. I am saying that in a matter of this magnitude, certainly members of the Opposition require some time to deal with it; certainly, we could not deal with it properly the next day. I appreciate that the hon. Minister is in a difficult position. I do not mean to be offensive, when I say that in a matter of this sort, the average layman would have to get actual advice on it. You are saying now, you must meet in Trinidad; and must have further discussion on this matter first. What I am suggesting to him now, is, there are going to be so many things which the Opposition is going to ask in this matter, that it would be better if you had the views of the whole House on it, before you go to Trinidad to discuss it. Come in here, tell us something about it; and let us give you our views about it. We are going to ask some pertinent questions; and we expect them to be answered. I think it would be better for the Minister to know that Barbadians are not going to sit as any tom-fools, and accept anything without asking a question. Why can't we know everything on this matter now? Is this another racket like B.W.I.A.? Tell us what you know about it before you go to Trinidad. We have been told that we have to sit and allow every possible discussion to be carried on in Trinidad. The Company is to be registered in Trini-

dad, and everything is to be done in Trinidad. I think it would be well if the hon. Minister tell us today, all that he knows about this matter. I do not believe he himself is wilfully trying to hold back anything. I believe that, in corroboration with the Government, he has taken this decision, and he is in duty bound to abide by that decision. You have told us that this matter was important and that we should come back and deal with it. Now that we come back to deal with it, you are telling us that in the Agreement, you have found a lot of holes. Maybe, somebody has let out something which is going to be questioned. If that is so, why can't you tell us? You come here today, and you make a statement on it, and because of the procedure of the House, you cannot reply.

Sir, when you have a matter of importance to the people of this colony, and you want us to come out in our time, we come out. You brought this matter here, three weeks ago, and said, you had to deal with it by a particular time. You summoned a meeting? (I think it was at 1 o'clock,) to do something which you had put into my hands a day before. I had to appeal to the Clerk about it. However, the meeting did not take place because of the lack of quorum. I understood that it was the instructions of the Minister to the Clerk, to send out the summons for that meeting by hand. I had to tell the Clerk that when I received my notice, it was time for the meeting. However, this meeting was so important, that a Select Committee of members of the Government bench met and drafted the reply; and wants us to come into the House and agree to that.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker,—I must object to that statement. It was not a Committee of the Government Bench. The Committee was comprised of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Leader of the Independent Opposition, and I may say myself. None of those hon. members are of the Barbados Labour Party, or of the Government Bench.
4.35. p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: If the hon. Minister choose to say so, he can.

The hon. Minister comes in here and says, "I am only going to make a statement," and in this statement he has been above board, by telling us what are his reasons for the postponement. I quite agree with my colleague, and I believe that any reasonable member of the Government who is not a figure head, or any member of the House can think for himself will say, we have placed before us a twelve-page document relative to a matter of great importance. The public is told something, the something goes wrong apparently; and I should like to know, if this would be the habit of the Government, that as soon as there is a Conference in Trinidad, you give us an Order Paper dealing with seven or eight items and then wait until midnight or after one o'clock in the morning, and then rush something through. The public must be suspicious about that. (Hon. M. E. COX: The Opposition is stronger than the Government.) The Opposition is stronger than the Government morally. What is the point of the hon. Minister saying that we cannot deal with this matter, because of something they were told from Trinidad; I feel, the hon. Minister should say, that while we may not agree to finalise this matter this afternoon, it would be infinitely better now that the House is able to deal with the matter, to let us go carefully into it. The hon. Minister reserves his right to reply to any questions which are asked. He should be glad to take the matter back to the Government; and the people in Trinidad would be able to see what the people in Barbados want to know. I

