

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 26th July, 1955.

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

Present:

His Honour K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., (*Premier*), Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*), His Honour A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*), Mr. F. L. WALCOTT O.B.E., Hon. R. G. MAPP (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*), Mr. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*), Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), Mr. E. W. BARROW, B. Sc., Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M.A.

Prayers were read.

DEATH OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Today there being a vacancy in the post of Clerk of this House due to the death of the late Clerk, I beg to move that Mr. H. L. Thomas be appointed to act as Clerk and Mr. D. A. Banfield be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk until 31st August, 1955.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am sure all honourable members will agree with me in saying that although we have read of other Officers of this House who have performed useful services to this House and in many cases public services to the island as a whole, none of us will consider that any of the great giants of the past had more to show, both in their faithful service to this House in the help they gave honourable members of the House, (and if I may say so with great respect to the Chair), as all good Clerks do, in the help that they gave to the offices of Speaker and Chairman of Committees in their succession, than the late Clerk of the House of Assembly.

The late Mr. Dudley Lee Sarjeant was for many years a Solicitor who practised his profession in the

way that many of the old School of Solicitors practised theirs; not only as a good conveyancer but as a first class advocate in the courts of this island. I remember quite well as a small boy the firm of Cummins & Gooding; I remember most distinctly both of those partners of that firm of Solicitors and when I was still at school I remember Mr. Sarjeant being articulated to them about the year 1913 or 1914. He became a Solicitor in 1919; and for many years indirectly until the time of his death, he practised the profession of a Solicitor. Those of us who have been at the Bar during the period when he was a Solicitor practising in the Courts will bear tribute, not only to his profound knowledge of the law especially in conveyancing, but to his abundant energy and the keen interest which he always showed in the careful and thorough preparation of his briefs. 3.25 p.m.

Whenever you had Mr. Sarjeant as Solicitor you always felt that the brief put into your hands contained all the evidence which could be put on behalf of a client; and he would draw attention to the law relevant to the case.

Early he took interest in Parochial politics and was a member of the Christ Church Vestry for nearly 20 years; from 1929 to 1948 he was in the Vestry of Christ Church and during many of those years he was Churchwarden. I believe the Minister of Social Services and myself are the only members of this House who sat in the Assembly with Mr. Sarjeant while he was a member. He became a member of this Assembly in 1930, four years before I entered the House; and the Hon. Minister of Social Services will bear me out in saying that Mr. Sarjeant's militancy, his knowledge of parliamentary procedure and his essentially democratic spirit was a very important factor indeed in the growth of modern democracy as we have seen it in Barbados.

In the old days when this House faced the other way, there used to be three or four democratic members sitting in the direction where I am now pointing with my left hand; two of them sat by Mr. Sarjeant and two of them were the most well-informed critics of the Government in that day that I have ever seen in the House. Mr. Sarjeant fought a valiant fight for the rights of this House and for the underprivileged of this island; and it is no mere *post mortem* tribute to say that his name will go down to posterity with all the politicians of 25 years ago, who stirred up the spirit of democracy in Barbados and kept it alive.

It was to me personally when I entered the House in 1934, a disappointment that Mr. Sarjeant, in so short a time, two years after I had entered, should forsake active politics and become the Clerk of the House. For the last 19 years, (it is a coincidence that he served 19 years in the Vestry of Christ Church and 19 years as Clerk of the House,) he has been a friend and counsellor to us all.

I will say something which at first blush may seem to be almost too good to be true. Speaking personally now, I know that Mr. Sarjeant was a most faithful guide and friend to me in many matters; and I know that at the very same time he was a most earnest friend to some of my bitterest critics. He never betrayed any of their secrets or confidences to me; so I spoke to him as freely and as frankly about other people's friends who were my enemies, and I am perfectly sure that equally he did not betray my confidence. It is a very difficult thing for a man to do that unless he has the sort of disposition which Mr. Sarjeant had. He was a friend of many people but those people were not friends among themselves.

When one pays tribute to a public official it is easy to say things which are merely pleasant and overstep the bounds of the absolute truth. In Mr. Sarjeant's case I am sure that no single member of the House of Assembly could say other than that he was a friend and helper to every member, no matter what his politics might have been. We hope that his successor will prove to be as good a Clerk as Mr. Sarjeant was, and just as seized with the knowledge of Parliamentary Law as Mr. Sarjeant was; and that he will leave in time behind him a great feeling of profound regret with which Mr. Sarjeant's passing has left us. I now beg to move that the following Resolution do now pass:

The House of Assembly have received with great regret the news of the death of the Clerk, Mr. D. L. Sarjeant, of whose faithful service during a period of 19 years they desire to express their grateful appreciation.

They hereby offer their sincere sympathy to his wife and relatives in their great affliction and direct that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Mrs. Sarjeant.

Mr. GODDARD: Although we know that the Clerk had been granted sick leave and many of us have seen him during that period, because he was a friend to us and many of us visited his home, we were really shocked to learn of his death. I knew that he was a very ill man but I did not realise that he was so ill.

As the Premier has said, Mr. Sarjeant was a friend to every member of this House. As a young politician when I entered this House, on the day before I entered the House, I came up the steps to find out what it was all about and Mr. Sarjeant told me that any help which I needed it would be his duty to give and it was also a pleasure to him to give it to me. 3.35 p.m.

Well, that was Mr. Sarjeant from the time I knew him. He has always given us that help and good counsel; because although he was friendly with all parties and from that knew of anything that was in the minds of all parties and all shades of opinion in this House, he never betrayed anyone nor did he give away the secrets of one to the other; and for that we must give him credit.

Mr. Dudley Lee Sarjeant was more than a good Clerk. His career goes back to 1929 when he became a Vestryman of Christ Church; and I can say now that Vestry politics in Christ Church in his day was so vigorous that it could be said he gave birth to

party politics in this island. When he fought in the Vestry of Christ Church on the one side, it was a party fight; and although the elections of that day were on a limited franchise, it was interesting to hear the tales of campaigning.

It can be said that Vestry politics of Christ Church of that day was as strong as the Central Government politics of today. I say again, that I think it was he who gave birth to party politics in Barbados.

Whatever Mr. Sarjeant did he did vigorously. Whatever he did, he did it to an excess. He was a true Barbadian and often he placed Barbados before any thought of party. We have lost not only a good Clerk but a good friend. With those few remarks I associate myself with the Hon. Premier and I beg to second the Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, very appropriate tributes have already been paid to the public life and work of the late Clerk of this House. It is true that for the last almost two decades he has been removed from the hurly-burly of active political life and therefore what he stood for and represented in his time is almost unknown to the younger generation; yet I should like to say that the example he set and the contribution he made as a Vestryman in the Parish of Christ Church 20 years ago has been an inspiration to us today in the broader sphere of the Central Government. It is true to say that the Vestry of Christ Church under the leadership of Mr. Dudley Lee Sarjeant was far ahead of any parochial body of this island; and the progress it made in improving the lot of the average parishioner in that parish was unequalled; and I would almost say that to this day it is in many respects still unequalled by many parishes of this island.

Time there was when Mr. Sarjeant's politics in Christ Church on behalf of the middle and working classes of that parish was eagerly looked forward to, and was warmly welcomed by people throughout the island. There were people in other parishes who hoped that the example set by the Christ Church Vestry under his guidance might be followed by other Vestries. They hoped in vain for the democratic processes and achievements which were made in those days by that Vestry and which stood out as a landmark in the history of that period. I am quite sure in time to come the remarkable influence which he wielded on the parochial affairs of the period shall be properly assessed.

We today are more fortunate than he was because during his short stay in the Legislature his was one of very few voices raised in the interest of the people of this country; and he therefore was not in the position as we are to wield equally his influence or to achieve similar advantages for the people in whom his interests specially lay. Of those of us who are more fortunate than he in that we have greater influence and say than he had in the Central Government or he ever dreamed of having, I would like to think that we are following in the footsteps which 20 years ago he created in the parish of Christ Church.

For the last few years Mr. D. Lee Sarjeant was in failing health, but I think we would all agree that his interest in all that went on around him, his *bonhomie* and his deep welfare in the people of this country never failed; and, if he has not been permitted to remain longer with us, I think we can all safely agree that he has fulfilled his niche in life. He has made more than a passing contribution to the history of his age; and I am fully assured that among the great pioneers of democracy in Barbados within the

present century, his name will occupy an honoured and prominent place.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in the days when the late Clerk of this House whose passing we all deplore on this occasion entered the political life of this island, it must not have been easy to fight against the forces which were marshalled in opposition to those who were interested in the constitutional progress and economic development of this island; and so, Mr. Speaker, when people like the late Clerk of this House entered the political arena during that rather hectic period of this island, history must record such men as having been born before their time.

Mr. Speaker, it was not my privilege to work closely or to know the late Clerk of this House until my return to this island some five years ago. But during that period of time, both from the professional field and as a parliamentarian, I certainly became familiar with those attributes of hard work which previous speakers have associated with the late Mr. D. Lee Sarjeant.

I would like to say that despite his failing health those who have had the opportunity of seeing the work which he put on Committees of this House, his attendance at late sittings which this House has held all too frequently for a man in his state of health, he yet held out with courage; and in Committees he was able to give of his years of experience in the political life of Barbados. He has made an invaluable contribution in the work which he put in on the Rules of this House, which were revised over 18 months ago, but which have not yet been passed in this Chamber. 3.45 p.m.

I feel when we come to debate the Rules of the House (and I think Mr. Speaker you will agree with me) that honourable members will assess the ability of the late Clerk and agree with me when I say that he has left behind a monument more lasting than bronze.

I should like too to express my sympathy with the family of the late Mr. Sarjeant; and I feel that we should show our deep feeling in this matter by adjourning this House for a period of five minutes as a token of our esteem and appreciation for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move (subject to anything which Your Honour may like to contribute) that this House in addition to passing the Resolution of sympathy do now adjourn for five minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the question I should like to associate myself very closely indeed with all the fine encomiums which have been paid to our late Clerk Mr. Dudley Lee Sarjeant.

I remember when I first came to this House as junior member for St. Peter, quite early I discovered that Mr. Dudley Lee Sarjeant was a man who could be trusted. Soon afterwards when I had the honour to be elected Speaker of this House of Assembly I came into very intimate and close daily contact with our late Clerk, and I always found him to be always depend.

There were times when the late Clerk and I differed on matters relating to questions parliamentary; but even then on every single occasion, back of it all, was that deep trust and confidence and I realised that whenever Mr. Sarjeant spoke on any matter he spoke with confidence.

I know all honourable members will lament his passing and I can only hope that his successor will be a man of similar calibre. Before I put the question I should like the House to assent to the Resolution by standing for a period as a mark of assent to the

passage of the Resolution. Honourable members please stand.

The House stood in silence for three minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Be seated gentlemen.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for a period of five minutes as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Dudley Lee Sarjeant former Clerk of this House.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3.55 p.m.

On re-assembling,

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended the 30th June, this year;

Also statement of Revenue and Expenditure on Highways from the parish of St. Andrew for the year 1954—55.

PAPERS LAID

By command of His Excellency the Acting Governor the following papers were laid as follows:

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The Pensions (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Report of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture for the year 1953—54.

Hon. M. E. COX: Annual Report of the Housing Board for 1954—55.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Fourth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Natural Gas Corporation for the year 1954—55.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Reply to Question No. 22 asked by the honourable junior member for St Andrew regarding the importation of American cars.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$700 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955—56, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimate 1955—56, No. 14 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Education Act, 1890, so as to revise the constitution and powers of the Board of Education for the Island, and to provide for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to consider the Money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Of the following Address:—

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Introducer of this Bill has revealed himself in his remarks to be guilty of two things: (1) crass stupidity; and the other, criminal neglect [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Order!]

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the honourable member to forsake such remarks as "criminal". As a matter of fact, I have not long ago counselled the Hon. Minister of Trade when he was speaking not to use the word "dishonesty". I will now ask the honourable senior member for St. Philip to avoid using such words.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am merely referring to his action as a Minister; and I propose now to justify these accusations. Now he said in the course of his speech that a certain local newspaper has accused the Government in a dishonest manner of doing nothing to assist the opening of the local shirt factory, although the Editor who is an M.P. and who sits opposite knows that there is a Bill on the Order Paper to do something about it. Now, this Bill was tabled on the 25th day of May 1955. He himself said in reference to the Textile Plant that over a year and a half ago it employed over 100 people; and today it employs around 40. I understand that it is a little over 20. He also says that in his Budget Speech the Hon. Premier promised to introduce legislation of this sort. That was March this year. Now they have sat there and allowed, within an interval of 18 months, the people employed at the Textile Plant to dwindle from 100 to around 40, as he says. This Shirt Factory was completed since December 1954 and this is July 1955, nearly seven months after; and they fail to introduce this legislation before.

In November 1954 (that is now nine months ago) in an Address which I tabled here, I pointed out to them what was happening. That was an Address to His Excellency the Governor. The Address reads as follows:—"The House are profoundly concerned over developments which are increasingly affecting adversely the operation of the recently formed established textile and Shirt Industry in Barbados. The House desire to point out that, in consequence of this, the factory's hundreds of employees have been laid off and the industries are nearer virtual extinction. The House are convinced that steps should be taken immediately to ascertain, among other things what protection, if any, should be given to these industries in order to carry out their continuance of the industry and what should be done to protect the colony sufficiently in this direction."

4.35 p.m.

I tabled this Address 17 months ago at a time when the Textile Plant had reduced its staff to around three dozen. All that time had elapsed; they sat down twitching their fingers and watched people idling and a year after that the Premier promised to introduce legislation; then four months expired before they did anything about it. Don't you think it is crass stupidity for a Minister to say that a newspaper article accused the Government of something wrong when those are the facts? Can you imagine anybody getting into the Assembly being capable of such ignorance?

People have been passing the Garrison for six months and seeing this building completely closed: there is a waiting list of 200 people expecting to be employed when it opens. I am tired telling girls for months now from my constituency, that this building will be opened soon. When it was about to be opened they came to me with their qualifications; it was supposed to open in January. In the same way I know that these people are waiting for this plant to be opened, where is the Minister?

If he says that the Newspaper accused the Government of what was wrong, the "Observer" has criticised the Government for failing to do what it should have done months before.

This Bill was introduced in May this year and from then until now the Government had no time to deal with it, but look at the number of nonsensical things which have been done! What has happened is that the Government has a responsibility to the unemployed. The honourable member is making a special case as if he is pleading that we should pass this legislation to help these poor plants to employ people; this legislation is 18 months behind hand; and the Hon. Minister has the effrontery of talking about the newspaper attacking the Government about something.

He is the Editor of a Newspaper too and all he has to do was to go to the "Beacon" and write an article; but he is so concerned with running the paper into bankruptcy that he has no time to do the business he has to do. I know of no other newspaper whether small or large, daily or weekly which has to depend upon the pennies of a Trade Union to keep it running except the one he is responsible for running and has been running for years. That is how he has been earning his living, by running the newspaper into bankruptcy. Of course, he does not depend upon that for earning a living now.

The position is this: it is, sir, nothing short of criminal that in a country like this where every week the number of the unemployed is increasing, where people are selling their houses and their cattle and selling their furniture and borrowing money wherever they can in order to try and get the fare so as to get out of this country because if they remain here they will have to eat one another, in a country like this where presumably every intelligent person with his eyes open knows what is going on, this state of affairs should exist. You have closed down for seven months a factory which could be employing people; and more important still, improving the economy of the country. What else can you expect, when the Minister of Trade is who he is? What does he know about trade, business or industry?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the honourable member desist from making a personal reflection on the honourable member?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am merely referring to his capacity to fill the post which he is occupying; it is a reflection on the office he occupies.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is saying that now.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I said it before. What I am trying to say is that the Hon. Minister is like a square peg in a round hole. From what I have seen of him from the business for which he was responsible, if he has to direct the destinies of the colony's trade, well, God help the country.

