

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954-55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday 4th March, 1955.

Pursuant to the adjournment the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock (noon) to-day.

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., (*Premier*). Hon. Dr. CUMMINS C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*), Hon. M. E. COX (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*), Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Chairman of Committees*), Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*), Mr. T. O. BRYAN, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of Opposition*), Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

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

ESTIMATES 1955-56

Mr. SPEAKER: On the last occasion the hon. junior member for Christ Church moved the adjournment of the House when consideration was begun on the motion made by the Hon. Premier that the House do not go into Committee on the Estimates.

Mr. GODDARD. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by also paying tribute to the manner in which the Estimates are prepared; they are very concise and very full in information. I think it is but right that we should give praise where praise is due.

The Hon. Premier in opening his Budget Speech said it would be not one on political policy, but one on the financial statement of revenue and expenditure; and as a matter of fact, for the very first hour of his speech which lasted for about two hours, like all Budget Speeches which are made up of figures, it was dry and uninteresting because that is inevitable when you are quoting a mass of figures from a memorandum or document; you can follow it, but it

is not colourful. However, in the second half of his speech, he certainly got on to a budget of policy; and that is where it became very interesting. I have heard several hon. members saying the same thing; it is a fact that towards the end of his speech it did have a ring of colour, because it was made up of a statement of policy which the Government will be pursuing over the coming financial year.

I am not going into the dry statistics of the Estimates more than to say that for the second year we have a large revenue balance over expenditure. Government had estimated for a surplus of about \$700,000 but at the end of the year they had over \$2,000,000. That is very creditable, and I am glad to know that the finances of the colony are so good that we could have done that; but we must bear in mind that we were also very fortunate in having the seventh consecutive year of good rainfall resulting in this large surplus. Government alone is not aware of this; every Barbadian from his school days is taught that our sole economy is based on sugar; and as a matter of fact, we are not allowed to think on anything else; and that one tracked mind has developed in Barbadians as a whole, of dealing with agriculture and agriculture alone.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact, that the recurrent expenditure continues to rise. It started in 1940-41 at \$2,940,000 and last year it was \$11,860,000.
12.25 p.m.

There has been a gradual increase, and that is something which the Government should watch; because that recurrent expenditure is an indication as to where Government expenditure is going. We have been spending large sums of money and the capital expenditure and a lot of things are added to that expenditure. That is necessary, and if we had the funds at our disposal we could spend larger sums of money on necessary projects. Education is needed in this island and we have always felt that money spent in this direction is money well spent; nobody denies the spending of the money in this direction. We have been building large schools in the last number of years in the hope that we would house children in better quarters; but when we have done that, we must bear in mind that it will call for more teachers and more expenditure. All these things are very commendable and you could not say that any of them are unnecessary, but we have to bear in mind the question of priority. We are spending on Capital Works this year somewhere in the vicinity

of four million dollars; that all came in the Five Year Plan of expenditure and they have been adhering to that reasonably well; they have not embarked on any new ventures. However, I would just like to make reference to some of these items under Capital Expenditure. The Estimate of Capital Expenditure is \$4,578,135 and it is proposed to meet this expenditure from the following source: Advances pending the raising of Loans \$831,064; Contributions from Revenue, \$250,000; General Revenue Balance, \$2,812,523 (we can afford that because of the large revenue balances which we have been getting), Colonial Development and Welfare, \$684,546.

This is a very large expenditure for Barbados in any one year; next year will be the last year of the Five Year Plan and there should not be any great attempt to catch up with the Plan in respect of Capital Expenditure.

The Hon. Premier spoke at length and I tried to listen to him as carefully as I possibly could; I did hear some remark about giving relief to taxpayers which they intended to give this year. Our ears are always cocked for that, and on the last occasion, he gave us a small relief by the increase of the allowances to married men and children. This year he is giving us relief for our medical expenses; but I am sorry that he only mentioned medical expenses without giving us full details of it. I would understand that we are going to be allowed medical expenses, and I hope the hon. member will refer to this matter when he is replying. At the mention of this relief in respect of medical expenses, I heard many hon. members say: "I was responsible for that." While I am not saying, "I am responsible for that," I will say that I was among those who asked for this relief on the last occasion.

The Hon. Premier got on to the political side and spoke of what he was doing for new industries. We have been spending large sums of money on social services, Education, Roads and so on; we have spent money on water supplies etc., but we have paid little attention to new industries; and I may say that you have neglected those things which we have been asking for over the last number of years. We have been told that we are encouraging new industries; Barbados has a one crop economy, and one can see that we are aiming at the peak of our production. 12.35 p.m.