say, with the greatest respect to the hon. Minister, that merely to make a statement and shut down this matter, and hope to come back at twelve o'clock some night, when all members are tired, and try to rush it through the House, is neither the correct nor the honest thing to do. I want to assure the hon. Minister of this; this is a matter which is engaging the attention of the general public.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will avoid making mention of the matter, because it is not before the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I would say, the matter which the hon. member is asking to be postponed, is a matter of great importance I am sure, the hon. member realises that when I offer criticism, it is nothing personal where he is concerned. When I want to deal with him, I will do so. I appreciate the circumstances surrounding the matter; because to me, it is rather complex. I have had to ask and gather knowledge from the more knowledgeable people in a matter of this sort; and I do say today, that each and every hon. member of this Chamber should have the time to let the Hon. Minister know how they feel about this matter, so that in turn he could take the information back to his Government. In that case, when our representatives go to Trinidad, they would be aware of the feeling of the House. I should like to say here, that when they go to a Conference, no one will think that all the ability for spotting the little loop-holes rests with the Government Bench. Therefore, when you have your discussions, criticisms and observations, those which you feel are constructive you deal with, and those which you feel are otherwise you discard; but I say, because you have your numbers, do not say "We start you off at three o'clock in the afternoon, and at ten o'clock, or ten thirty o'clock you are tired, and we will rush it through."

Mr. Speaker, those are my views. I hope this will not be the last matter which tends to link us with Federation; and I hope, in future, when matters of this sort come up, we will be given the opportunity to express our views, so that other West Indian colonies will know what we feel. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adjournment of the House; but I regret very much, that the honourable Ministers did not consult us before we came in here. This is an indication to let this shipping company believe, that you are the lords, and that you have nobody else to reckon with; but the day is coming, when the position will be otherwise.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I want to appeal to honourable members to control their tempers. When the Government asked honourable members to come back here this afternoon, they did so in all good faith, honesty and integrity. The honourable junior member for St. Peter very well knows, that sometimes when you are at the point of concluding a matter, some point arises, and that holds up the whole proceedings.
4.45 p.m.

Last night a cable was received by the Government in connection with the problem that has arisen in these negotiations, which problem is of so serious a nature that the Government of Trinidad has asked the other Governments concerned to send representatives to meet in Trinidad on Wednesday the 27th. On Tuesday last, we thought that we would have been able to have this matter thrown open for discussion this afternoon, but in these circumstances, we cannot do so because we are not in a position to finalise the matter. We know the Barbadian temperament and his love for criticisms; and someone might say something which might further prejudice the negotiations. Therefore we thought it best to postpone it further.

The 31st of October is still the deadline. We are hoping that the delegates will come back on Thursday, and we hope that the House will come back on Friday so that we can finalise the matter. Those who do not want to believe us, do not have to. But I am surprised at the hon. senior member for the City who suspects something in every action. There is nothing sinister about this.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I object to that. If that is the hon. member's way of thinking, it is not mine. I have not said anything about suspecting anything. I have made it quite clear that I accept everything that the Hon. Minister said. What I said was to the effect, that while I accepted what you have said, it might have been better, because of the magnitude of the matter that we came to discuss, and because it hinges around Federation and would be a long and protracted debate, it might have been better to discuss all phases of the matter to-day. The Government would not have needed to reply to-day. I am sure that what we are going to discuss is what we have spotted—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has made enough explanation.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister should not accuse me of being suspicious. There is nothing that I am afraid to tell any of them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has made enough explanation.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The hon. member said repeatedly that we might come here some night when the Opposition is tired, or has gone, and push this through. I said that the delegates were to return on Thursday, and the Government hoped that hon. members could come back on Friday. Inasmuch as everyone realises the importance of a matter of this sort from the point of view of possible employment, transshipment of cargo, etc. It is not advisable that it should be put before the House before the point that has arisen is settled.

Mr. LEWIS: I am very disappointed at the turn this matter has taken to-day. If any matter other than this had been discussed at this meeting to-day I would have objected to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: There was never any intention to raise any other matter.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—In that respect, this meeting was conducted wrongly from the start, because the Clerk was asking for papers to be laid, Government Notice etc. which is not done at a special meeting. What I find strange is this: we have seen from the Governor's Deputy's Message that the British Government is contributing money to this scheme. Obviously all the legal brains of Great Britain would have to go through the matter and give their advice to the Colonial Office as to whether it is a scheme to which they should contribute £10,000. We also have legal brains in the West Indies who may be even better than those in Great Britain. The next thing is to find the Government saying that this was an urgent matter, and then coming last Tuesday and doing items 7 and 11 on the Order Paper and leaving out the consideration of this Message. The next development is, that we are asked to come here to-day to a special meeting to discuss this matter. To-day one member of the Government has said that he got a cable yesterday, and another has said that the cable came last night.