In other countries the Government on assuming office, selects people according to their avocation or their experience in certain fields of industry to fill appropriate posts in the Government; you cannot expect that a Labour or Conservative Government in Great Britain would take up somebody who has not got the faintest nodding acquaintance with business and make him Minister of Trade; because it takes him a long time to learn elementary things and during all that time the country is suffering.

If you read the remarks of the person who is now Minister of Trade, in 1947-48 when we were discussing the need for protecting local industries and what-not, you would realise what a terrific misjudgment it was to put him in a position in which he would have some influence or control over the ad-

vancement of the country's trade and business. Do you think that if this were not a law-abiding country and if the people did not have an inherent profound respect for law and order, the unemployed in this country would sit down passively while this building in Bay Street remained closed and knowing why it was closed?

4.45 p.m.

Do you think that since February 1954, when thousands of bread-winners were turned out of the Textile Plant in Spry Street, that they would have gone home and folded their arms quietly and peaceably, were it not for their respect of law and order? Well, I know of two young men who were working in the Knitting and Spinning Plant who have since gone to England after being home for some months. I do not know what is the fate of the others who have been laid off.

The Hon. Minister in his own words told you that that plant used to employ more than 100 men and women; he had no right to repeat that. It was his business to get so actively concerned about it as to do something about it; and why I say he is obtuse, is because the moment he admits that he knows what is going on, (it has not happened last week or in May; it happened since February 1954) do you mean to say that he sat for all the remaining months of 1954 and for the first half of this year and did nothing about it and then came in here and worked up a fancy, and pretended that he was annoyed because a local newspaper says something? I have never heard of anything more fantastic in my life.

In any country which starts industrial development the time comes sooner or later when you have to take some legislative action to protect local industries against competition from outside. These two industries are in a bad position; the kind of bad position which affects them adversely and the Hon. Minister of Trade himself explained briefly that it was due to competition which those industries received from Hong Kong and the East generally.

Well, now, the Hon. Minister said that among the ways which they could afford protection was one by increasing the duty on imported shirts. I do not know who could have suggested that to him; for one, would never have agreed to it; because apart from the fact that the principle is wrong, our duty rates on these articles already are the highest in the British West Indies. It was the highest before they started to collect duty on freight carriages. Our duty rates on textiles and shirts are higher than Trinidad, British Guiana, the Windward or the Leeward Islands; so I could never agree to any increases on the imported articles, even to the raising of it for the purpose of protecting local industry.

The only way you go about protecting local industry in textiles and things like that is by remission of the Customs duties on the raw materials, as well as by tax concessions. But like everything else, it has taken the Ministers of this Government all this time to realise what everybody else realised years ago.

It is still fresh in the public's memory, the opposition and stupid objection which they put up towards granting tax concessions to new industries after other British West Indian islands had been doing it for years; and then they came in years afterwards and passed legislation for what had been happening all around the West Indies for many years. It is still fresh in the public's minds that less than a month ago this House for the first time passed an Industrial Bill. Not even the small Leeward Islands

are void of that legislation, because they had it on the Statute Book for years; and they have developed their country on it. But in July 1955 we are now getting down to it, because of the supreme intelligence and actions of the Government on matters of this sort. Then, they want somebody to believe, especially the suffering public, that they are deeply concerned in these matters.

Do they really expect that the people in this country are so dumb not to know that they enacted the Industrial Development Bill in July 1955, when it was first talked about in this House in 1947. You began to protect local industries two years after you should be doing it and then you say you are deeply interested in the plight of the people. I have never heard anything like it.

This is not a time to deal with the question of further industrial development or what should be done in the interest of industrial development, because this Bill before us is for a specific object. However, I must say that there has been no incentive to industries to establish themselves in Barbados, because the particular climate has not been favourable. It is well understood that this Government is least interested in Industrial Development in the British West Indies, and would-be investors are shy of it or are not interested at all. As a matter of fact the Textile Plant to which the Hon. Minister of Trade just referred nearly was not established through the present Government.

4.55 p.m.

When the people who put down this plant came to Barbados, they were told that in the very near future legislation would be on the Statute Book giving them income tax concessions and so on; and when on the strength of that promise the plant arrived in Barbados and they then found that there was no such legislation the owners decided to take their machinery to Trinidad. And it was only because I got the Financial Secretary to intervene and he made a promise to see that the Managing Director got his duty refunded that they eventually took the plant out of the Customs. (having paid an enormous duty upon it,) and waited until the Government felt like refunding this duty to then establish the plant here. Government was sublimely ignorant of the position until after it had been accomplished. The Financial Secretary took it upon himself to say that he would interest himself in the matter; and the people took out the machinery and started to work with very good prospects. In a very short time as the Hon. Minister admitted, they were employing 100 people and doing a successful local trade and entering into the export trade.

If in February 1954 when I suggested to the Government here in this Address that the question should be investigated something had been done, by now the Plant would have been employing twice the number of people it was employing then; and both the domestic and export trade would have been more aware of it. The Government member who previously occupied the post of Minister of Trade before the present member was so unfortunately pitchforked into it, had recommendations made to him by the Textile Plant that something should be done and he gave his word that he would take it up.

I assume that after the present Minister took over from him he had similar representations made to him; but the history of their legislative process is that they come along with legislation three to five years after somebody else has taken the lead. That is their record. So that the moment you accuse them of being dilatory within that period, you have committed a criminal offence.

In other words, the Minister of Trade would have expected everybody to stand aside and see the plant dwindle and then close down completely, or see the shirt factory close for another three years and say nothing about it. It would then appear to him that we were travelling economically at the rate at which we should be travelling; like the horse-and-buggy era, or worse yet, like the donkey-and-cart era.

While other West Indians are creating industries, we are allowing people to come in here, take the risk of investing their money and then closing down. I am saying that it would not happen in any other part of the West Indies.

Listening to the Hon. Minister introducing this Bill today, I was forced to come to the conclusion that he must regard the honourable members of this House as particularly silly. He actually appeared in this July 1955 to have been convinced that he had to come to make out a special case in order to get this Chamber to agree to this Bill before us, when in truth and in fact all he had to do was to come in here apologise for the fact that he was so late with it and that much harm had been done through being tardy with it. Further, he should have given a pledge that he and the Government would do everything they could to make redress for the wrongs which the people have suffered at their hands. That is all that he should have done; apologise and promise to make amends. Instead of that he comes in here and makes the remarks he has made.

If you want to develop the country industrially, you have got to protect young industries; America did it, Great Britain did it and are still doing it. As a matter of fact they have actually protected themselves in advance from other industries which might at some distant time in the future spring up in the colonies and threaten their local manufactories; so that we have no apology to make if we took the step of giving any duty remission on the raw materials to be used for building up industries in this country.

I can say no more than that Government has been long aware of this matter. In March of this year the Government promised to introduce legislation even if they were late. They have had ample time since then; but it was no concern of theirs. In a matter of this sort where a new industry closes down, any Government in its right senses would have made this a matter of urgency instead of wasting time on such nonsensical measures as Birth Control, as if restrictions like Birth Control could provide work for the people. That is a weak excuse for not dealing with the matter before.

It is really a matter of satisfaction, in some respects, that we have to be guided by the rules in this Chamber; because the sheer looseness and utter stupidity with which we are confronted in here by honourable members of the Government's Bench on almost every occasion that the House meets, makes it almost impossible for a reasonable person to control his temper. Anyhow, the longest day has an end.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Introducer of this Bill need not have wasted his time in explaining to the House what he was doing for this industry. It is so well-known, and we have been so well aware of what has been required by the industry for so many months, (especially after the promise made in his Budget speech that something would be done) that I thought that most of his time would have been taken up in explaining why he is only now introducing this Bill. I suppose that all speeches will reflect the same thing; because we are

convinced that secondary industries are good for Barbados.

We are convinced that the problem of Barbados is unemployment; and faced with that, we will have to encourage new industries to absorb some of the problem. This shirt factory will employ well over 100 persons when it gets into its stride. The applications for work have been very great. The last speaker said that there were 200, but I think the number must have been over 1,000.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What I meant was that 200 people would be chosen from the number on the list.

Mr. GODDARD: The category of people which would be employed at this factory is the one of which unemployment lies heaviest; they are young girls who are seamstresses in large numbers and they seek employment at all times in that field. These people can assist in building up the economy of Barbados.

It is the manner in which the Government does things; proposals are put up to the Government and it is for the Government to examine them and see the maximum which it can do. This factory enjoys pioneer status and it will be given tax-free importations for five years. We have done what other West Indian Islands have done and done before us; at the end of five years such concerns will find themselves without any depreciation; but why are we so late in this matter?

As regards the Knitting Mills, they were employing over 140 people some time ago and now they are employing about 24 people. Some months ago it was said that they would have to shut down under existing conditions; and there were more fields in the West Indies which were more inducive and they were prepared to go elsewhere. Personally, I do not think that this concession will be enough. [VOICES: Hear, hear.]

Another point is this: the honourable Introducer of this Bill should have said what this proposal is likely to cost the colony by way of revenue. Surely they must have computed that. And it is not that for one moment we would allow that to stand in the way of this concession so that this factory can be re-opened.

I am told that this factory will be manufacturing pyjamas and underwear for use locally and for export; that is the type of clothing which will be used by the masses. We hope that this factory will be so efficiently operated that the proprietors will not have to come back and ask the Government for any further concessions. With the efficiency of that factory it should be able to compete with the best in Trinidad and even in Hong Kong. We know we often wonder what type of wages they pay in manufacturing these things in the east but these things do come in. Before the war they would sell a dozen vests for almost what two vests from the United Kingdom would cost. Where the standard of living is low, such prices will be attractive.

This Bill has the blessing from this side of the Table; but it is a pity that they did not come down with such a Bill before. I know that this factory would have been opened three months ago because the proprietors had the equipment; and if this Bill were here around the time of the Budget we would have had that factory operating two or three months ago.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am going to say something and I regret having to make this statement. I was told at some meeting that when some director had it pointed out to him that I had said in my Budget Speech that we were coming down with a

Bill granting relief, he was crude enough to say he would have to see that done first.

I made it my business to assure Mr. Ray that he should not keep his place closed, that he could keep a record of the duty he had paid and he would get it back at the end of the financial year. Therefore, if that business remained closed for that time, it was purely their fault; they were told not to wait on this Bill, that they could start and keep a check on the duty paid and they would get it back as from 31st March, because I had said in my Budget Speech that the Government would be bringing down this Bill. If they did not take the word of the Government, then that is their funeral.

If I had been at that meeting, I would have walked out. They had the assurance that they could open at any time and that any duty which they had paid would be given back to them as from 31st March or from 1st April. If they chose to shut down for months, let them not blame the Government. I believe that the Minister himself also passed on that assurance.

Mr. MILLER: It is heartening to learn that the Minister is willing to go to the extent set out in this Bill. It has been harping on my mind whether the influence of the Agreement as written in GAAT would cut across the Government's policy in making this sort of proposal.

What I do not like is the remarks of the Minister in which he exposed his vulnerable broadside of the matter to the Opposition on the question of tariffs. The idea was to subsidise people who happen to produce cheap garments from time to time; I do not know if the Socialist concept in its attempt to subsidise products by giving a rebate to the factories themselves could at all be regarded as influencing the tariffs to fall or forbidding the importation of manufactured articles.

5.15 p.m.

The idea aback of it is that in any manufacturing centre where you get raw materials anything that is imported in that line must bear traffic cost, and there is always this problem. I hope the Hon. Minister in his reply will shed a little light on this matter. I am unhappy about it although I can well appreciate what Government will come up against as regards dumped prices.

I think Government is aware that there is already a factory of this sort operating in Trinidad; and I do appeal to the Hon. Minister to be very careful and cautious when it comes to the lip service of these manufacturers, particularly when they refer to helping a community like ours. I am only asking the Hon. Minister to be aware lest he comes up against that awkward position as was faced by the Minister in Trinidad.

You can get appeals from those manufacturers that they are particularly anxious and that they want to help the people of this colony, but in order to do so the concessions which they are giving must be expanded. I am very unhappy when I hear of such statements; and I am correct in believing that the Hon. Minister is also suspicious of the type of manufacture. These people tell you that they are going to employ 100 people in their factory but if you look at a definition of a factory you will see that it is a place which can employ 6 people and they can include your Secretary, Manager and Messenger. It is such places which can be entitled to this subsidy.

I am somewhat unhappy about dumped prices. I have a suspicion; (and I say so not with any desire to create anything unpleasant or undignified,) but it is believed that we may be exposed to dumped prices. Of course, the Hon. Minister has expressed the desire to fight against any monopoly taking place; as well

as he expressed the fact that he was not prepared to put up any tariff wall against cheap imported articles.

I will say again that I am not usually suspicious by nature, but I am somewhat frightened as to what is likely to happen if the Hon. Minister persists in this desire to assist these manufacturers. I agree that it must be done, and that it is one of the means which will help to cheapen the garments; but I am hoping that the Hon. Minister is aware of all that is likely to come about as a result.

As it is now, you are giving a refund of duty as well as other industrial benefits. With all these things in mind, I am wondering whether this particular business will be referred to the Authority which you are about to set up—the Development Board. However whatever be the case, I do hope that careful observation will be kept on these concerns. I hope that what I say will not be taken to mean that I am against assisting these manufacturers. It is done all over the world. I am insisting at the same time that some care should be exercised over their control.

Mr. ALLDER: In a matter of this sort, Mr. Speaker, Government has got to be very careful in not sacrificing too much of its Custom's Revenue or any of its other sources of revenue on the slogan of providing employment for a few people. I do not mean to say that wherever necessary assistance should not be given, but I mean to stress that cases should be weighed very carefully; because in recent years, there are certain commercial techniques which were put over the slogan: "The people; the people" with the ultimate desire of playing up a monopoly and also to give it a carte-blanche to refuse to pass on some of the profits accruing in those industries to the consumers and also to the employees of such concerns. I say, Mr. Speaker, that that slogan can be played up too much at times; and your sentiment is liable to go wrong on such issues.

While I am in favour of the concessions being given to the Elite Shirt Factory, we cannot get away from the fact that that firm is spending several hundreds, perhaps thousands of dollars to set up that factory. I do not have the figures, but I presume that the company has spent a couple thousand dollars very well already.

When the shareholders of that company decided to bring a branch to Barbados, legislation of this sort was not on the Statute Book; therefore, the Directors must have envisaged their having to come and start this concern without this special concession for which they are now asking. As I have said it is a technique in commercial circles where you put up your imposing building and set up your machinery and plaster it, and to say to the public how many people you are going to employ and then stop there. As a result of this action everybody will be looking forward to their getting employment there; but after a few weeks people see that no employment is forthcoming, then the Directors of that firm will start making demands on Government and the ulterior motive of it all is not so much the employment of the people, but to make sure that a large margin of profits is received by them.

5.25 p.m.

What I feel the Company should have done is that they should have started their own business. [Cheers]. The Government need not cheer any remarks of mine. They would have appeared to have had more discretion if they had started their business, however small; and if they had put up their case to the Government, I do feel that they would have been deserving of some consideration. Some honourable members know that that is the technique used in such cases. I repeat that the company should have started, however small, and I would have

assisted them in this Chamber in doing whatever was within my power.

It has been rumoured that another monopoly concern in this island wanted certain concessions. Naturally, a big firm, with means at its disposal can use the dismissal of a couple of employees as an economic weapon as a means of forcing the hands of the Legislature; and naturally, as soon as you lay off a couple of them, they are going to say I am blaming Mr. "X.Y.Z." because he refused to grant concessions to the Company. But that is not always a nice thing to do.