It is estimated that we might be able to reach 200,000 tons of sugar; we are almost there now. We have had a record crop of 187,000 tons already, 13,000 tons short of the average of 200,000 tons, and for the last 7 years we have been around that figure; but with our growing population, and the ever increasing standard of living of the people of this island, do you think we can continue to maintain ourselves on sugar alone? We will have to do something more for ourselves.

We are spending large sums on imported stuff; we have to live by imports and depend purely on the export of our sugar; it is time that we wake up to the fact that we have to do more than that. It is estimated that the maximum the Sugar Industry will employ at any one time is 35,000 people; our population is 220,000 and is rising.

In 1945 other West Indian colonies, particularly Jamaica and Trinidad, realising what will happen to them (because they were in the same plight as ourselves but to a lesser degree, at least Trinidad) set about encouraging industries to come into those territories so as to help with the economic development of those colonies. We talked about it politically inside and outside the House, but we have never gone about it in a serious manner. We are now to-day ten years behind those other two colonies. It

may be said that we did throw out hints that we would welcome industries, but that is about all that we did; we have to do it with more force than that.

We have neglected the development of two things which are necessary to encourage industries—electricity and gas; I was therefore particularly pleased to hear the Premier say that at last the problem with the Electric Company has been settled, and that they were embarking on a new expansion that would ultimately cover the entire island, and I hope it will result in a great reduction in the rates at the same time. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] Electricity, Mr. Speaker, in Barbados is high in price; but there are expenses attached to everything. I am not one to say that the Company could reduce its rates at this moment with their small turnover; but when they have expanded, it will have to have capital and that capital will have to have its returns; it is to the larger consumers that we are looking with hopes for a big reduction in the rates.

I am told that there are untold resources of natural gas throughout Barbados, there is evidence of it. The Gulf Oil Company has sunk 3 wells or are in the process of sinking the third; and on each occasion they have found gas; and I am made to understand that on each occasion there have been separate reservoirs. That may or may not be so, but that is how I understand it; and there is every likelihood that it is so. A recent one is within three miles of Bridgetown. Well sir, that is a source of power than can be developed. The Premier also said that negotiations were going on with the present Gas Company for the purpose of the working out of a scheme for further expansion; well something would have to be done. It is going to call for large sums, and if the present Gas Company is not prepared to find, or is unable to find the money, it is but right that the Government should take steps in the interest of the economy of the island to put this good natural resource to use.

I do not wish a recurrence however of what happened or may have happened in the case of the British Oil Company; I do not know sufficient about it to say what happened, but repercussions of it did reach England to the discredit of Barbados; and I hope that any negotiations with the Gas Company will be kept on a high satisfactory level to both sides, because it is an English company and English capital is involved, and no hint of taking over or nationalisation should be suggested. If we want to go and borrow large sums of money on the English market, we want our name to be kept clean in England at all times.

The Government is speeding up capital works this year and they hope to conclude the Five Year Plan next year, because they have for the following year the big scheme of the Deep Water Harbour. I have always been a strong supporter of that; because that in itself is another form of economic development for the future. When I am asked about that project, I like to quote the words of Sir Alfred Savage that we cannot afford not to have it; I think that is putting the matter in a nut shell.

It is estimated that it will cost \$20 million; it will probably cost more; I do hope that when the Government actually decides upon the scheme, they will not have less than four berths. I will say why. We are a small colony and most of our imports come here in small quantities; between 250 and 1,000 tons; therefore there are a number of boats arriving with these small shipments. In big countries you have a turn over of five and six thousand tons in a ship, each taking up one berth. But with our small quantities per shipment, each shipment arriving in a single bottom it will require not less than four berths.

I hope that the Government will not be persuaded to put down less than that.

I am pleased to see that the Government has been convinced that it is not necessary for them to give to the tourist industry in relation to what private interest in Bridgetown may put up to the Publicity Committee; that has always been the false basis on which Government's contribution was made. I have always mentioned that all along, and I am glad that the Government has realised the importance of tourism in strengthening the economy of Barbados. For the sake of repetition, I will state that the sums that are contributed by Bridgetown firms to the Publicity Committee are small in proportion to what the Government gives, but that is not the only indication of what they do in the interest of tourism.