What I feel is, that hon. members could have been contacted by phone if it were too late to put a notice in the Press, or the notice could have gone over Rediffusion apologising to members, and explaining that the matter could not be dealt with this evening. Your Honour could then have come, (or if it

were inconvenient for Your Honour I would have come) and adjourned the House until next Tuesday. The Government should have let us know. They should not have caused us to leave work, rush home and rush back here to find this out.

Barbadians have been blamed for keeping this thing back in its initial stages. It has gone forth to the world that we were against the scheme from early. In all the islands the people knew what was happening; in Barbados we knew nothing about it except in a hazy manner that some service would be provided. It would seem to me that the Regional Economic Committee needs some serious attention. I know it is not an organisation that meets with the entire approval of the Leader of the Government. There was one single Money Resolution that he was mainly enough to let lapse, and that was a Resolution in connection with the R.E.C. Other Resolutions, no matter how untimely, were always pushed through. I am referring to the Resolution in connection with the R.E.C. disaster in Canada.

I am very disappointed. I am at a loss to know how a matter can get this far and we cannot hear something about it even only what is in the Message. We should be told. I am not convinced in my mind that something has occurred which cannot be told to the people of this colony. We were told on Tuesday that the other Governments had signed this agreement already. The Hon. Minister of Communications said they had Finance Committees who could sign the agreement and who had signed it, and that the Barbados Government was the only one who had not signed it. We pointed out to those numbskulls the fact that the Trinidad Legislature was in recess and would not be assembling until tomorrow (Friday). This is the kind of thing that we get. I wonder how many things have been rushed through which would not have been rushed through if they had had to stop and re-consider them. Must we accept this kind of work from this Government? We cannot even be told now that the date will be put forward. It shows plainly that the company has put a trick upon them.

4.55 p.m.

What is the objects of telling us these things? This makes us feel that these things should definitely not be conducted behind closed doors. We do not know what we loose. I am saying that this is a most lamentable display by this Government. I feel, that the courtesy should have been extended to hon. members to prevent them from coming here today, unless they themselves wanted to come. We should only have come in a formal manner to let Your Honour adjourn the House until next Tuesday. They invest everything with secrecy, so as to give them some importance. They said, that we must meet and finalise it today. Now that we have come here, they say, we cannot deal with the matter. We cannot be told what has taken place. The hon. member cannot even say, that up to this point, this is all that I can tell you, but something has occurred otherwise, which I cannot disclose yet. You could have moved consideration of the matter and said that and then it could have been adjourned.

Mr. Speaker, everybody in the street of other Colonies knows something of this service. We have heard, that Barbados is not going along with the conditions. We have sent somebody on a joy-ride to Great Britain on this matter; and it is becoming too much of a joke. There must have been millions of agreements like this. What is wrong with this matter? I know the company is not at fault. The company is still accepting the contract on the same date. Probably the various Governments concerned,

now want this matter calculated on a population basis. Some colonies want it calculated on the Revenue of the colony; leaving out the Oil revenue. However, I am glad to hear, that the Barbados Government is critical about the matter. I hope, members of this Government will get just as critical about other things. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, some courtesy message should have been sent out by the Hon. Minister of Communications, to tell hon. members that Government would not be able to proceed with this matter today. Certainly, you should not wait until you said prayers, to say that you could not tell us anything on this matter. Certainly, there was no necessity for us to come.

Hon. M. E. COX: I just want to reply to three little points. First, the hon. sen. member for the City, said, he has a lot of questions to ask on this matter. I want to appeal to him, to adopt the practice which is carried out in England, in so far as acquainting the Minister as to what the questions are. (A VOICE: You don't give us this courtesy.) First of all, I think the hon. member who has questions to ask on this matter, should submit the questions, so that we could get the answers ready for him. The point was made by the hon. jun. member for the City as well as the hon. senior member, about the Government not notifying the House, after it found that the matter could not be discussed. When I received a notice to that effect, I got in touch with the Librarian and Secretary, and I informed him that it was not likely that this meeting would come off; and I suggested that he should get in touch with Your Honour who would get in touch with hon. members, to acquaint them of the development. Later I was told that according to the rules of this House, so long as Your Honour adjourned the House to a certain day, the House would be in duty bound to meet, and then be formerly adjourned. Let me say, there was no question of discourtesy; it was a question of procedure.