Another monopoly concern, one which was given undue power and latitude in this colony, and another one like it can afford to pay some of their managing directors well over a thousand dollars per month. I have been informed to that effect. The quality of products which they produce is not very good; but because of the existence of these two concerns in the island, overseas markets have been naturally closed. Therefore, the housewives are obliged to console themselves with the fact that although the quality of the local product is bad as compared with what is imported from Canada, Australia and elsewhere, they still have to use it. Those are the facts.

I am not in favour of giving any undue concessions to any concern at all, unless I am sure that they are prepared to share part of the drawback from customs revenue with the consumer and with the employees from the point of view of giving them a more respectable wage. That they are making money today is a fact. That they are making more money today from their industries than they have ever made is another fact. But the distribution of the wealth that is accumulated from such industries does not go far enough in our society to relieve those thousands of people who are in need of relief. Although the Government may pat itself on the back for having, after a very long period of agitation brought legislation of this sort before this Chamber, regardless of whatever this Government does now as regards protecting industries, Barbados will still be lagging behind other West Indian Colonies in the field of industrialisation.

The Hon. Premier will remember five or six years ago when the industrialists of America, Canada and England were running about looking for alternative places in which to establish subsidiary industries, the Hon. Minister was then thinking in terms of federation and regionalisation of such industries; while at the time Mr. Albert Gomes and Mr. Bustamante were doing their utmost to get the industries in their two respective colonies of Trinidad and Jamaica. Even though you might grant a concession to a small factory like a shirt factory, it would only employ a couple of people; and you still would not be able to touch any part but the fringe of the unemployment situation of this colony.

The big cement factories of Trinidad are not going to come here now because they are already established there through the legislation which was enacted there for the purpose of attracting them into that colony. Barbados will, therefore, remain as the dumping ground for the second rate industrial concerns of the West Indies.

I am among those who have been suggesting to the Hon. Premier to do something to let these industrialists come into Barbados. A person coming in here with machinery, even if he has nothing else, that alone may be considered as added wealth to Barbados. The remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip are true; that is, that the Knitting Mills has been employing over one hundred

young boys and girls in Barbados for the past couple of years.

On a certain day the present manager of the Knitting Mills was in the Customs, a Customs Officer pointed me out to him and said: "here is one of them; see if you can put the case to him." This gentleman then explained to me that he was getting ready to take back his mills to Trinidad. He wanted to know what kind of Government we had here, since they seemed to have the weakness of being unable to make up their minds. He further explained that the mills were American made and that if one was able to get such machinery from a hard currency area without a sacrifice to oneself it would be well. I do not know from which source pressure was afterwards brought to bear to change matters, but I saw the Company sometime after that setting up their plant. I am sure they employed a great many young boys and girls, because I myself have been instrumental in helping a couple of them to find jobs there.

There is no politician in this Chamber who has not done something to get young boys and girls employed at that place and has not succeeded. It is assumed that if an opportunity comes your way and you do not grab it, it may take years before such an opportunity presents itself again. The position with us in relation to this kind of industrialisation is similar to that of English emigration.
5.35 p.m.

If we miss this opportunity of getting thousands of Barbadian young men and women out of this place, never in our lifetime may that opportunity come to us again. While the Hon. Minister of Labour may feel happy in saying that the Government proposes to assist 2,000 workers per year. [Mr. CRAWFORD: He did not say that at all.] That is reported in the newspaper as what he said. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: That is a misquotation.] I hope it is a misquotation because if you are spending money to send out 2,000 persons per year over a period of 10 or 15 years, let us draw our belts and send out 50,000 if we can get them there in one year. Let us make a big sacrifice.

We have decided to lose customs revenue at this late hour to the Shirt Factory; if we had decided to lose part of our customs revenue four or five years ago, we would have had a smaller unemployed list because more people would have been working since more industries would have been here.

I should like to say this to the proponents of Federation: Barbados should have been made the Hong Kong of the West Indies as far as Federation and the setting up of industries are concerned. The countries which are small and with limited land areas, whose economy cannot depend upon agriculture exclusively, have got to embark on a broad scheme of industrialisation.

Barbados is one of the smallest islands, if not the smallest one, and that is why she should be made the industrial hub in these parts; but Jamaica with her millions of acres and vegetable areas, has been able to get the opportunity to go ahead in attracting all the possible industries which were to come to the West Indies. Then Trinidad saw what Bustamante was doing and she decided that she was not going to lose the opportunity of attracting people who have money to invest; and now in this late day we are now passing this legislation.

I should like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour the fact that while we welcome such legislation as this, we do not respect it as much as we would have otherwise done because of its discriminating ten-

denecy. I notice that provision is only made to assist Knitting Mills and the Shirt Factory at Bay Street. [MEMBERS: No, no!] Those are the two people who want such concession. We have even read in recent weeks about what was going on relative to the canning of flying fish for export. I am told that dozens of women are given employment in gutting the fish and people are also employed in assisting the manufacture. I am also told that the gentleman concerned finds it difficult to continue his industry because of the failure of the Government to give him a rebate on the tins and other packages which he has to import from the hard currency area.

Mr. Speaker, if one concern deserves a concession, the other concerns deserve concessions as well. I hope that the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour will take these things into consideration. I want to emphasize that my arguments are not for the protection of the capitalists or big industrialists of this colony. In view of the fact, however, that our people depend upon the success or failure of those persons who have the money to invest, I am speaking in the strain in which I am now speaking.

ADJOURNMENT

At this stage, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn for half an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.45 p.m.

On re-assembling.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL—Cont'd

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the honourable senior member for St. John was addressing the House.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, the principle of this Bill is one which I think most members of this House will agree with. It is a tangible form of assistance for a manufacturing industry; but as to whether it gives sufficient protection for the industry, that is a different matter. If you consider it undesirable of going the whole hog, this is a form of assistance which should be of help to the industry. But, sir, the Government will have to take steps to see that this concession as given is not taken a mean advantage of, and that it is really passed on to the consumer. By that I mean, first of all, that a proper control of the duty free goods must be kept as well as proper regulations of the industry so as to ensure that the consumer gets his article at a cheaper price.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in giving a concession at all to an industry, the Government should see to a couple of things. Government should take steps to control the prices of articles that are sold by that enterprise; secondly, it should take steps to see that fair wages and good conditions of employment are obtained in the industry; and the third thing which it should see to (and this has manifested itself in the British West Indies, more particularly in Jamaica) is that the ordinary workmen in the factory are given the opportunity of learning the technical skills.

I mentioned that because there is a case on record in the island of Jamaica in which concessions were given to an industry with a distinct understanding that it would be a sort of technical school for Jamaicans going into the textile industry, and after the industry was established for a long time, it

was discovered that the Jamaicans were kept out of learning the skills. I would like to know if these necessary safeguards were considered and whether this Government has in mind seeing that these things are done.

I would like an answer to the question as to whether this shirt industry has been declared a pioneer industry in this island. I am asking the Hon. Minister of Trade to make a note of it and give me a reply. The question does not have any bearing on what I have to say, but I would really like a reply.

As I was saying, this is a tangible form of assistance for a manufacturing industry; the form of assistance which we have seen given by other West Indian islands in the form adopted in this Bill and the form adopted by this island of income tax concessions are set at naught if it is not reciprocal, so to speak, by the country that is sending the capital to establish the industry.

I have not heard of the United Kingdom, Canada or the United States of America or anywhere else having reached the stage of allowing an industrial magnate who might wish to set up a factory in this island or in any other place being allowed relief from his taxes; therefore, when we talk about income tax concessions they are concessions purely to people locally who invest in an industry. It cannot go any further. If you have a number of English industries in Barbados, they still wouldn't be paying 100% of their taxes.

Sir, I am wondering if this is any protection at all for this industry under the circumstances. I have in mind when I say so a shirt manufacturing industry which was a very flourishing one in Trinidad and a pyjamas manufacturing industry in the colony of British Guiana. I understand that the shirt manufacturing industry in Trinidad is about to close down. I have been myself a salesman selling materials to those factories, and I think at the beginning of the last war or a little before, the industrial threads were duty free; and even some of the threads might not have been for industrial purposes, that is those which were only of a length of 1,000 yards. Not only that, but on threads which might have been used in the home industry for making a few shirts or so, there was no more than 5% duty on them. What is happening as far as we hear is that the big shirt industries of Trinidad are closing down. So, sir, I do not know whether we are going to maintain this industry with this concession. If Trinidad is to be taken as an example, it is very doubtful.

However, sir, I do know that the proprietors of the Shirt Factories in Trinidad at one time threatened to close down and tried to make out a case to the Minister of Trade and Industry of that colony that the industry was not paying; but that contention proved to be hopelessly wrong. They had asked for a protection against a fall in price of shirt materials coming into the island and it was proved that they were entirely wrong.

Let me say that these manufacturers are not adverse to manufacturing a case to put to the Government for further concessions; and, sir, I am very glad I am speaking after the statement made by the Hon. Premier today, because I too feel that no undertaking could have been given to that factory when it was started that it would get these concessions. We have not heard that; and if that undertaking were given it should have been made public; it should not be any private information; it should be some public statement of policy towards a big shirt factory.

As the honourable senior member for St. John has said, the Elite Shirt Factory which is a branch of that in Trinidad as everybody knows, came here knowing what will be the price of the materials and what were the rates of custom's duties on those materials. They came here with all the experience they had in Trinidad and they insisted on building a factory to manufacture shirts here. There is also something more which I do not know if honourable members of this House know: that this particular factory has as a Director a member of the "Big Six" and it is a fact that another member of the "Big Six" started a similar factory and abandoned the idea. Why did he abandon the idea?

You can very well see that this particular shirt factory has been started with the full knowledge that they could calculate on the prevailing prices obtaining with it and the concessions that were given on the day they decided to build that factory. What has aggravated the situation is when they completed building that factory they said they were going to open it on January this year. They did not say that they were waiting on any concessions; and if in my own humble opinion they have kept it closed and kept the people of this colony out of employment in order to get further concessions, they should not have been promised any further concessions in a clandestine way; it should have been an open policy of the Government and they should have let us know.

In spite of the experience of other business people in this colony, this factory has been built to operate or compete with others. It is true that a very energetic Director is mixed up with it, but his experience is buying water at a very small price per thousand gallons and selling it at 7c. per half pint. I do not know if he is misleading the people of Barbados.

6.35 p.m.

I have a particular criticism to make regarding the Minister of Trade for the way in which he introduced this Bill today. This is an easy Bill to introduce. In spite of what happened, I feel that the Minister should have come in here with facts of the case; that is, whether a shirt will cost two, three or five shillings, or whatever the price may be. This is the kind of information which I expected I would have got today. Facts such as the amount of raw material it would take to make a shirt etc. That is the type of information I expected to receive today, and I am very disappointed at not hearing it.

I hope the Minister has some figures to show because these figures must have been placed before him. The fact is that the Manager should have put them before him; figures as to what a shirt that would normally sell for five dollars would represent. Give me an idea. I do not wish to come here today thinking that I am assisting the workers when this may only represent increased profits for the shareholders. If the factory wants to compete with the cheap shirts that are coming to this colony let them do so by cheap raw material. The people are selling shirts here manufactured from cheap cloth, and they will find that the reduction will be a great deal more than the duty-free privileges it will get here.

The Government has got to watch this duty-free situation. It has got to employ Customs Officers to check up there. This is going to result in an increase, (either in the amount of work or in the amount of money) that the Government will have to pay to put up the cloth and the other things connected with the industry which will be coming into the island duty free.

I am wondering if it would be possible to pay one or two per cent. of all that comes in. Do not take off the whole 11 per cent. if it comes from a

Commonwealth source; but at least, let them pay a one per cent. and still keep a check and then refund that if the product is exported out of the Island.

This is not a manufacturing place; we are now learning as much as we can about the business of manufacturing goods; and I must say that I have not had the figures that would enable me to see what I am doing. Those are figures that should have been demanded by the Minister of Trade. Otherwise he is merely giving up the duty on this cloth and other raw materials without knowing the full effect, or any effect at all, that it will have on these shirts.

Is the factory wedded to using cloth from a particular source? As long as it gets one concession they will soon say the Government must prohibit the importation of shirts altogether so that this factory will be able to operate. We have to bear in mind that before the 1914 War there were many people who wore cheap shirts because the merchants were able to buy them cheap from Japan.

Other places have done things to encourage industries. What have the industries themselves done? They have started off to employ a few people and then shut down. Nobody can say that Trinidad has not done something to encourage industries; but what have the industries done? These shirt industries are embarrassing the Government. Not only are the shirt industries to be questioned but the cement industries as well. What has the cement industry done? These industrialists have to be watched. In cases where they are really pioneering they need assistance; and this is no greater assistance than we were giving the sugar industry. Do you not see the unemployment that has resulted as a consequence of their being closed down? Nowadays they are making carbonated beverages in a way that does not require many employees. The process is largely mechanical.

Reference has been made to the cotton spinning plant which we have here. Do you know that the first cotton spinning plant that was opened in this country belonged to the Government and the Government sold it without telling the Legislature anything at all?

A former member of this House for the parish of St. James left the House and has not got an answer to a certain question. [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Yes; he got an answer.] I do not think he got an answer. If he did I never heard anything about it. No debate took place in this Chamber as far as I can remember, to enlighten honourable members as to what happened.

Perhaps if the Government had retained that plant and got further assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare they would have continued to run the industry; in so doing they would have known what were the difficulties of it and they would also have preserved the property in Spry Street or wherever it is situated. I think that there was some arrangement under which it had to be sold to the Cotton Factory.

However, I think it is unfortunate that the facts of this case have not been put before us. I hope the Hon. Minister of Trade will understand what I mean when I tell him that. He must have some facts to go on so as to be able to deduce, at some point in the scale, the price at which the shirts are to be manufactured.

I am sorry that these concessions have been brought in so late; but I must say that I deery the attitude of that shirt factory in keeping the factory closed and not saying that here is an opportunity

for employment, but somebody is preventing it from materialising.

6.45 p.m.

If that is true, then it should be made known, but from my own knowledge of the time when that factory started to be built there and the experience that the proprietors of a contemplated factory had, would lead me to believe that the proprietors of that particular factory knew the difficulties under which they were coming to operate in Barbados, and in spite of that they built their factory. What secret information did they get that they would get any concession other than what obtained at the time? [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: None.] I would like the Hon. Premier to say that they were promised none, not in an aside, but on his feet.

I would have had to get these concessions before I build my factory. I should like to say that with all the concessions which they were getting from the place whence they came, they were experiencing difficulty. I hope that this is not a question of merely fooling the public that after the proprietors of this factory have got started you must go on and protect them. There are people who are importing shirts from elsewhere to make a living and give employment to people and they cannot ask for this wholesale protection which the ban on the importation of competitive articles would give.

Let us take up the investment list of the Barbados Government Savings Bank and let us find out where our funds are invested in the world, and we will see that it would be very difficult for us to start any trade war with anybody. We have funds invested in the world which probably could be invested in Barbados. However I hope that the Hon. Minister is on sure ground; if he knows what the concessions are and if they had asked for anything more he should tell us what it is. It is of no use encouraging the proprietors of a factory to come here and probably make people leave employment elsewhere, operate for a couple of months and then close down.

This is a building which could easily be turned into a health resort. I want to know that we are giving a concession which would be appreciated, that we have not been asked for an unreasonable request and that the factory has not been closed down so as to intimidate the Government into giving them this concession. If it is a reasonable request let us give them; but do not let people start factories and then say "We have asked for something more and we are shutting down because they will not give us."

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In matters such as these you have to approach them with a clear mind. Unfortunately in this debate a lot of unfortunate references have been made to persons. In an underdeveloped country the very people who are charged with the responsibility of developing industry must show a developed mentality.

Now there is one unfortunate thing about this whole affair; I agree in substance with the main line of argument used by the hon. junior member for the City. For some time the Government has been examining the question of giving relief to industries and this is one of the industries to which the Government has refused to give relief based on the ground that you have to examine the industry to see if you can give it aid. I do not play up this question of providing employment for people; if you reach saturation point and you add anything more to it you do not expand the economy whatever. But at the same time if you are satisfied that there is room for any industry, any amount of aid which you give to that industry to expand the economy which you have at present, you are doing something in the interest of the community as a whole.