I will add this: when you think of a mealy bug pest, and when you come to think of something for agriculture, the Government does not come to the House and say they will give dollar for dollar in relation to what private interest gives; the Government by contributing largely to those things are strengthening the economy of the island; and it is in the interest of the Government, if they are convinced that the tourist industry is good for Barbados, to give to it apart from the contribution they make towards the Publicity Committee.

12.45 p.m.

In the encouragement of these minor industries, the Hon. Premier has said that he is going to give drawbacks on raw materials coming into the island to be manufactured; he also said, that he is going to take off the duty on containers and bottles coming in for export in the rum industry. I hope he will listen to this suggestion of mine because I think it is worthwhile. He said that he hoped the rum industry would use that money to further the industry; I would like to say that the rum industry has among its exporters several persons, and every one of them in their own small way go about it by themselves. I doubt whether any single person in the industry can afford even with what he gets back, to do that because the annual duty on packages and boxes which he may get back is very small. May I ask a question: are you going to take off 30c. export duty on rum? [A VOICE: Yes] I would suggest that the 30c. per cartoon of rum export tax which you are going to take off should be put into a fund for the advertisement of Barbados' rum abroad; do not give it to any single merchant; put it to a fund and build it up. If the Hon. Premier waits for each merchant to say: "Are you sending in my advertising Bill, I want to know what it would cost?" I think it would be a waste of time. You wish to advertise Barbados' rum, not the rum of an individual merchant; the individual merchant can continue to advertise his brand. I say you should put the 30c. per cartoon export tax to a fund and give back to the merchants that which was allowed them to bring in their bottles for export so that they can compete favourably with exporters in the sister colonies of Jamaica, Trinidad and so on. That would put our exporting industry on an equal footing with Trinidad and Jamaica.

You have put down \$1,000,000, to assist industries by way of a Development Board. Industries in Barbados are not many, and I think that their success would depend more on the immediate appointment of a strong Development Board than anything else. There is no department in Barbados from the Comptroller of Customs to the Controller of Supplies who seems to know its duties with respect to advising Pioneer Industries; and the management of many of the few that we have, waste their time spend-

ing hours and hours pleading to the Comptroller of Customs for a refund of duty or to the Controller of Supplies appealing for a few American dollars for the importation of essential items to further their particular industry. These things do not happen in Trinidad because they have a strong accredited Ministry that deals immediately with these questions; and this is where we fall down. I am asking for the immediate appointment of the Development Board. That has been included in the Estimates since 1952, because it was in the Five Year Plan, and it is about the only thing which the Government has not done in the Five Year Plan. Not one penny of the \$1,000,000 which was set down in that Plan to set up a Development Board has been spent so far. In last year's Estimates \$500,000 was set down to that Board, but nothing has been done. Government has neglected for too long the economic development of Barbados, it has promised something this year; let us see with what course it is going to follow it up. Do not give it grudgingly; give it fully; let us catch up with some of leeway which we have lost.

Mr. Speaker, under the Head of Miscellaneous Services (I am not referring to any particular item, I am only drawing your attention to some innovations) there is a scheme in which Government will this year spend some \$17,000 on a commission or some person to co-ordinate Local Government. I think it is unfortunate; it is going to take a bit of working out, I know that well enough; but I hope we are going to start on the right footing. It is a large sum which we are spending for this purpose, so it appears to me. I do not know how Government obtained the estimates and what proposals it has in mind. However, I can see that Government intends to get on with it.

The Hon. Premier did not make any mention about salaries of Civil Servants, but I know he is aware of the feelings pervading in the Service; because salaries of Civil Servants in Trinidad, British Guiana, and even Jamaica have again been increased; and because of that efforts will be made to get certain increases for those in our service. I do not know what he has in mind nor am I going to anticipate anything, but I do hope that he will continue to make an effort to staff the Departments with people like (if I may mention three) the Director of Public Works, the Director of Department of Highways and Transport and the Chief Engineer at the Waterworks Department; because I consider the progress in the items which we have under Capital Expenditure is largely due to those three Heads of Department.

1.00 p.m.

It amazes most Barbadians to see that so many buildings are going up at the same time; and they are going up rapidly indeed. I pay my tribute to these three Heads of Departments because we are apt to compare salaries in other Departments and to say that you cannot afford to give Mr. So and So more because somebody else will ask for it as well; but if a man is doing a good job you have to look outside of that and see what commercial houses will do to get on with these schemes. Again I say that the greatest progress which has been made in connection with Capital Works in these two years has in a great measure been the result of efficiency and hard work on the part of these three Heads of Department.