The honourable junior member for the City, referred to a statement which I made in this House on Tuesday night, relative to the attitude taken by the various Governments. I still maintain that I am right. (A VOICE: I did not say you were wrong.) I still maintain that Barbados is the only Government, and perhaps, more particularly because of its constitutional setup, which has not agreed to the Agreement; because it has to be sanctioned by the Legislature, before any Agreement on the behalf of this Government can be a decision. I am aware that the honourable junior member for the City has been educated at Jesus College.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—Is the honourable Minister making a statement of fact or of ridicule? I do not think he should be allowed to say that. That is purely abuse. The honourable Minister knows very well, that I did not go to any College. I am like himself,—an ignoramus!

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for the City has interpreted the words of the Hon. Minister of Communications, to be words of ridicule; therefore, I would ask the honourable Minister to withdraw his remarks.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker,—The honourable member, and a few other honourable members of this House, are always referring to other honourable members as ignoramuses and numskulls; without any authority at all. An objection has been raised about the remarks I made, but I was pointing out, that he is the only learned man in this House. Is he objecting to that? Sir, according to the rules of the House, it is out of order to discuss anything on the Order Paper before the meeting; therefore, I

am not prepared to debate this question before it can be done.

I am appealing to honourable members who have questions to ask, to submit those questions before hand; so that we can give all the answers. If honourable members want the answers to their questions given accurately, they should know what information they want in advance, and certainly they can submit those questions. (MEMBERS: You cannot be serious about that.) Anyhow, I did make attempts to prevent honourable members from coming to the House; but I found that I could not do that. I again apologise to honourable members for having them here this afternoon.

Mr. MILLER: What is regrettable in this matter, is the attitude of the honourable Minister. The honourable member began to apologise. He made what he attempted to call a statement, and I am particularly anxious to find out the point of view of the Government in this matter. If you read this Agreement, you will find it is a question of eight meetings of the Regional Economic Committee and the Governor of Trinidad, negotiating on behalf of the Governors in the Caribbean area. The honourable Minister himself resents being referred to as a numskull; but he refuses to give us any light on the matter at all. But they will come in here, and the Minister will ask to ratify the agreement. There are three major discrepancies in this agreement; and the honourable Minister himself, should be very anxious to hear any question which any honourable member is advancing. He has asked us to give him enough time, by sending on questions to have them answered. I speak with some feelings of disagreements in this matter. The position is misleading. The honourable Minister started off by saying, that he received a cable yesterday, and the Honourable Leader of the House said that the Government received a cable last night. (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It is the same day.) I understand that it is the same day; but I cannot persuade myself to be carried away with the expressions of the Minister as to this question. As to the question of the oil—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not before us.

Mr. MILLER: I am speaking on the motion for adjournment; I am not speaking on the agreement. I think the honourable Minister should have taken the feeling of this House on this matter. I have no doubt, he will go to Trinidad as another Charlie MaCarty. He dares not change one iota; and then you will find that he will make a second statement to the House, under the weight of his own conceit, and remind us of the fallibility of human nature. I am not in a position to say that this means so much to Barbados. We send our sugar to England, and the English ships take more of it. We are against—

Mr. SPEAKER: What has that got to do with the motion for adjournment?

Mr. MILLER: We are asking the honourable member to appreciate the position of the House; and that the least he could do, would be to go to Trinidad with some understanding of what the people of Barbados feel. Sometimes, the Minister's silence persuades us of his inability to understand. I say the least he could do, is to get some feeling of what the people of Barbados would like, because it is the people themselves who will have to pay this money. If this Agreement is made, after two or three years, we will be held by the yoke; and I say, the least we could do is to have some understanding of what the people of Barbados need. We will be asked to ratify this Agreement lock, stock and barrel; but the honourable Minister himself does not understand the position. That, I repeat, is regrettable.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—I have the right of replying; and without any attempt to reply at length, I would like to reply to what the Honourable Minister of Communications and the Hon. Minister of Social Services have said. There was nothing in my speech to indicate that Government should not be placed in a position to change any decision which it has previously made. I said, it was not necessary for us to meet today to deal with this matter; that we could meet on Tuesday, and if my suggestion had been agreed to, it would have saved all this embarrassment. The point was made by the Honourable Minister of Communications that they were all very anxious about concluding this Agreement. In Trinidad there seems to have been some dispute between the Minister of Trade and the Regional Economic Committee; and a statement was made that the attitude of Barbados was really against the shipping Service. We are more or less driven into this matter, and it is an expensive price we are paying, maybe for Federation. The Government of Barbados has agreed to do it; and the Hon. Minister of Communications must realise and bear in mind that he is speaking to members who understand the Constitution.