What is really lacking is that there is no industrial policy so far as the Government is concerned; the Government cannot say "This is our policy with regard to industry"; but the Government is forced whenever the damper of the public is held over their head like the sword of Damocles to make a palliative.

The Hon. Premier has said that these people were promised retrospective action in relation to this relief; why they were promised that relief is based on keeping their factory open. These people built the factory before they visited the island and then you have the idea of the Government making this proposal. When you are devoid of a real policy, anybody can use something on you because you cannot say boldly "This is my policy". I am not like those who adhere to the antediluvian method; I am not a believer in Customs duties as such; but you have to use a system such as that in order to get revenue.

6.55 p.m.

If you feel that you have an expanding trade or you have a trade which it is necessary to expand, you are not losing anything on Custom's duties if you take it off in order that that trade might be expanded; because the expansion of that trade will be reflected in the community by more money being put into circulation. You expand by the circulation of money through the employment process. When you do so, you take off something from money you exported to bring in shirts. As a matter of fact you spread the wealth among the community when you expand.

Government has no industrial policy. If the Government had an industrial policy they would be able to tell any shirt factory which wanted to come here to start an industry that so far as we can see from our statistics it is not necessary today to develop a shirt industry in the island, because it will not be in the interests of the community. They would be able to say that they are enough shirts in the island for local consumption; and as regards the export trade that from our point of view you will have to export them without these concessions.

I am no industrialist, but I take an interest in the affairs of the world. I want to say quite humbly that no shirt factory in the British West Indies can compete with what is taking place in the outside world today; because the manufacturing industries in Germany and Japan are coming back into competition. You cannot produce with those people who are above the surface already, therefore, no type of textile industry will be able to survive in any part of the West Indies unless you put up tariff walls. But the Government is afraid to say that to you. There is no industrial policy; the Government may think it is doing something, it may think it is giving the people work, but it may be on a false premise. You believe you are giving the people work when really that work does not mean anything.

So far as wages and conditions of employment for the worker in the industry are concerned, I can tell you that you need not fear anything about that. The Trade Union is not hesitant about it. You will see if you do not want to give a concession to the workers what will happen; so honourable members need not worry about that side of the question. We are not as hesitant as the Government.

However, I do not subscribe to the view that because there was some necessity for the closing down of a factory something was wrong. What I see developing in Barbados is that due to the hesitancy of the Government in industrial matters, all of these associations and firms got together *en bloc* and pressed Government in one way or the other. They have the Government now saying that the Government agrees with the Tourist Industry, and

yet the Government has not told the public on what basis they have agreed.

What the Hon. Minister of Labour said last week shows plainly their approach to the matter. I can tell the Hon. Minister that within the Government itself there are certain members who are afraid that someone in their party may get up on a platform and make a speech saying you have racial discrimination in this island; and I say that because I know that during the last election campaign the honourable senior member for St. George agitated that. But is that the Government's policy?

The honourable junior member for the City asked the Hon. Minister for information; but he need not have asked for that information because it would not be available; the Hon. Minister does not know. The new industry is asking for a concession, not to give you a cheaper shirt; they are asking for a concession so that they will be able to compete in selling shirts at what they regard as the comparative price of those shirts which are now coming here. It does not necessarily mean that they want to reduce any of the existing prices. I want to add that it is very difficult for shirts made in Barbados to be made cheaper than what you get from outside.

It is amazing, Mr. Speaker, to see the number of aids which the Government has passed as regards this issue. Bits and bits of this legislation have been passed from time to time, and I would suggest that we should not tinker piecemeal with this issue. At present there is no one in the Government who can advise the Government on industrial matters and trade policy; therefore, it has to depend on people from outside. Even if you take those persons whom the Government send out as advisers on these matters, you will see that they are not persons of an independent nature. The Financial Secretary is not an economic adviser. When the Financial Secretary wants trade advice, he has to take up papers from the Board of Trade and read them just like some other people. When I say so, I am not making any charge on the incumbent of that office.

Some members of the Government feel that it is sacrilegious to make a criticism of a Head of a Department; but I must say that this Government has no one to advise it in these matters, and when you debate it in this House you will find the most vulgar statements made against you because you said so.

To bear out my statement, quite recently you saw published in the *Official Gazette* that Government had set up a Committee on printing and among the members of that Committee you saw the name of a Mr. Shearn who is a man that was doing something else up to a few years ago. He carries on a little printery now and he is one of the members to advise the Government on printing. That is the sort of thing you get in the Government.

It is clear to my mind that this Bill before us is just a palliative. What I would prefer to see in Barbados is what is done in India. India is an under-developed area, but they have adopted an industrial policy to suit their country. They have adopted a policy not to suit Europe or America, but one to suit their country. They realised that their country is heavily populated and even from the point of view of technological importance, they realised that what they gave in aid to an industry may put people out of employment; so they have to say what they regard as rationalisation of industrialisation.

7.05 p.m.

It would serve the Hon. Minister of Trade well if he took time off to read the documentations of some of the experts who deal with such industrial matter. Sometimes you get better guidance in that

case because you are using the accumulated knowledge of people who can be of some use to us.

The whole question is that you should have a programme and be prepared to say what is the policy you are going to adopt; but in the absence of that you are being pushed around. Every time somebody is going to open a shirt or soap factory they must have a concession? If then somebody came here and said there is no boot-black factory in Barbados, are you going to give a boot-black concession so that you may have a boot-black industry? [laughter.] I wish to say this: whatever criticism there is on this matter it is on account of the lack of policy on the part of the Government. I feel that we have reached the stage now where there is nothing you can do; and I would say to the honourable junior member for the City that he should very well realise that what I am going to say now is the sort of calculation you can make. You can calculate this on two premises: (1) on economic reasons and (2) on political reasons.

The political reasons are that if people close to you are doing something your action should show the same people close to you that you are not doing it, while the economic grounds should show what it means to your territory. But I find that political reasons can loom higher even than the economic reasons because people are really too afraid to face the economic reasons.

A shirt factory in Barbados at this stage gives rise to some consideration. It has to be borne in mind that Germany has come back on the open market and is in competition with the other nations. Not only Germany, but all the other powers that have been defeated in World War II are now back in the world market. You have seen the same competition in the Sugar Industry. Java has now come back in; Cuba had to reduce its rate of production in sugar by an amount greater than all the West Indian islands put together have been manufacturing; and the whole West Indies do not produce two million tons of sugar. The Minister would realise what I am saying if he had seen what happened in Lancashire, England, two months ago. The wool trade has gone on the open market instead of being on the free market. All these are instances to show what is taking place in the industrial world today.

I will conclude by saying this: I hold that the Hon. Minister of Trade may be too busily engaged in other affairs and therefore he would have to let industrial affairs slip him.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker, where industrialisation of the colony is concerned, all of us hope that we will make a more rapid stride towards progress. Concessions are an absolute necessity; you cannot think of industrialisation apart from concessions; and the greater the concessions that the Government can afford the greater will be the possibility of the establishment of more industries.

I have heard a lot said about the shirt factory and delaying its opening because they hoped to gain even greater concessions from Government. That is nothing illegal. If they have the hope of getting greater concessions from Government it would pay them to delay the opening for a few months.

We raise tariffs in order to protect a local industry but sometimes it becomes necessary for us to protect a local industry by certain specific tariff barriers. There is a range of commodities. There is a possibility that you may leave a low tariff on the cheaper goods that will be purchased by the small wage earner, and the higher priced goods that the salary man generally buys you may protect otherwise you would be creating a hardship as far as that type of purchaser is concerned.

There are various forms of tariff policy. You cannot pursue a tariff policy that would cause the man who would buy a cheap shirt from doing so. But as regards this industry that is now starting they, as business people, should do everything possible to produce their product as cheap as possible. I cannot imagine them producing articles at a rate which would not be eminently competitive with similar imported articles.

I welcome this because of the possibilities of employing female labour; that is a very important thing in this colony. Thousands of young men and women are looking for employment and one of the great fields of employment is to be found in the textile industry. It is all very well to talk about concession but as I have said before we *must* grant them concessions.

There is another policy which we call tax exemption. Now, I am going to make this suggestion to the Government: it may be a risky policy but I would risk it. It is no use talking about the spread of industrialisation or of expansion and investment unless you can think also of the possibility of local capital being invested in industrialisation in this very island; but before you can hope for local capital to be invested in industrialisation in this colony, you must think also in terms of income tax. There can be no investment without the accumulation of capital and the accumulation of capital must be disassociated from high income tax. I am giving that as my individual view; it can be taken or ignored.

These are years when we have to consider the fiscal policy abroad; and by that I mean the monetary situation. Before World War II there was a tremendous amount of investment in Canada proceeding from the colonies. That is scarcely taking place today because of the influence of local exchange. This is the time to encourage local investment; but you are not going to get much investment locally unless you lower the rate of income tax, because the capital will not be there. The accumulation of capital must be at a very slow rate when the income tax is beyond a certain figure. It will take expert opinion to tell you what that figure would be. I say expert opinion because from that source you would get a much more reliable figure than could possibly come from me.

7.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, industrialisation has taken place in this colony already; a lot of people forget the building up of sugar factories, the re-conversion from the old windmills to the modern sugar factories. Do you think that that could have taken place if the rate was 40% on earnings? The sugar industry would have been killed as it has been in some colonies.

As to this fetish about capitalists, I say that the more capital we have here the better it is. It is for the Government to control the system, but let the capitalists accumulate and multiply. The Socialists in Russia invited American capitalists to teach them how to run industries; I want to see a multiplication of capitalists because we would get a multiplication of employment for our people, which we really need.

A Socialist Government or any other Government has to control the use of capitalists; the erection of modern factories was a form of industrialisation and that could not have taken place with a 40% taxation on their earnings. It may not be possible to lower income tax at the present time, but an investigation of that possibility would be well worth the while of the Government.

That is one of the major notes which I want to express on my rising to my feet. In all industrialisation whether it is by local capitalists or capitalists from abroad, it is the Government's duty to protect the labour they employ. We have not heard of any exploitation of labour because that is one sphere in which the Government has to keep control. Right now I suspect that there is a lot of exploitation or some exploitation as far as work goes in comparison with the wages paid; I see that there is a lot of hard work going on in some industries and when I hear the remuneration which is paid, there is grave exploitation. That is what the Government has to guard against and through the agency of the Labour Inspector that can be brought to their notice.

Some concerns employ 20 people when they should employ 30; and some employ 20 people when they should be employing 25; but there is greater exploitation with some concerns otherwise. The firms which pay their Directors \$1,000 a month and so on, those are the ones which we have to watch so as to see that exploitation is not allowing that state of affairs. You cannot allow that exploitation.

I repeat that those are things which have to be watched, but as far as any restrictions go and fear of giving concession to industry, let us forget that. I must always refer to Puerto Rico as an example, whenever I am speaking about industrialisation. The progress of Puerto Rico as every visitor to that island would know, (and people are going there from all over the world) is great as regards industrialisation; of course, one of the secrets about the progress of industrialisation in Puerto Rico is the removal of the tariff walls. The secret of Puerto Rico's rapid industrialisation is the maximum grant of concessions. I can hardly think of any concession which has not been granted by that colony. They go so far as to put up buildings at their own cost for the installation of machinery by American capitalists; they rent buildings at a peppercorn rental and when people can buy those buildings they sell them as cheaply as possible.

Every conceivable concession has been granted by the Puerto Rican Government; so that the more concessions we can grant, the better it will be for us. Let our policy be to give these concessions, because that is a surer means of expanding industrialisation than any other means.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. G. MAPP rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the second time that such a thing has happened. I deliberately made three raps with the gavel; and what is more I have waited, and when I rose to put the question, then the honourable member got up to speak. That is grave impoliteness to the Chair.

7.25 p.m.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I think I should say this in view of the remarks which Your Honour have just made as to impoliteness to the Chair: it has happened that Ministers have risen to reply when other members seemed to be sitting, and after the Ministers have finished their reply then some honourable member rises and replies to the Ministers. I would say that a Minister is quite in order to wait and see if any other member wants to speak before he replies; and I was doing that.

Now, Sir, I will be brief in my reply. The honourable junior member for St. Peter has said that the aid given to industries was a piecemeal policy and blamed it to the lack of an economic adviser. I will say to the House that it is the intention of this Government to try to obtain the services of a proper

Economic Adviser as Secretary of the Development Board, but so far as policy is concerned, it will be always that of the Government. I may also add that the Hon. Premier in his Budget Speech certainly stated the policy of the Government when it comes to industrialisation, and stated what Government would do. Piecemeal legislation like this is at times very necessary. It is done in Trinidad and Jamaica whose Governments have an Economic Adviser.

With regard to the point raised by the honourable junior member for the City about prices, I may inform him that that was a matter which I took up with the directors of that factory and they stated that it will be reflected in the cost of the garments to the consumers. This is what they said about it: "Bearing in mind that it is Government declared policy to assist and encourage industry as a means of finding employment for the ever-growing population and that to this end Government has introduced the Pioneer Status Act and is setting up an Industrial Board, we respectfully submit that all these admirable and wise decisions will be of little benefit if the industry cannot get raw materials at best possible prices, as it is well known that to survive we must produce and sell at competitive prices." They also stated: "This saving on duty will be passed on to the purchaser." We even tried to discover specifically what the prices of the shirts would be, but the Company stated that that depended on such things as the productivity of the workers, turnover etc.

You will therefore see that that was a matter which we carefully went into. We tried to get it definitely from them that this will be reflected in the cost of the garment to the consumer and that the consumer would not be unfairly taken advantage of. After further consideration, we have come to the conclusion that we can proceed with this legislation. As the honourable member suggested, we will if necessary control the price of the shirts and see that they are in relation to the price of the imported shirts.

The honourable junior member for the City asked whether the Elite Shirt Factory has been declared a pioneer industry. It has been declared a pioneer industry.

Some honourable member raised the question of further concessions. The directors of the industry stated that there was no immediate intention of requesting further concessions. All that we went into. Let me say that this Government had before it the experience of the Trinidad shirt factories. This Government went as far as those concessions which were given by the Trinidad Government. They said when we met that all they were given was a drawback on materials exported and not on materials locally consumed as industries enjoyed in Trinidad. Then you got the position where those industries made further representations to the Government of Trinidad and said: "if you do not go further, we will be closing down." The Government of Trinidad refused to go further and we read a little later that some of those industries were closing down. All those things we had in mind when we were considering this matter because we were determined that nobody could point a pistol at our heads and say to us: "you are keeping us from opening." We do know that unfair advantage can be taken of the consumers therefore, this Government is not going to the extent some of these industries would want us to go to protect them because we know that we by doing so will inflict further burdens on the already heavily pressed Barbadians. Because we refused the petition of the Barbados

Knitting Mills, you get the honourable senior member for St. Philip coming in here with questions, and then today, you get him entirely misrepresenting the true state of affairs about this same factory. I am sorry, too, to see that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has joined him. It is not true to say that 18 months ago the Barbados Knitting Mills put up representations to this Government and we refused to do anything to remedy the situation. The first representation that this Government received from the Barbados Knitting Mills during my capacity as Minister for Trade was on the 30th September, 1954. The honourable senior member for St. Philip said that representations were made in February, 1954, and we did nothing about it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of Order, I distinctly said the company made certain recommendations to me telling me that they had already discussed the matter with the present Government. I also said that the Minister concerned had not yet occupied the position of Minister of Trade.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I do not know if the hon. member is now saying this—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not saying that. It is for the Hon. Minister of Trade to say what he was to do.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I remember having heard the hon. member say it was criminal indifference on my part because it is now 18 months ago and I have now come down with this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes I remember.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: These people first made an approach to the Government in November 1953 and asked, not for the concessions in this Bill, but (a) that admission of goods from India and Hong Kong of a kind similar to those produced by the Barbados Knitting Mills be prohibited or restricted; (b) rayon staple fibre be admitted duty free in the same way that cotton staple fibre was; and (c) sewing thread in large cones and elastic in large rolls for trimmings be admitted duty free for use by the Mills.