Another thing (I did not hear the Hon. Premier clearly on this,) is that in the Estimates no change was made in connection with Old Age Pensions. We have a report by Prof. Dr. Richardson and he claims in his summing up that the Old Age Pensions should be brought up-to-date in money value with 1949 when they were instituted, and that they should be an increase immediately by 50%. Dr. Richard-

son went on to say that it was within the financial ability of the island at the present moment to implement that recommendation; he said that in 1958 if our finances remain favourable, it should be double the present rate. It is an important report and I have been through it and Dr. Richardson recommends relief not only to these Old Age Pensioners, but to their relations who have to support them; and that would be money well spent. We budgeted for a surplus of \$700,000 and we have had \$2,200,000 and there is a large surplus which has happened for two years. A lot of money has been spent on Capital Works and I would like to know why the Old Age Pensioners were not at least dealt with. I think that pending the discussion of the report, a sum equal to the 50% increase should have been put in the Estimates for that purpose; that money will be money which is well spent; it will be a question of relieving these people, and \$400,000 will go back into circulation. It will not only be a relief to these old people, but it will also be a relief to the supporters to these old people who have to insist on pulling their pocket so as to support them because they cannot let them starve. This report is a very interesting one; and I heartily support the implementation of it at least immediately to give this increase of 50%.

With those remarks I only wish to finish by saying that I am grateful for those people who may have the misfortune of having illness during the year, that some measure of relief will be given to them; I am also very glad indeed that the Government at this late stage has got off with the support and realisation that something more than sugar will have to support us and to give it not only their blessing, but to come out and say that we want new industries here. I quite agree that we should see the type of industry which we want, and also see that it is in the best interests of the taxpayers; we cannot sit down idling and think that sugar will always support us; we have to wake up to that fact. If tomorrow we could become exporters to the other islands, and we could do what as we used to do already, the Ministry of Trade and Commerce will have to get busy; and when people go to that Ministry with their requests, they should be given early implementation without delay. Trade and business cannot thrive on delays; let them have a policy, stick to it, and be firm on the principle that it has to be encouraged.

There are other things on which I could touch, but surely there are other honourable members who can touch not only on what I have mentioned but on other things they may see the necessity for touching on.

1.10 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: It is very difficult, Mr. Speaker, to approach a discussion of this matter in view of the fact that the Premier in introducing the Estimates appeared not to be so certain as to what form his speech might take. The House will remember that he started off by saying that perhaps an exposition of principles might not be necessary; that the budget as he saw it was a record of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and that he could not reasonably be expected to give what might be called an ideological survey of the financial position or policy of the Government. But a little lower down, and within a few minutes of having said that, he appeared to give the impression that what he was doing was no less than what might have been expected from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Great Britain in a Budget Speech.

I do not know, Mr. Speaker, what view we should take of that. In fairness to him, I think it should be said that he appeared to give the Budget Speech in the orthodox form in so far as he said what the Government hopes to do in the coming year; and of course, in so far as he gave a review of the Government's taxation policy, he might be said to have spoken along orthodox lines.

What is worrying me is that I cannot understand for the life of me, why it is that in this island at this late stage, it has not yet been decided what form the Budget should take. I know, and I suppose everyone knows, that Professor Beasley was asked among other things to advise this Government on its form of Budget; and although I do not have his report before me now, I think I can say that he did recommend that the Budget should be prepared in doubled form — a Current Budget on one hand and the Capital Budget on the other.

If Sir, that is what Professor Beasley recommended, and if that is what the Government has accepted, then what they are doing now is not that; it definitely is not that. We have not yet started to prepare a Capital Budget because, Mr. Speaker, when you prepare a double Budget, your first Budget not because it is more important, but because it is the one we are accustomed to, the Current Budget must bear some relation to the other one.

What must the other one be like? The Capital Budget Mr. Speaker, must show among other things what you are actually investing, how you are investing it and the income to be gained from such investments. The two budgets must bear some sort of relation to each other. The Current Budget must tell you what you are spending from day to day and what money you are getting to pay for it, and the Capital Budget giving a review of what you are actually doing to create more money, must show you what income you may expect from investments in order to cover what is required in the Current Budget.