5.15 p.m.

The Government of Barbados can be in agreement to the proposal subject to the approval of the Legislature. It is not that the Barbados Government is not the only Government that has not agreed to it. All over the world Parliament is supreme. If any agreement is subjected to the will of Parliament you cannot make an agreement which binds Parliament to do something within a specific time before the time arrives.

The Minister made a statement that any question which an honourable member wants to ask on this point should be submitted to him. That would be reducing the debates of this Assembly to a farce.

Mr. COX: I never said that any question should be submitted to me.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable Minister seems to be learning Greek. He solemnly said when he was replying to the honourable senior member for the City, that when it came to this question he hoped that members would give them an opportunity to answer by submitting the questions. If that were not done, he would have to answer the question as best as he can. It is axiomatic that you cannot answer as best as someone else can.

When he brought this Message into this Chamber it was his desire to deal with it as quickly and as expeditiously as possible. The Honourable Minister need not become ruffled now, if, owing to things that are beyond his control, he cannot do it. He should be prepared to say, "I was willing to have this thing done because I was told it should be done." Had the House acted quickly on this matter when it was first before us we would have been faced now with a possible amendment. The Minister knows as well as the world that the matter of this agreement was before the Government for over a year. This matter arose when I attended a meeting of the R.E.C. There is no question of this being an issue which the Legislature has discussed. The honourable Minister should give the Legislature wherever the occasion arises, an opportunity to be of assistance to him.

It is obvious that in this matter the Trinidad section carried some weight. I have been to some of these meetings. This is no secret. Barbados finds it difficult at the R.E.C. meetings to get its point of view put. Since the start of the organisation there has never been anything that Barbados wanted speci-

feally and which would be of use to Barbados, that was carried. Where this shipping service is concerned Trinidad supported the idea and therefore it meant that Barbados must come along. The Honourable Minister of Labour and the Chairman of the Committee had a row when the Minister said that Barbados was not in favour of it. So make the Barbados Government come up and say they are in favour.

The honourable Minister need not say that the Barbados Government has not agreed with it, because it has. If the Barbados Government had not agreed with it, it would never have reached the Legislature. This is not a Crown Colony. They have agreed to everything subject to the approval of the Legislature. You do not have to be a lawyer to read the Constitution. Under our constitutional set-up Parliament becomes supreme. That is what I pointed out to the Minister when he said that I was a know-all. My job makes me have to be a know-all or I would be no use to the community. We know that the Trinidad Government is subject to the same thing — eventual approval by the Legislature.

In reply to the Honourable Minister I would like to state—I will not call vulgar names although he is the first to call people vulgar names. If we had a dictaphone to record what he says sometimes

in this House, he would be ashamed of it. If the honourable Minister is dealing with such a document as the one before the House, there must be certain things about it on which he has information that he can give to us. If an honourable member asks a Minister a question that is outside his province it is obvious that he would not be able to reply. If the question is within the Minister's province he should reply if he knows the answer. If he does not know the reply he can say so.

It is regrettable that a Government constituted like the Barbados Government should have to follow Trinidad's lead. Trinidad has no party system, nor have the Windward Islands. In those places the Governor has more power than the Governor has in Barbados. If this Government had had the opportunity of hearing the views of this Chamber on the issue they are going to discuss in Trinidad, it might have helped them. Anyhow I leave it to the divine wisdom of the Ministers; but when they come back here they will have to shoulder the blame for whatever happens.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, the 25th inst. at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and agreed, and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.
5.30 p.m.