What was the Government's decision? (a) could not be done. Government could not give them a monopoly for similar goods from India and Hong Kong that they might be able to sell goods at whatever price they liked. We could not do that because the consumers had to be protected; and as regards (c), the Comptroller of Customs said that it was not advisable to do so as those goods could be used by all and sundry and it was not possible to ensure that only the Barbados Knitting Mills benefitted if the exemptions were granted. Request (b) was granted.

Since then they had made no representations to the Government until in September 1954. When they came here to discuss it with me I said to them: I cannot agree to prohibit goods from India for the reason that the price of goods is already too high and we have to keep down the cost of living. If we were to fulfil their wishes it would impose additional burdens on the consumers of this country. This was the policy of the Government in spite of the efforts of the senior member for St. Philip for the Company—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am objecting to what he says.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot object to what he says. I rule that the hon. member has not been misquoted and is therefore out of order. The hon. member can depend that whenever he is misquoted I will uphold his objection.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: That was the position in regard the Barbados Knitting Mills. It was first requested that these goods should be restricted or prohibited entirely. They did not approach us again until as I have said just now in September 1954 when we again turned down their request for prohibiting the entry of these goods from the Far East. They

then got into a huff and afterwards they came along with the representative of the Elite factory to discuss these other recommendations which we now have. I am sure that there is general approval, except that hon. members discussed the general question of industrialisation and the policy of the Government, with a divergence of views.

I should just like to correct one misapprehension which emanated from the hon. senior member for St. John. He spoiled some very constructive suggestions which he made at first by saying that the Bill is discriminatory. I think we know what is in his mind; that we extend these concessions to some other industry. I wish to say that it applies to any factory or any manufacturer employing not less than six persons. A big employer employing 200 persons would enjoy the benefit of the concessions and a small employer of six persons would do so just the same.

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

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of Committees is absent perhaps the House will agree that the Deputy Speaker should take the Chair. I therefore beg to move that during the absence of the Chairman of Committees the Hon. Deputy Speaker should sit as Chairman of Committees.

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

The question that Mr. Deputy Speaker sit as Chairman of Committees was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. R. G. Mapp, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.

Clause 4 was called. Subclause 1 of Clause 4 reads as follows:—

4. The Second Schedule to the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting therein—

(i) immediately after the words "Bullion and Coin" the following paragraph—

"Cloth imported by or on behalf of a manufacturer for use exclusively in the manufacture of shirts in a factory employing not less than six persons within the factory, on the certificate to that effect of the manager, attorney or secretary of the said factory"; and

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Before I move that Clause 4 stand part, I should like to ask that in line 7 of subclause 1 immediately after the word shirts that the following be inserted "pyjamas and underwear."

I beg to move that Clause 4 as amended stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
7.45 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: I do not understand how you can have responsible members coming in at the last minute and making amendments of such a nature. They tell us how carefully these Bills are scrutinised in Executive Committee and yet we have the Minister making an amendment which does not make any sense.

He has asked that the words "Pyjamas and underwear" be inserted after the word "shirts" in sub-paragraph (1) of this Clause. I would like to know in what sense is he using the word "and?" Surely, that amendment should be along the lines set out in the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill. You will have to use the word "shirts, pyjamas, or underwear."

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I do not know if the honourable member is simply criticising the use of the word or if he is questioning the procedure of in-

serting this amendment. I said in my speech on the second reading of this Bill that this Factory would be also manufacturing pyjamas, and that I would make an amendment to the Bill now instead of waiting and coming down with the amendment six months later.

I really do not see that it makes any difference whether we use the word "and" or the word "or." However, I am asking leave to substitute the word "or" in place of the word "and."

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

The question that Clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

On the motion of Hon. R. G. MAPP, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. R. G. MAPP, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, 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.
7.55 p.m.

On re-assembling,

EMIGRATION TO LIBERIA

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I think it would be fair, Mr. Speaker, if at this time the House be given an opportunity of discussing some items under Private Members' Business, the Government having been accommodated all the time.

I brought in an Address today which I asked the Clerk to circulate among honourable members and I would like to deal with it at this stage. It is a matter which I consider to be of some importance if it can be investigated; and it is not of a controversial nature.

I am therefore asking for leave to proceed with this Address, notice of which was given earlier today.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this Address is worded simply. It reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly is aware of the practicability of recruitment of labour to the State of Liberia and will ask the Governor to explore the possibilities of sending workers from this Island to Liberia.

The reason why I have given notice of that Address, Mr. Speaker, and would like to deal with it today is that during my visit to Trinidad over the weekend, I noted from the *Port-of-Spain Gazette* that the Consul for the State of Liberia, Miss Audrey Jeffers, who is also a member of the Legislative Council of that colony, issued a statement to the

effect that 250 Trinidadians have been recruited for emigration to the state of Liberia. I felt it to be a duty as a member of this House and citizen of this colony, that anything one can do to stimulate an interest in migratory movement to places where more profitable employment can be found for those who are unemployed or under-employed, that one should do; and that is the main reason that has given rise to my asking the House to agree to the passing of this Address.

As hon. members can see from the brief wording of the Address, it does nothing more than to ask Government to explore the possibilities of sending workers from this island to Liberia.

During my visit to Geneva, I have had the opportunity of meeting on two occasions people from Liberia, and I think the Hon. Minister of Labour has also met some of the representatives from that state; so, at least two of the representatives of this House have had some opportunity of meeting people from Liberia. It is known that there is some tendency among people in the West Indies to regard Africa as the dark continent and to think that anything associated with it is to be regarded as backwardness; but I am sure that even what this Government has undertaken to do in respect of modification of labour laws, a similar thing was done in Liberia and the British Cameroons.

Sir, I have never visited Liberia; but I have met three people from that colony and they have told me that there are possibilities for people from these parts to be recruited there. Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection, I have here something which I do not regard as documentary information, but something which Miss Jeffers had to say on the matter. It reads as follows:—

"The United African League in San Fernando has nothing to do with the Liberian Government. It is a private group and so far as can be ascertained they are not a registered body. I have always been warning—and I think it is my duty to do so—that Liberia is a new country and is being developed like Trinidad might have been 70 years ago.

"In Liberia, there is work for artisans, lawyers, doctors, nurses, technicians — not for idlers. The streets of Liberia are not paved with gold. People can make a living and are paid in American currency. Provision is made in the organised scheme which has the endorsement of both the Consul and Government for allowing bachelors 10 acres of land and married men 20 acres. The reason for that is that only when you own land you can become a citizen of Liberia."

The article goes on to say that publication is to be made of the migration proposals and following that a committee will interview applicants. It was also disclosed that about 400 persons will be going from Jamaica and that the first batch of about 250 Trinidadians is expected to leave in October.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, if in Trinidad which is comparatively speaking a higher developed territory than Barbados, it has been found necessary to recruit workers for Liberia and the same thing can be said of Jamaica, that it would be a mistake if the Barbados Government failed to investigate these possibilities. I feel it is only part of what you can regard as a general trend of events, because we have noted here some months ago that there is a voluntary movement of persons to the United Kingdom and that voluntary migratory movement is an indication to us that a large number of people in this island are desirous of working for a living; but unfortunately, this island cannot provide them with all the means for so doing. I therefore consider it

a wise thing that if there is any possibility for employment of our people that opens itself, the Government should make a move to investigate the possibilities and to see what can be done.

I do not suggest that Government should take up money and give to the people to go on this scheme; but I do suggest that it is worthy of exploration in the interest of the people of this colony; and I hope that it would receive the favourable consideration which it deserves.

Earlier today, we were speaking on the granting of facilities to people in this island to extend their industry and trade so as to provide employment for some of our people; and I do feel that wherever room can be found for some of our surplus population that is something which we should look into and something which is in the best interests of the people of this colony. Nor should we look at any territory with disdain and feel that our people can only emigrate to the United States of America, Canada or the United Kingdom. If there are possibilities for them to help in the development of a country like Liberia, whence many of us have sprung, I feel it is in the best interests of the people of this colony that those possibilities should be explored.

I have been told that Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, is no less an interesting city than any in the West Indies. It seems to me that there are large acres of grasslands in the state and which are in the process of development. It appears to me that it is one of those new States of Africa which can be regarded as independent; therefore those of us who are not ashamed of our African descent, should rest assured that when you go there you are going to a territory which is dependent and which is part of yourself.

It is also a fact that there are people in Liberia who have migrated from the United States of America and there are many people there with a West Indian background. I have met two persons from there whose foreparents were Barbadians; one a Mr. Sidney King, and the other a Mr. France. The names themselves would indicate that we could regard them as Barbadian names; and I can tell you that they were very pleased at the I.L.O. Conference to be associated with brothers of theirs from other parts of this world.

Sir, I commend this Address to the House because it is one which gives the Government the opportunity of investigating the matter. Whether this matter would be taken up with the Consul of Liberia in Trinidad to see if some arrangements can be made for on-the-spot investigations is a matter which I think should be left to the Government. My only suggestion is that it is worthy of consideration. In this island, we have developed a system of self-government and I feel that the Minister concerned should take the matter up. The Address is addressed to the Governor and I have done so merely because we have not changed our rules. However, I feel it should be the responsibility of the Hon. Minister of Labour.

I for one do not subscribe to that petty feeling that you should not travel abroad to see things for yourself. I think on-the-spot investigations are the best thing; I have carried out on-the-spot investigations on behalf of workers in the Barbados Workers Union and I can subscribe to the success of such investigations. If the people with whom you come into contact are impressed by you, it is a lot better than all the letters you send. I am not suggesting in any way what you should do; but I feel investigations should be made on a broad basis; not one person just going along, but that you should have

one or two persons accompanying you so that you will have representation of the right nature.
9.05 p.m.

One of the things I dislike is this: it seems that whenever it comes to emigration, though we have a redundant population, it is unfortunate that we are never really to be found acting in the vanguard; we are always allowing some other colony to take the initiative. I am inclined to think that our hesitation in such matters is due to the feeling that we are better off than other people; and we display a sort of smugness which gives the impression that we are afraid to take the initiative too often, because some people may feel that we are showing off, and that that is something which we wish to avoid. But I, however, feel that on the question of emigration, a Barbadian cannot do too much to convince the world of the belief that we are living on a spot of land with a population of such density, which sometimes cause people in other territories to always ask us how we manage to exist. I do not think that there are many Caribbean territories with a population as heavy as that of Barbados; but I hold that anything we can do to relieve them should be done.

I commend this matter to this Chamber because I believe the time has come when we should do something in this direction where no step has previously been taken so far as I know. I felt that it was my duty to bring it to the notice of the people of Barbados, and I, therefore, now take pleasure in moving the passing of this Address.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this is an indication that—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member seconding the motion?

Mr. TUDOR: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am. In seconding the motion which has been made by the honourable junior member for St. Peter, I wish first of all, to pay tribute to his eloquence, the amount of information which he has put at our disposal, and the obviously painstaking care which he has used in going into this matter with respect to emigration between these islands and the country of Liberia.

Secondly, lest it be so said that in an Assembly such as this we can hardly lay too much stress on a matter like this, (because on both sides of this House the question of unemployment and what can be done about it has been exercising our minds for some time,) I must say that the problem has reached so acute a stage that at last the Government is beginning to see the wisdom of embarking on what, for them must be an astonishing subject; and that is, to discover the number of unemployed by setting up unemployment exchanges. So, we are moving on. But in addition to knowing the number of unemployed it is just as important, or more important to know that you have accomplished that stage which, of course, is good and steady employment. I could wish for something else today; that is, that Government in this matter, were a little more anxious, a little more nervous and indeed really worried about this matter as the rest of us are; and I could further wish that those members of the Government's Party and of the Ministry were besieged by the members of their respective constituencies with as much regularity as the rest of us; besieged with questions on whether or not new avenues of employment have been opened up so that they could relieve some of the embarrassing experiences which most of us have.

When, therefore, the junior member for St. Peter draws to our attention the fact that in Trinidad and Jamaica a new avenue of employment has been opened up through emigration to Liberia, it is the sort of thing which we should grasp with both hands. This brings me to reflect that not so many years ago,

a former member of this honourable House used to have a lot to say about going back to Africa. He used to speak long and loudly about it; and it must afford him some comfort, if he is still interested, that we have at long last got hold of something which will give proper recognition to his long cherished dream.

Liberia is an African state; one of the few really modern states of this century. It had a very unpromising beginning, it is true, due partly to the intervention of the American rubber interests in that territory, and partly, at that time, to the inexperience of the Liberian people themselves, a great many of whom had been Americans repatriated, so to speak, in the first batch of the Garveyite movement. However, it has weathered all of its storms; and now Liberia is recognised as a sovereign independent state, full of promise for its internal economic development. It is a large country, Mr. Speaker, with untapped potential resources of great measure.

I was reading only about two months ago of a survey carried out by one of the agencies of the United Nations Organisation. The Report said that the land of Liberia has almost everything you could want that it remains to be seen whether there might not even be uranium there. The Report further says that the most urgent task of the Liberian Government was that it should receive at the earliest possible moment technicians of every sort; and it must therefore, be in accordance with findings of that survey that the Liberian Government has even within recent months made itself busy in attracting to its shores various grades of skilled workers and experts which that country needs.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that we here in Barbados are primarily concerned in getting any kind of work for the large numbers of people who do not have it; but I do not think that in an island like Barbados we need have any fear that the quality of workmen would not be found here. A large proportion of these people who have emigrated to the United Kingdom and who have paid their way there, have been in a great measure in possession of definite professions and skills; and it is because of the lack of expansion, and the absence even of occasional employment to be found here, that they decided to seek the bigger countries where their several skills could be called into play.

9.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, there is therefore quite a lot more of that kind of our people needed in Liberia: engineers, nurses, etc. I do not know whether we could spare doctors, unless the Hon. Minister of Social Services would regard it as his patriotic duty to support the "Back to Africa Movement." I do not know if we could urge barristers too; unless the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, the Premier, would care to bring the full weight of his constitutional ability to the people of Liberia, so that in any case it could be said with all seriousness that even if the highest skills are required in Liberia we could provide them. That is a matter for investigation and it should be the solemn duty of this Government in making all its decisions on this matter to see very carefully what this island has to offer before it closes its mind to the possibilities at all.

This is a very important matter; and obviously with the best will in the world, we cannot, however much we may support the project, do anything which the Government does not want to be done; neither can we urge upon it any course of action which it does not feel like adopting. But we can urge upon it to act on this matter with the utmost despatch and seriousness. They will probably soon disclose

to us the actual number of the unemployed in this island, and I would like when they let us know that number, that the information should be so classified that we will know with some degree of accuracy, the classes and of course the various skills which are available as well. From that information we will be able to get what percentage there is of unemployed persons who can be encouraged to go to Liberia.

It was remarked by the honourable junior member for St. Peter that Liberia is an African country and therefore it should not be a hard thing for West Indians, nearly all of whom are of African decent, to throw in their lot to assist in the development of that country and to receive adequate remuneration and increased prosperity in return. I believe that that is true; but with this scheme much as we might have a national attachment or even a historical devotion to the country where it is proposed to send immigrants, they are nevertheless certain practical considerations which have to be taken into account.

Nowadays whenever you mention the Vieux Fort Scheme or the Surinam Scheme in recent years, a certain amount of appreciation is felt; we know that it is not enough to express a desire to settle people in a foreign country; it is not even enough to send somebody to see what has to be done. The ground has to be prepared before hand and the negotiations have to go through a delicate process. All the relevant factors have to be taken into consideration; and if this Government is prepared as a result to canvass the prospects of Barbadian migration to Liberia, it ought to see and have in its possession all the relevant facts to such a venture because Liberia lies on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, it is about 3,000 miles away.