To put it a little differently let me say this: suppose a woman was a housekeeper and naturally she buys food and clothing; she throws a dollar a week or may be two dollars a week, according to her circumstances in a meeting turn; she owes her dressmaker for dresses made for Christmas or for the last Harvest Festival she attended; accordingly as she gets money from week to week, she meets some of her obligations though not to that extent. She may pay her food bill, and occasionally if she has had a pair of shoes half-soled for one child she might squeeze a little out of the housekeeping allowance to pay for that; at the same time she is keeping a pig in the yard or some fowls. Her current budget is what she is receiving and spending from the money her husband gives her week after week. Her capital budget is what the pig and the fowls and maybe a sheep cost to keep them, and what they will fetch to her when she has sold them. She must know what she is doing, for if keeping of the pig and the fowls is going to be such a burden that she finds herself from week to week not only eating less food but getting into greater debt or generally sinking in a financial manner because the capital outlay is taking too much of the current outlay, she will be in difficulty. What she must do is to so arrange her affairs as regards the keeping of the pig, the fowls and the sheep that when she sells them at Christmas or whenever she sells them, what she makes will meet whatever deficiencies there may be in her current expenditure. Those are the principles.

Now Mr. Speaker, what you clearly have not got is a double Budget; and it is silly to pretend that

we have one. What does happen in this island is this: the Current Budget as customary is prepared; there are indications in it of a newer method of budget preparation, but not far reaching enough to influence financial policy generally.

When therefore you look at these Estimates, you see Part I, Current Estimates, Part II Capital Expenditure. If we had a system of a double budget, what you would see is Part I, Current Budget and Part II Capital Budget, and the latter would contain all the investments and the outlay to be expected from them; and it would include things like the Deep Water Harbour and installations of an industrial nature which the Government was establishing and the income accruing come down etc. It may well be that when the Development Board is set up and the million dollars is put under its control for certain specific matters, we may see the development I am speaking about. But it is not right to labour under the impression that we have a system of budgeting which we have been advised to have, a system by which any member of this House can arrive at a definite conclusion as to what the economy and the financial situation of this island is.

1.20 p.m.

At no time can you get from the Government a plain and unequivocal report as to what is actually happening. To give you a case in point, the Premier said in the course of his remarks the other night that over \$43,000,000 remains in the Commercial Banks on deposits.

Well, now, if this is a fact which should be known, and it is, how does it relate to anything which you are doing in these Estimates? Is the money that is being invested, invested in quarters which are beneficial to our budgeting? Is the money lying down? It is ever less than it should have been? Those are questions we would like to know; you can quite easily see what we are up against, in that we are budgeting completely in the dark. We are accepting a financial policy which is completely written in the dark; we do not know what is happening.

Having said that, I now wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Budget is not prepared properly; therefore, all the amount of discussion and criticism on the financial matters cannot hit the mark because neither the Ministers nor the members of the House are in a position to know what is really happening. If you have to set financial policy and to take such far reaching steps, you are bound to get up against the point of view as to why you are spending this money and what you are getting out of it.

The second matter with which we are faced is that you do not need experts to tell you what to do; the function of experts is as follows: when your policy is arrived at, you then need experts to tell you how it should be carried out. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, you are bound to understand why this Government has difficulties at this time of the year, and why there is so much recrimination and so much misunderstanding whenever Estimates come around. We really have no means of knowing whether this financial policy is arrived at by the accredited Ministers of this community or whether it is a policy of the experts and other advisers of the Government. If it is a policy of the experts, we have no right to accept it, even before Ministerial status, much less now. Not only in matters of finance, but indeed in all other matters experts should tell you how to do what you have decided to do; none should tell you what to do. [A VOICE: Who said we ever asked any expert to tell us what to do?]