If people go there and they are not psychologically prepared, and if the conditions they find do not measure up to the promises set out to them, it will be very costly to bring them back and the Government of Liberia will feel that it has been led up the garden path in being led to expect that the immigrants had been well informed about the matter in hand. These matters therefore, should be the subject of detailed negotiations and some very hard thinking on both sides.

The Minister of Labour and the Government collectively ought to have at their disposal all the information necessary. It is not a matter on which you can embark lightly, though it is a matter on which you should embark. It is a question of getting these workers to Liberia and enjoying some of the prosperity of that country; it will mean a great relief not merely to the unemployment situation at home but also a means of supporting some hundreds of the other people here.

We wish the Government to act upon this matter. As has been pointed out we are not prescribing to them this or that course of action; we are only asking them for a thorough investigation into all the possibilities and we are asking them to let us see some dynamic action. If they tell us after that investigation that the prospect is not possible, provided that they can prove to us it is not possible, this House will then have to be satisfied in the discharge of its duty. But having had so many disappointing experiences of the methods which have been used in this matter of emigration, we cannot feel too comfortable about leaving things just so in the hands of the Government; therefore, at this stage, we will ask them to investigate the possibility.

We must not let them think that this House has discharged its responsibility on the question of the unemployment situation as a whole just by leaving it there. We ask them today to act so as to find

out the truth about the matter, and keep in constant contact with the Liberian Counsul in Trinidad, the Hon. Miss Jeffers who must have all the information necessary; and not allow prejudice or misunderstanding to stand in the way of doing what after all, is not a great thing to some, but I think if well done, may rehabilitate people in the eyes of those who voted them into power.

9.25 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I commend the hon. member on my immediate right (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT) particularly, for the phrasing of this Address because you will note that he has stated "The House of Assembly is aware of the practicability of recruitment of Labour to the state of Liberia;" so if his Address is passed, and I presume it will be passed, we will be putting it on record that we are aware that it is practicable to recruit labour for Liberia.

Mr. Speaker, why should it not be practicable? We have been told that Trinidad has found it practicable to arrange for 250 people from that colony to leave there to go to Liberia sometime in October, and we have also seen that Jamaica is making arrangements with respect to sending not less than 400 people to emigrate there from that island.

Now, sir, particularly would we be able to help Liberia with technicians and artisans; because this island has a considerable number of those people, and they are amongst the best in the British Caribbean. I am not saying that we cannot spare one or two lawyers and perhaps a few nurses, but I know that at the present a number of our nurses would be more permitted to go to the United Kingdom in the first place than to go to Liberia.

This subject is one which of necessity is of the most absorbing interest; it is a question of getting people abroad, and I am looking forward before this year is out that we should have a steady stream of about 1,000 persons emigrating monthly to the United Kingdom. That would show that Great Britain is the Mother Country.

We noticed how even our honoured guests of last week talked of sending our subjects to the United Kingdom. They admitted that there is work for them there, but they have also hinted that it would be better perhaps if we should find some work for them here. We know that they do not want a mixed colour problem.

Now, we do know that when we are needed in times of war that every facility is offered so as to encourage the West Indies to assist with their manpower, woman power and money. Because of that I think in times of peace we should continue this trek to the Mother Country; that is the way in which they will have the opportunity to prove their sincerity. I have noticed that the phrase "Mother Country" does not appear so often in the United Kingdom newspapers since that country has been receiving emigrants from Jamaica; but that phrase can never be erased.

I congratulate my fellow countrymen on going out in such large numbers to the United Kingdom and would urge them to go out in ever increasing numbers, so long as work is there. We have every reason to believe that there is sufficient work there to provide employment for thousands and thousands more during the next few years; because we have news direct of England's inability to find labour to look after what they have to do. Nothing is more disgusting than to hear that people from countries which fought against the United Kingdom are going there in thousands and getting work, and then to hear the suggestion that to those people who assisted the United Kingdom in their fight for freedom it would be better if they could remain in their homes in the hope of finding work there.

I would suggest to the hon. Mover of this Address to ensure that there is no time lag in the implementation of this Address; that he agree to the insertion of the word "immediately" after the word "Governor." It would help to stress the urgency of it. I would not like it to remain vague. The last phrase of the Address will read as follows: "and will ask the Governor immediately to explore the possibilities of sending workers from this island to Liberia."

I suggest that the word "immediately" should be placed after the word "Governor", because I think that there is a greater sense of urgency when you put it there. It is true according to a *sotto voce* remark which has just been used, that immediately he is asked; but he is not asked immediately to do it and that is what we are insisting upon and emphasizing, and that is why I am urging that we insert that word.

I am moved to press for the insertion of that word because, Mr. Speaker, you will recollect in December last year I drew to the attention of the Minister of Labour that advertisements appeared in the United Kingdom Press concerning vacancies in the Metropolitan Police Force, and I enquired whether the said Minister was prepared to make representations to the appropriate authorities in the United Kingdom in respect of recruitment of men from Barbados and for the Royal Navy too. Up to now that matter so far as I know, has received no attention; we have not heard of anything being done. Those questions of mine were laid in December last year and up to now this House has not been favoured with a reply.

Whether we have tried and failed, or whether the Metropolitan Police Force has intimated that they do not want coloured Policemen and the Royal Navy that coloured sailors would be unwelcomed in their ships, I do not know. We see amongst the U.S.S. Navy coloured seamen. That is the reason why I am urging that we should make it more than abundantly clear that whatever the Government wants to do, it should be done immediately.

The Hon. Miss Jeffers of Trinidad who is the Consul there for Liberia I am sure is sufficiently broad minded and Federation-minded a woman (although she loves Trinidad) not to confine that emigration scheme to that island. I presume she will use her good offices in the true West Indian spirit as she has done in Trinidad. And if this scheme is practicable I think that would be another means of assistance for this country in solving our under-employment policy.

I therefore commend the hon. member in bringing this matter to our attention and I congratulate him on being well informed by reading so reliable a journal as the *Port of Spain Gazette*, a Roman Catholic paper, so that there will be no feeling of dissension in regard to a scheme of this kind and this Legislature's awareness of the practicability of this recruitment.

9.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that none of the previous speakers envisaged any large scale exodus to Liberia; [A VOICE: Get Garner!] they have been very cautious in their assessment of the numbers that are likely to go. Indeed the hon. junior member for St. Lucy quoted the figure as three or four hundred this year.

I know that there are some people who will agree to emigration to Liberia; but I cannot think of Liberia capturing the imagination of the public to any appreciable extent because conditions there are far from what I hear, generally speaking, even less advanced than they are here; and therefore only the hardy and adventurous Barbadian will desire to go.

The hon. junior member commented on the fact that Barbados is always behind the other West Indian

Governments in these matters; and the hon. senior member for St. Lucy claims that Trinidad is ahead of us this year, and even Jamaica [A VOICE: What do you mean by even Jamaica?] has now done better than we have. I want to inform him that Jamaicans have been emigrating to Liberia in small quantities for about six years; and the hon. junior member for St. Peter should not be surprised if I should refresh his memory.

As far back as 1948 in a Resolution which I tabled here, I pointed out to the Government the possibilities of sending Barbadians to Liberia; and I asked the Government to take steps to assist and expedite the emigration of Barbadians to Liberia. That was in December 1948. I met the Liberian representative of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco and I was told about the possibilities of taking West Indians there. I came here and informed the House of the position and as usual, this Government did nothing about it; and if they do anything now, you know how it will be done.

All of us are annoyed at the manner in which the Government has handled the question of emigration to Britain. Some months ago when I came in here and told the House that there were places for 330,000 unemployed in Britain, there was loud braying from that side of the Chamber. Indeed, the Hon. Minister of Trade and the Hon. Premier laughed at the idea; and the Minister of Emigration got on in such a way that you would have thought that what I intended to say was due to some imagination of my own. Yet last week we had a delegation here from the United Kingdom who declared that they had 500,000 vacant jobs at the moment. One expects the Minister of Trade to laugh at that too because the Ministers of the Government know more than anybody else does.

I think we will readily concede that this Government is dabbling with this question of emigration to Britain. I saw in the *Advocate* this morning where the Minister of Emigration was saying that the Government is going to send 2,000 emigrants to Britain. How a responsible newspaper such as the *Advocate* could make such an error is a mystery to me; the Minister said nothing of the kind. But we know what the *Advocate* gives; and the Minister himself today conceded that the *Advocate* had misquoted him.

Well now, that this is a misquotation which reflects no credit either on the Minister or the gentlemen of the *Advocate* because instead of 2,000 the number should have been 10,000; it is not even 2,000. We know that the Government would not have done one single thing about emigration to Britain were it not for the fact that we on this side of the Table forced them to take some kind of action. The Minister of Labour went up to England, had a nice trip and came back like Moses at the Fair with nothing accomplished. [Mr. LEWIS: Moses at the fair?] All that he has done is to repeat the nonsense (as he did last night) that this Government will never give money to people to go to the United Kingdom willingly. What ought to have been done is that the Government should have got definite contracts for large quantities of the 500,000 jobs existing in England.

So far on this question they have actually got away with murder in the face of the fact that there is this widespread need for workers in Britain, and they have done nothing about it, while it appears that we on this side of the table have stood by and allowed them to do nothing. It may appear as if we have been so indifferent and so negligent to the question of emigration to Britain that we sat down and allowed them to do nothing. So far as I am concerned that is true. I have purposely said nothing and done nothing to further emigration to Britain for reasons which I shall disclose later. But were it not for the existence of those reasons, they could assure them-

selves that they would have had a hornet's nest around their ears ever since; because for all the unemployment in this country and the possibilities of finding employment in Britain, if it were not for the fact that I had other reasons for soft-peddling the issue, I can assure them that they would have heard a rumpus about it.

Fancy 500,000 vacant jobs in Britain and the Government doing nothing about it! They would not even have done what they did if, as I said before, we had not forced them to do it. We made them send the Minister to Britain by agitating and arousing public opinion on the issue; and we could have made them do more if we did not soft-pedal the issue. Now they are probably sitting and lolling back and saying: "Well, the Opposition started this thing and have moved us into complete security where we can let the matter drop."; but they are very mistaken. 9.45 p.m.

We will support this Address to-night for emigration to Liberia; but let there be no mistake about it, there will not be any large scale emigration because Liberia would attract only a certain type of emigrant. Barbados has had a long tradition for settling its nationals in Liberia. One if not two Presidents of Liberia happened to be Barbadians; Mr. Barclay is of Barbadian descent, and Mr. King is not without Barbadian connections. I imagine then occupying permanent places in Liberia as the descendants of former Barbadian emigrants.

If conditions are made possible you shall get another comparatively small adventurous band of Barbadians willing to go up there and carve out a future for themselves in that country, and eventually make their contribution to its further progress; but let us not regard Liberia in any way as the answer to the need for an outlet for our suffering population. For obvious reasons it cannot be so. Let us not fool ourselves that even if before this year is out or early next year, a small number of people go up there we have done all that is necessary to settle Barbadians abroad.

Opportunities exist to settle them in larger numbers in countries which are more developed and more to their taste and liking than Liberia is at the present moment; and if we will take advantage of emigration to Liberia, there is no reason why we should not also take the opportunity of exploring the possibilities which exist elsewhere to countries to which I have made reference.

It is of course more than likely that any West Indian colony which starts to send its nationals to Africa or any other part of the world, will get the assistance and blessing of the United Kingdom. In other words, they will help people to settle anywhere except in Great Britain; therefore, the time is appropriate to exploit the situation. I expect that if the Barbados Government wanted to send Barbadians, as has been suggested to North Borneo or the Himalayas or Singapore [Mr. SMITH: Or Brazil,] or Indo-China or anywhere else, today you would get the United Kingdom Government saying: "We will help you to send them there."

I think it was the Acting Governor himself who has seriously suggested that Barbadians should emigrate to North Borneo. Imagine, with the exception of a few bright spirits on the other side of the Table, anybody going to North Borneo! [MEMBERS: To Brazil?] [Laughter] To be serious we are suggesting emigration to Liberia. Let us send them to Liberia, but do not let us delude ourselves that Liberia is the answer to the problem.

We would be interested to hear what the Government has to say now on this matter of emigration to Liberia after seven years of silence; and it should

also be interesting to hear if they have anything to say with regard to Great Britain now that responsible people have told them that they need half million people to work there.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter has given them a fairly easy task. He has suggested that they investigate the possibility of emigration to Liberia, find out how many Barbadians want to go there, and enable them with the assistance of the Liberian Government to get there. They will not be told that they cannot find money to send Tom, Dick and Harry to Liberia because Tom, Dick and Harry would not want to go to Liberia. If we can select a proper type of emigrant for emigration to Liberia, I should not be at all surprised if the Liberian Government itself will advance the cost of emigrants getting there.

For Heaven's sake when we are sending out to investigate the position there, do not let us send investigators who will bring back the sort of report which we got from the latest United Kingdom mission 9.55 p.m.

We do not want to hear of the little journeys of the delegation; we do not want to hear of the dinner parties and tea parties; we want to hear of actual contracts and the placement for people in specific jobs. We do not want to have a schoolmaster unconnected with the Government placing people in hospitals and hotels, while the Minister of Labour of the Government and a Government official can only go up there and come back and cannot tell us of a single job for a single worker. Having made a mistake on that occasion in a place like Great Britain, let us see we do not repeat it on this occasion. Let the people feel that the money spent is spent with some practical advantage resulting therefrom.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, the Mover of this Address did so in a spirit which shows a very constructive approach to it; but I regret that he did not see the wisdom in moving the adjournment of the House for five minutes to discuss the question, because I think he would have heard some of the things which would make an Address of this sort unnecessary.

This Address asks the Governor to explore the possibilities of sending workers from this island to Liberia. Well, we have already been exploring the possibilities this year. I would like to take this opportunity to give the House some details of what has been done and the information that has been received.

I think this matter of emigration to Liberia first arose about March this year soon after the President of Liberia, Mr. Tubman, passed through Jamaica; and the actual movement in man-power started after that visit. We then saw where the Government of Liberia began to offer various inducements, such as free land etc., and the question arose in Barbados (I think it was first from the Daily Newspaper), as to what the Government was doing about the matter. We got in touch with Jamaica and Liberia itself to see what the position was and to see what was taking place.

I am sorry to state that the information that we got so far as Barbados is concerned is not very promising; especially when it comes to the employment of unskilled workers. As I have said, our first enquiry went to Jamaica through the Labour Department.

We despatched the following information in our enquiries about the prospects of emigration to Liberia. We pointed out that Barbados is an island of the British West Indies of 166 square miles, that from the date of its settlement it has been British and that the vast majority of population is Negroid. We pointed out that because we considered it as being important to the State of Liberia. We then went on

to speak of the island's economy, saying that it was based on sugar and efforts were being made to relieve the pressure of the large population by emigration, permanent or temporary. We also pointed out that among the labour force were thousands of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled persons who would be immediately available if some satisfactory scheme of emigration could be arranged. The letter went on to say that we should be grateful for information relative to the categories and numbers of Barbadians for whom there would be a demand and for any other information as to the conditions under which Barbadians will be allowed to emigrate to Liberia. We also mentioned that we would be grateful for information relative to living conditions and conditions of employment. We sent that letter through the Chief Secretary of Barbados to Liberia, and it was addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General there.

On June 30th, we received a reply to the effect that there was some evidence that a campaign was in progress throughout the West Indies to encourage emigration to that country. The movement originated in Jamaica after the visit of their President to that colony last autumn, and impetus was added by the passing of legislation by the Government of Liberia in March this year, establishing the conditions under which assistance would be provided for immigrants.

The reply continued: "Meanwhile, the movement had spread to Trinidad, and early in April, the first group of Trinidadians arrived in Liberia." Those are the facts on information received from Trinidad, and from those facts honourable members will see that Liberia is not so attractive a place as we are apt to hear. Because you may have heard that a few emigrants are going from Jamaica and Trinidad, that does not constitute that Liberia is a land of opportunity for Barbadians as well.

A recent issue of the *Trinidad Guardian* also says something to which the Introducer of this motion made reference. Miss Audrey Jeffers states that "there is abundant opportunity for technicians and scientists to work here. The country contains an almost inexhaustible source of manual and clerical labour." That is what Miss Jeffers as Consul says; but she has also pointed out this: "but I have been given the authority to select 250 professional men from Trinidad and the money has been set aside for these pioneers".

The country feels a great need for doctors, lawyers and engineers and the Government of Liberia has established a scheme calling for such trained men. Mr. Speaker, those are all the facts concerning Liberia as told by Miss Jeffers herself; and she points to the conclusion that there is no vast opportunity for unskilled people, or even workers willing to become skilled. They just want to encourage the entry into that country of trained men who will be able to help them in advancing their pioneering schemes.

Miss Jeffers also said that there were some people who went to Liberia on information received and returned from that place very much disappointed according to their reports; because they did not look carefully before leaping at what was supposed to have been opportunity. "I have always warned them" says Miss Jeffers, "that Liberia is not the Liberia of 70 years ago, in the same way that Trinidad then was not nearly as advanced as it is to-day."

In Geneva I spoke to people who know Liberia and they all emphasised that it is a very backward country; and since that is the case, I do not want Barbadians being detracted from living in an advanced country like this to go to Liberia which is reputedly a backward country, and where there is

no opportunity for the type of worker such as we could send to that country. We are meanwhile exploring the possibility of sending artisans to Liberia; we are still soliciting further experience; and if we find that there is opportunity for skilled artisans and we can foresee that they will be placed in remunerative jobs, we will take the necessary steps to assist them in getting to Liberia. But as I said before, Liberia is not so attractive a country as you are apt to hear; and Liberia itself is not desirous of attracting any such large-scale emigration as would benefit the majority of the people of Barbados. Although we have explored those possibilities, I have no great hope of placing any great number of unskilled labourers in Liberia.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to appeal to the honourable junior member for St. Peter not to proceed with this Address for two reasons. It may be that if honourable members approached some Ministers nonmilitantly the Minister might not be afraid of him. But I am saying, without any disrespect to the Chair, that this practice of addressing the Governor must stop. You cannot address the Governor and at the same time by-pass a Minister. A member can move an Address congratulating the Queen and no other type of Address.

We are actually trying to see what we can do with regard to Liberia. The Minister of Trade omitted to say that having received a letter from the British Ambassador there with such gloomy terms, one might be inclined not to proceed any further, but the Hon. Minister however approached President Tubman on this matter of emigration to Liberia.

This story goes further back than the Hon. Minister has mentioned. It originated in an organisation in the United States which had a Branch at San Fernando, Trinidad. This American organisation did not make sufficiently clear that it was their private suggestion that they should collect and send emigrants to Nigeria.

Now getting back to the point of asking the honourable junior member for St. Peter not to proceed with this Address, I must state that we are now awaiting the advice of the Colonial Office on this matter, and there is no point in asking the Governor to do what the Address is asking to do now. If the Hon. Minister had been approached on this question this debate would have been avoided. But until we get the Select Committee of the House to assemble for the purpose of discussing the revised rules of the House things like this will continue to happen. This is not the first time (when, with a Ministerial system in force) a member in addressing the Government, has completely forgotten that the Minister concerned should be approached, and not the Governor who constitutionally, can only act on the advice of the Minister.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, it seems that this Government feels better to be surrounded by a large number of unemployed in this island. Every time there is a question of doing something to get many of these unemployed out, the expressions of the Government and especially the Minister of Labour take a very negative turn. I greatly appreciate the efforts of the hon. junior member for St. Peter in introducing this Address today; but I feel it is definitely necessary at a stage when there is great reluctance of the people to embark on an emigration scheme to Africa, that it would be good to go to England where it is a fact definitely expressed by the Britishers themselves and by the Members of Parliament who have just visited us, that there are

still thousands of vacancies up there which need filling.

10.15 p.m.

We should not use up our energy in exploring new fields unless such fields were like those of the United States of America, Australia or New Zealand where wealth can be accumulated in a short period; our energies should be directed at getting out as many thousands to England as possible. We should disregard embarrassment, which it is claimed the British people would suffer if too many of us are sent out there.

It is known that so far in the Estimates we put down \$100,000 to be spent on emigration every year, and that that money lapses in the Treasury. Even now I do not know if they have decided to use up part of those funds for the purpose of giving loans to those who pass the test in getting selection to go up there. Let us get as many people as we can to England and do not worry about Liberia; England has the money there and the avenue is open.

While I appreciate the efforts of the honourable member to get people outside, this can be used as a sort of red-herring to prevent as many Barbadians as possible from going up to the Mother Country. I do not know why politics should be played on this emigration issue; the attitude of this Government in this emigration issue is purely the playing of politics because their hands were forced after their refusal to give assistance. They decided to give some kind of assistance, and what kind of assistance have they given. The stipulations are so onerous that it is extremely difficult for many of the unemployed who would like to go up to England to get there.

We only knew about people going up to England where they were of the exclusive kind like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph or a planter and his family going up on vacation; therefore many are not able to get any contacts which the Government is now asking for before assistance is given to them. Here the Government knows very well that the majority of the people who are likely to be emigrated have never travelled before and therefore they do not know of any form of possible employers in the Mother Country from whom they could get guaranteed employment for a long time and to be able to repay their loans. With all these things which the emigrant has to produce to the authority of this Labour Government before he can get a loan, very few have passed the test because they do not know any firms. There have been a few individuals who have paid their way and gone up to England and those who want to go up are depending upon communications being made on their behalf by those who are already there. There is no guarantee that such information would be authenticated when the application for a loan comes before the Labour Office.

All of those are difficulties which point to the fact that the Government only intends to play politics; they have been lending money, but how many people have been able to go up? It has been shown that 100 odd persons have gone up to England with Government's assistance; 90 odd are Nurses, and less than 50 are persons of other employment. That shows you clearly that the Scheme for assisting Nurses to go up to England started before various vacancies were advertised for another kind of employee; but the one thing the Government can do is to get on a platform and say that they were lending people money. But how many people are going to get up there within a year?

I read in the Newspaper a statement which was purported to be made by the Minister of Labour

that the Government intends sending up 2,000 people a year. However that is a negligible proportion as compared with the number of people who want to get out and the number of vacancies existing in Great Britain. That would be a tangible start; but we do not expect too much from this Labour Government especially if it is something good. One started to think that this was something better than what they were capable of, but the Hon. Minister says that that is a misquotation of his statement and we are therefore back where we started.

Can't the Hon. Minister say how many people the Government proposes to assist over a period and to what tune? If I were running the Government, having allocated \$100,000 for the last three or four years to be spent on emigration and did not spend any of it in a tangible way, I would release it; and even if I did not get it back, I would not have lost anything. I would prefer to lose \$200 per head of population if by doing so I got people out to a very fertile field of employment.

10.25 p.m.

Even if I lost it I would still feel that I have invested it; because it is cheaper to let an emigrant run off with \$100 or \$200 than to allow him to continue to roam these streets idly; because by doing such a thing, you will in the course of time have to entertain him in one of your institutions for the balance of his years, which can either be at the Jail, or at the Mental Hospital.

Any Government which has any sympathy can do whatever it likes. This Government as it stands can do whatever it likes; and if a Government has to govern the people it can do anything in the interest of them, even if a part of the people (and that part can only be a small percentage) criticises it. I am of the opinion that no section of this community would criticise you for such action unless the few who think they must have a generous labour market, and who feel that every cent of Barbados belongs to them. I do not think you should consider that small section.

I say to you: try and get the people who want to emigrate out of this place, even if you have to lend them money out of the Treasury. Already there are some girls who have gone out for only a couple of months and they have started to send back a couple of pounds; therefore, you are going to get back the money which you lend them. I see that the Hon. Minister of Labour is laughing at my suggestion; but the honourable member's approach to this matter has always been purely negative and not helpful; and because of that I have no confidence in leaving matters of emigration in his hands. I definitely do not wish to know that the Hon. Minister of Labour is absolutely responsible in getting Barbadians out of this country.

I do not know if members of the Government really do hear the criticisms of the people when it comes to emigration. I am sure that a visit to the Labour Department would convince even the Minister of Labour of the dissatisfaction of the people as regards how the Government is promising them assistance, when in truth and in fact the people cannot get it. I have visited there on a few occasions concerning the same matter, and there you will see young men and women lined up awaiting their turn in quest of a loan; and when their turn comes, they turn away frustrated on the first question that is put to them. It is something like this. "Tell me the name of the person who is going to employ you when you get to England?" Then they ask you: "How long is he going to employ you?" Of course that is

provided that you are able to answer the first question; and they go on with questions of that sort. They are asking those people those questions when some of them never went as far as behind the Pier Head corner.

This same Government with all its expenditure on conferences and on trips has not made it possible to leave some official in England to look after this matter; yet it is asking you these questions. Let me say that I do not grudge the trips they get so long as they are fruitful. I am saying that you should not depend on the Jamaican officials in England to represent Barbados; you should get a Barbadian who is in England and who is courageous enough to make contacts with employers of labour and managers of firms, and then let him send down the names of the firms to you if the people here have to produce the name of employers in England before they are considered for a loan by the Labour Department.

It is just like your offering a man a loaf of bread and putting it on a greasy pole and telling him to reach it down. If I am wrong in my assertion, (and I hope I am wrong,) let the Hon. Minister of Labour get up and say since the scheme of lending people money has started, how many people have been helped. That is the scheme which the Government is boasting so much about.

I think the Government should be ashamed to know that people like Mr. Louis Lynch, the founder of the Modern High School, have exerted more energy and have undergone more personal sacrifices and have achieved more as a result on behalf of the people of Barbados with their limited or no means at their disposal in this matter, than the Labour Government which has its numerous officials, its influence and its power. According to the statement of the Hon. Premier this is a Government of which he can say: "We cannot be challenged in our lifetime." Sir, when you boast of having power, let it be properly used. Let it be used in the interest of the people who have given that power to you.

The Hon. Minister of Labour said that after they have studied the scheme, he would see what can be done. Sir, I know that this emigration business to England started with a definite objection coming from the Government's bench as regards the assistance to be given to would-be emigrants. It was that which caused a big Mass Meeting to be held in Queen's Park. The Governor was approached and then you got the Minister of Trade being asked to go overseas along with the Labour Commissioner; and the Hon. Minister of Trade came back with information which was more than negative.

10.35 p.m.

When, Mr. Speaker, these things trouble us and we have to speak out against them, the Hon. Minister says in effect that we have no right to express the views of the people. Every honourable member here is willing to give the Government more than 100% assistance in this matter. You can spend a half million dollars if you like and you can have my vote for it; because I know that in a few years time that half million dollars will come back to the colony. You should not care or worry as to whose pocket it goes into. In most cases it goes to the stores and ultimately back to the Treasury.

I want the Government to understand that if it loses this opportunity in getting thousands of Barbadians out of the colony, a similar opportunity may not arise for a long time to come. This is clearly an accident due to the international economic trends in which you get such vacancies obtaining in England. If matters should change next year you would

see a lessening of the number of emigrants entering England. Therefore if the flood gates have opened themselves through the natural process of international trade, let us swamp them. That is all we can do.

If you must save people you must be courageous enough to save them instead of being confident enough to destroy them and still expect to get their support, praise and everything, for doing nothing at all. If we keep you back because we have to talk on matters like this, there is no limit whatsoever to our willingness to support you. If our annual revenue is in the vicinity of \$14 or \$15 million or if our reserve (I cannot remember the figure now but it is fairly healthy; one honourable member says it is \$5 million) whatever part of that you are willing to spend we are willing to back you in it.

You should get a couple of officials up there in England and let them go around and pinpoint the places and employers who are willing to take our workers and then let us follow up with the money. It is different from the days when we did not have absolute control of Government measures; we have it now and no one can question us. Even if a couple of reactionaries should express distrust of a Government spending money in such a way, (that is, for people to get out of Barbados) all they have to do is to so change the position at election next time that this Government will be unable to spend anymore.

If, as I have said before, world trends should change next year, if more Italians decide to go into England by the millions or the thousands and the English people tell you we do not want any more coloured Colonials, what excuse are you going to give to the Barbadians for having allowed an opportunity such as this to escape.

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, suggestions come from honourable members on this side of the Chamber and much attention is not paid to them; but I hope that for the good of Barbados this Government will review its regulations as regards the granting of loans through the Labour Department. Furthermore the Government has arranged to lend dollar for dollar and not beyond \$240. The disadvantage in this is, that a child's parents can go and arrange to borrow money and also to pay back a loan; but by regulations Government has made it so difficult that although the parents can go and arrange to pay back the loan, they still have to run around Bridgetown and beg somebody to come and sign the bond for them finally.

I agree that because it is public money you cannot take it up and throw it away very easily. That no doubt, will be the argument of Government's members; but there can be some modification of the regulations which would make it easier for more people to go to England than are now going. If it continues like that, you will find that at the end of the year that about as much as fifty persons will not be assisted because the regulations have been made too difficult.

As I have said before, in seeking to obtain a loan you have to be able to say that you are going to some firm in England with which you have already made contact and which has arranged to employ you; then you have also to say how long you will be holding the job there before you can get the loan. I do not know whether among the kind of people from which the emigrant class is drawn you will be able to get a dozen persons who would be in a position to give that assistance.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, from the various extracts we have heard read bearing on the question of

emigration to Liberia, it would seem to me that the type of work open today would be for skilled and technical labour as well as professional men. That seems quite obvious; and the ordinary labour force would be supplied by the Liberians themselves. That is what I have gathered from the extracts read in this debate on this Address to the Governor.

Well, that is not a situation which is peculiar to Liberia alone; there are other parts of Africa where they are looking for people who can assist them to use their labour force to direct and guide it into those channels that would make for the development of their respective countries. Many advanced countries too are looking around for technical assistance to help them in various ways; therefore it would seem that we cannot hope to send any great labour force to Liberia; but it would be well worthwhile to make some on-the-spot investigations as to whether we can fit in some of our skilled and semi-skilled labour, perhaps in the way of artisans.

10.45 p.m.

There may be some type of labour which we can supply which is not mentioned in these despatches; but a better kind of filling in of the labour picture may be possible with an on-the-spot investigation. That is one of the things I would suggest should take place.

I am one of those who would be perfectly willing to adjust myself to the changed conditions with the Ministerial system of Government. I do not think it necessary to lay this down in our Rules, but the cessation of passing Addresses to the Governor is the procedure which would follow naturally. We would have to make provision for Addresses, but in the ordinary course of events these things would fit into their places as soon as we get a lead in this matter.

The Hon. Premier has intimated to the honourable member that he should not proceed with this Address. I should like to say this: this Government has been in touch with the Liberian Authorities and Jamaica has been sending up people and I think Trinidad as well, and no public statement has been made by this Government about it. [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: We have to hear from the Colonial Office.] I am nothing to do with the Colonial Office; I am saying that this matter is so important that at a stage below the Colonial Office, it should have been known to Barbados. That information should have been given as soon as it was received by way of a Press release. It should have been made in a progress Report to this House, or it could have been mentioned in the broadcast made by the Hon. Minister a night or two ago; that is how the matter should be dealt with if the honourable member is going to press that we should not proceed with this matter, but let us wait and see what the Colonial Office is going to say. If the Colonial Office says nothing, would you not say anything about the matter at all?

Let us invite the Liberian Government to have a Consul here. I am satisfied that this matter of emigration is not given the urgency which it requires by this Government; and there is too much evidence to that effect. I am grateful to the honourable junior member for St. Peter for bringing forward this Address so as to get that information from the Hon. Minister of Trade. If you make that information vital information to the Press it might influence the type of reply which you get from the Colonial Office; you could put that information before the House and let us know that the public is informed to this extent and let the Secretary of State for the Colonies get up and get.

It would have been a great thing if you had made a report of what is being done on this question of the migration of Labour. This matter does not hold out much hope for large-scale emigration, because those people want to take advantage of us in developing their country. A great number of our artisans are emigrating to England and perhaps we could divert them to a place like Liberia. People could be taught trades in England much easier; if people go to a highly-industrialised place like England there is no knowing what they can produce and that is how it should be.

I want to see a disposition on the part of the Government to take the members of this House and the people into their confidence and give us progress reports; it is of no use making a statement on "pirate" buses which has never been discussed in this Chamber. In my opinion that is wrong: you should make your statement about "pirate" buses in the place where you have been making statements on other matters. A statement like the one which has been made today is something which cannot be discussed, therefore leave it until you have a report.

I would suggest that is the kind of statement which should have been made on the first Tuesday after they had received that letter; they should have passed on that information and asked for advice from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. That is the kind of thing I would like to hear, because it puts people's minds at rest as to whether you are doing something or not. This is valuable information and it will save a lot of bitterness and criticism and we will know what step we have to take from there. If we know that you are expecting a reply whenever the time comes and the opportunity offers itself we will ask: "Have you got a reply yet?" Do not let people sleep on the matter. It is not a question of private business which you can keep to yourself; this is something entirely different from a man's private business. Public business of this nature is something which should be made public at every stage.

I have read about this Liberia question; I have seen people come back disappointed, and just as you have many people making up the world you will have the type of people making up the flow to a country. The people with pioneering spirits might be able to go outside this country and make good.

10.55 p.m.

They seem to only want our people who can give them technical assistance; they do not want manual labour. It seems as if they have their labour force and they want people to give them technical assistance or to train their people likewise.

In case that the honourable junior member for St. Peter is prepared to continue with this Address, I am going to suggest to him to put in the word "Acting" in front of the word "Governor," because you are carrying this Address to the Acting Governor; so calling him Governor is out of place. It may place him in some embarrassing position. I hope that the honourable member will accept my suggestion.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: In reply, Mr. Speaker, to the honourable member I just want to say that information reached us on the 18th July. The letter bears the date of 30th June.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I heard the Hon. Minister to say that he is not voting for the passing of this Address. I want to say it is immaterial to me who votes for it or who does not vote for it. If there is a matter on which I should express my point of view I like to express it in an

intelligent manner. I like to express my point of view as it appeals to my intelligence.

Now, let us deal with the appeal which the honourable senior member for St. Joseph made as regards the procedure that you should adopt in dealing with an Address. Now, the Hon. Premier did not think it necessary all along that he should have initiated a policy on which Addresses should be passed in this House, nor did he think he should have done more about having the Rules of this House amended. He knows that he is the one person who has delayed the amendments of the Rules of this House, because the Committee is waiting on him to pass the Rules in his presence.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, both those statements are utterly inaccurate. In the first place I had my office clerk to carefully write out the British Practice regarding Addresses and I came into this House and delivered it. In the second place, I went to the third clerk of the House of Commons myself and went through every single Rule with him.

Mr. Speaker, you know of the suggestion which the Clerk made. They have been passed on to Your Honour, and at an early date I am hoping that the Select Committee will reassemble and give consideration to them. To say that I kept back the Rules when I discussed them line by line in the House of Commons, and to say that I have said nothing as to how Addresses should be put is the exact opposite to the truth.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: He says he was waiting for something to come from England.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have said nothing of the sort. I said that the Rules have been sent to Your Honour and I am waiting on the Select Committee to re-assemble and sit on them. I myself brought back a copy of the Rules with the suggestions by the Clerk of the House of Commons; and the Clerk of this House has since received copies from him.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Is the hon. member aware that he was not available to deal with them? Does he want to say that is an untruth. That is the reason why I said he was delaying other members on the Committee. The reason why nothing has been done about the Rules is because members of the Committee do not want to hold a meeting in his absence. He knows as well as the world that other members of the Committee (even some of his own Government members) would not call a meeting because they are waiting on him.

He says that the other statement of mine is untrue. When, other than today, did he make a statement that Addresses to be passed in this House of Assembly should not be passed in the regular form as before Ministerial Status? You still pass Addresses to the Queen. If you say that you have told the House how it should deal with Addresses, what would be the Rule for dealing through the Minister? As you know, nothing has been done as regards asking a Minister a verbal question. When you give notice of a question today you have to wait for a long time to get an answer to it; and even when it comes to debating the answer, you do not even get the time to do that.

Now, let us deal with the reply that has been given. The Hon. Minister said that if I had raised this question in a different manner, this whole debate would have been saved. How would it have been saved? The Hon. Minister of Labour says, that the information he has got so far as Barbados is concerned is not very promising. It is well known that the Minister was never in favour of people going to Liberia. That is the analysis of his speech; so there is no question of the Minister investigating this matter.

The whole thing aback of this is this ancient idea of our feeling superior to any part of Africa and the idea of your going to a backward area. I can tell you that we have thousands of Barbadians drinking punch and eating bread and fish. Now, with people living that sort of way, do you mean to say that they are living in a prosperous country? How could they be living in a prosperous country when they cannot provide themselves even with a good meal? What are you suggesting? Are you suggesting that because we have a good water-borne system, a hospital, schools and certain social security measures that are in line with some big countries, that it means that your population cannot emigrate to certain areas? Do you mean to say that because some people come back here from the land of the golden opportunity (the United States of America) and say that they would not live in the United States that you are going to draw the conclusion that nobody should go to the United States? Are you suggesting that because somebody came back from Liberia that there should be no effort to send people there? In my Address to the Acting Governor I said; "The House of Assembly is aware of the practicability of recruitment of labour to the State of Liberia." What do you find? You find that Trinidad which is a more prosperous country than Barbados is sending 250 people there, and Jamaica is sending 400 people. That would make a total of 650 persons going to Liberia from those two countries.

Now, I will ask you how many people have you sent to the United States of America in the last five years, and how many have come back? I met a man recently who did not want to go back to Florida to work. What is this mental attitude by some of these same people whose fore-parents came from Africa that they want to inject into people if you go to Liberia you are going back to a dark continent? I think they are suffering from an ancient superiority complex, when they feel that if you go back there you are retrogressing. That reminds me of the story of the boy that failed his examination, and when his mother asked him why he failed he said that when he was going to pass they stopped the work. The Hon. Minister has said that everything that should be done about getting emigrants to Liberia has been done; he has not said so until I brought in this Address.

11.05 p.m.

I am not raising any question of emigration to the United Kingdom or how much money you are going to advance as a loan and things like that. I would never have been impressed by anyone merely asking to send people to Liberia just for the sake of going there. Could Liberia be all this bad place that the Hon. Minister is trying to suggest, when you get six hundred people now contemplating going there?

Miss Jeffers has said that there is room for doctors, lawyers, technicians etc.; but in addition to that she also said: "there is work for artisans." An artisan does not mean a man who is an A.M.I.C.E. The term "artisan" embraces a fairly large section of the unemployed people of this island. Emigration always attracts a lot of people irrespective of what type of emigration it is. What percentage of the unemployed does the Hon. Minister think is going to England? It is true that people from the United Kingdom are going to Australia; but do you think that some of them who go to Australia go to Canberra? Do you think that everybody who goes to Canada resides in Ottawa?

Now what is the suggestion underlying all that the Hon. Minister of Trade has said in his reply? I would proceed at this stage to show where the Hon. Minister does not impress me, but I will return to

that later after I have dealt with certain of the remarks of the Hon. Premier.

I want to tell the Premier this: I am not one who believe in the Colonial Office, because the procedure in general in reference to matters colonial is that some boy takes up a Barbadian file and gives you an answer to some serious question which he often knows little about. Those of us from the West Indies who go to England know how the Colonial Office works. The Colonial Office sends something down here telling the Barbados Government what they ought to do. Whatever it may be, some boy in the Colonial Office tells you about it and the only difference is that the name of Mr. Lennox-Boyd is subscribed to it.

I did not enter the debate on emigration to the United Kingdom because I could see that there was something political in it. We know that the English people do not want to change the character of the English population though the English do not hold the same views as the American.

The English are afraid of the coloured peoples marrying their daughters. We know that; they do not tell you in so many words but that is what they fear. However, we cannot allow their fears to stand in our way for the simple reason that sometimes they come here and marry our daughters just the same, and the truth of this can be proved from the remarks of the vulgar which we sometimes overhear: "you think you are white."

I would say normally that we have debated this question of emigration to Liberia but the Government does not want it; they do not want to have to pass an Address to the Governor in the presence of a Ministerial System. We want to discuss this question of going to Liberia, but what have we heard from the Minister of Trade today? Here is a summary of his views on the matter: Liberia, he says, is not the attractive place you are apt to hear so much about; they have no need for unskilled labour; they are only calling for technicians and artisans; even if we did send people to Liberia we could not hope to send many; "but," he says, "we will still explore the possibilities of going to Liberia." How can he say that when he expressed the view before that the possibilities of going to Liberia were not promising. Had he expressed—

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. The honourable member is saying that the possibilities do not exist at all; but I am saying that the possibilities that do exist are not for unskilled workers.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that he was not impressed with the possibilities of the recruitment to Liberia; and that is why this matter is at the stage that it is. If the honourable Minister had been as impressed as the people of Trinidad were, he would have been able to get a similar number of Barbadians there.

As the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has said, the people of Barbados were not even given a chance to express their likes and dislikes for it. But the Hon. Minister has expressed himself to the effect that the people would not like it. Did the public ever know there was any possibility of people going to Liberia? [Hon. R. G. MAPP: Yes.] [Mr. GODDARD: We knew nothing about it.]

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, in an interview which I gave to the *Advocate* I said that so far produce the copy which I gave to the *Advocate* people. As regards opportunities for unskilled workers there were not many.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: What is the point, Mr. Speaker? He says he made a Press statement which

says there were opportunities for skilled people; skilled people for where? There is an opportunity for people in Australia. Does not the honourable member know that there is an opportunity for people in Canada too?

What I want to say is this: I am satisfied in mind that he was not impressed with the Liberia scheme, and he confirmed my opinion today by saying, "well you know this is a question of agricultural workers and unskilled workers going to Liberia; but Liberia is a backward place."

Mr. Speaker, I am not raising the question of any large scale emigration to England. I am saying this: with a redundant population, what are you going to do for these people? My whole idea in commenting on what was taking place in Trinidad and Jamaica was to show that the fact that 650 people were selected to go from those countries does not impress the Hon. Minister.

If the Hon. Minister would take serious stock of his Ministerial duties, he would find that there have been too many statements on his behalf which gave a dampness to the question of emigration. When someone raises the question of the possibilities of emigration they are always dampened down. As soon as I introduced this Address the Hon. Premier intervenes and says "I am appealing to the honourable member not to proceed with this Address because we are now awaiting replies from the Colonial Office in connection with the same matter?" That is tantamount to saying that just as we are going to post the letter the Post Office closes down. That is the sort of sop that you give to a man and the sort of thing that I deprecate.

I do not believe in this *ad hoc* method of doing business which is frequently resorted to by Government. You bring a measure before the House and you want to get through the back door with it by saving a debate. Mr. Speaker, you know that it is something which I have always challenged. To be unable to challenge the freedom of people on measures which do not even affect the party, or for anyone to look upon a person and say that they should not express a common thought is the sort of thing I detest.

If I were tempted by the Hon. Premier's appeal to withdraw my Address, I would have been prevented from doing so when I saw the attitude of the Hon. Minister of Trade. You cannot say that I am saying something that is not true.

All we are asking the Government to say is whether they would consider exploring the possibilities of recruitment of labour for Liberia. If they are satisfied that there are possibilities, do not get up and say: "yes there are possibilities of recruitment, but it does not have to be Liberia." The Hon. Minister of Trade had some discussions at Geneva, and according to what he said, he was told that there was only opportunity for skilled workers; but I say the only people who would tell him so would be those who have not been to Liberia?

11.15 p.m.

As to the question of bringing forward this Address, I am a Parliamentarian; and I believe in constitutional rules more so than the members of the Government. Mr. Speaker, you have adopted the system of the Ministers: making statements which cannot be debated; I do not agree with that, but I bow to it. I want to say this: if you begin to challenge the freedom of people, you challenge a man's very independence. Even if I were tempted to accept the Hon. Premier's appeal to withdraw my Address the attitude of the Minister of Trade would prevent me from doing so. So far as I am concerned, if you vote for this Address, you vote for it; you can either vote for it or do not vote for it;

I do not lose anything. I have expressed an opinion on a situation which I feel should be ventilated. I am saying something which is true, unless you say that what I see in the Newspaper is untrue. Is the Hon. Minister satisfied that there are possibilities in Liberia? I will say this the only man who could tell you that Liberia is a backward place is Mr. Matthews because he has been there. Barbados is backward too; but a lady has said that she came to Barbados by mistake and she was surprised when she came here and had such a lovely time. What is the whole idea of telling people that this is a backward country? Why not agree to let the Minister go to this territory?

Today we are paying for a Labour Commissioner to investigate the question of recruitment in England; I feel that if I want something done I will go and do it myself: do not think that a Labour Commissioner will look upon Barbadians working in England in the same way as you would look upon them. Why does the Minister not go to Liberia? What beats me is this: if you look back you will see the very Minister when he was a backbencher, asking a question about the recruitment of labour in Nigeria. In Nigeria you still have the tribal system but the Minister was still asking that we recruit people to Nigeria.

Here we have over 2,000 people looking for employment; quite recently a woman with four children came to me and her position was that her husband was not working and she wanted a job to do; she would even go to England. People want work; some of them tell you that they did not have tea some day, they tell you they did not have even hot water and that sort of thing. You find people working in the Civil Service and they have a Ju-C and a cake; do you think there is any nutrition in that?

You talk about Nigeria being a backward place and you cannot say, for instance, that the rates paid in Nigeria are less than those paid in Barbados. I know that there are a lot of people in Barbados who feel that they cannot leave the island.

As against the attitude of the Minister, the Premier's attitude is a more reasonable one. It is true that I am not always in the House, but I still keep a record; and I think the suggestion was made that Addresses should not be passed to the Governor when the matter can be discussed on a motion for the adjournment of the House. I did not move the adjournment of the House so as to put the Govern-

ment on the spot; I always say what I want to discuss. I have given notice of my intention to move the adjournment of the House in order to discuss the Report of Professor Richardson on the question of Social Security and the Government has given me no opportunity to discuss that matter. The Government's Business continues up to a late hour each night, and you do not want to discuss anything of that importance at that stage. Finally, I say that I am prepared to allow this Address to go to the vote; I am not withdrawing it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Noes" have it.

A division was called.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (*Sitting*): Mr. Speaker, on previous occasions we were told that the Ministers would go outside when the vote on an Address is being taken. How is it that they are remaining in the House tonight?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter for them. I have no ruling to make on that matter.

The division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT, TUDOR, BRANCKER, LEWIS, ALLDER, GODDARD and CRAWFORD—7.

Noes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Messrs. HOLDER, BRYAN and VAUGHAN—9.

11.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next 2nd August, at three o'clock p.m.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, before that motion is put, I am asking that Item 25 of Private Members' Business standing in my name be placed as Item No. 3.

Mr. TUDOR: I too, Mr. Speaker, would like that Items 23 and 24 standing in my name be placed as Nos. 4 and 5 respectively.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker, adjourned the House accordingly.
11.30 p.m.