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Hon. Premier remembers everything of what he says, but every time he gets up in this House to talk about this matter he tells you: we have gone into it carefully; and by such a distinguished person they were advised that this was the best road they should follow. I want to know whether the advice he receives is advice on policy or advice on execution, he must settle it in his own mind which it is; experts should not tell him what to do; they should only tell him whatever he decides to do the best way it should be done. The opinion is given us that all that is being done is being done by experts. What is the earthly use of preparing a Budget which does not at the same time tell you what you are receiving and spending relates to the general condition of the people whom you are governing? A Budget should give the community an overall picture of the housekeeping, and how it relates to the people in this island. There are many people and there might even be some members of this House, who do not fully understand that Government's revenue is not all the revenue there is belonging to this community, but that it is only a portion of it. I suppose what you may say is the national economy of Barbados is something in the vicinity of \$80,000,000; that is what we earn not only from sugar but from everything; the annual income of the island is something about \$80,000,000. If therefore, you are budgeting for a revenue of between thirteen or fourteen million dollars, you are only concerned with a fraction of the island's national income; it may be any percentage; but it is only a fraction of it. Your Budget must therefore show you how the rest of the national income is disposed, otherwise you cannot successfully tackle the question of your policy for increasing or decreasing your revenue; on no item of revenue would you be able to say that this proportion of what you are spending is less or not this year than last year; and what of it is appropriated out of money which belongs to the population. Taking the population of this island as roughly 200,000 this is a situation which seems to prevent itself. If you say the income is anything between 70 or 80 million dollars (that is to say the national income, what the community earns) it means that each of us on an average produces some \$400 a head. These are only rough figures; and if we say the debt which the island has incurred or freezes is $3\frac{1}{2}$ million or 4 million dollars (the amount does not matter, you are dealing with averages) it means something like \$56. If the Government proposes to spend and does spend something like \$15,000,000, it means that each of us has to spend something in the average of \$19, and if a surplus accrues from year to year and it is between two or three million dollars, it means that you have got or the Government is keeping for each of us anything between \$50 and \$60. These figures are not meant to be accurate; they are only meant to give a proportionate figure of what is happening in this island. In other words, John Smith produces \$400, he owes away \$156, you spend on him \$90 and you put away for him \$50; well, it is true, if you take those figures just like that, what he earns is seen to pay his debt. He would enjoy on the basis of the figures which I have just quoted something like 35% of the national income, but because you save for him and therefore you rob him as it were of his purchasing power and the capacity to spend on himself, he can only at the moment on the basis of these rough figures enjoy something like less than 15% of the whole national income. This a question of policy which the Budget must show.

1.30 p.m.

It is the question of poverty in this island and the Budget must show it. It does not matter greatly whether the Government is spending less this year on this Department or on the other; the whole Budget should be so fixed that this House will be able to know quite clearly what the overall position is, what "John Smith" has at his disposal to spend this year, and therefore if it appears to be less than he should have, you should give a greater income next year, and that will be done in your development. You will be able to say that the average enjoyment in terms of money per head of population this year is so much and so much; in the Capital Budget you will say that our development policy is such that what John Smith is denied this year, he will enjoy in a greater measure next year.

There is another matter which is so important that I do not think I could stress it too much; it is the question of revenue equalisation. That policy is wrong, and I make no apology for saying that; I think that this matter was opened in this island in good faith by Sir Alfred Savage, not because he wanted to do us harm, but because he wanted to do us good in the way he thought best. When you understand the nature of money you will understand what saving is. The average person knows that what he must have he must buy; that is a common sense point of view and that is granted; but it is more than that. Money is not only what you have in your pocket to spend actually, but how you are spending it; therefore if you have ten cents in your pocket, you can say that you have a loaf of bread. You do not actually have the bread in your possession, but the ten cents can command it to you. If instead of buying the bread you put the money in a puzzling box, you are at the same time denying yourself from buying the bread and therefore it may be said that you are saving a loaf of bread. Applying that principle to the equalisation fund, you find this: the people of this island enjoy a low standard, they enjoy not as good shelter as they should have; the education facilities though of a reasonably high standard are not all that you could wish for, and therefore if you extract a couple of million dollars yearly from people with such a low standard of living, you are actually robbing them of the present enjoyment of food, clothing, shelter and education; because if the money is in the Treasury, it is not in the people's pocket. If it is in the people's pocket it cannot circulate in the Treasury; to put away money when you take it from people whose standards of living are already low, we can only take it from them through taxation and if you do that, you are committing robbery; you should not take more from the people than you need take.

I will show you that that is not a saving. If the price of bread should ever fall, I am just using examples, to something like a penny for a pan loaf, it would mean that it would take less money to buy more bread; and if the price of bread went up to a dollar a loaf, it would take more money to buy less bread; and with the extremes of price in the matter of bread, you will get an understanding when the value of money has fallen. Years ago any old woman who had a hundred dollars in a mattress or an old stocking at home had a real saving; today if she has that she has little or nothing; the value of money has therefore fallen, and it is continuing to fall. This is not the time for the Government to save; this is the time for them to spend especially when a little money can go a long way, not when a lot of money can go a little way. If the Cost of Living is going up and you are piling up surpluses, when you bring them back they are bound to be worth less to you in value ten years from now, than they are

worth today. Anybody who invested \$2 million six years ago had a good investment, but today in terms of value, you only have half million dollars; therefore the people who still persist in this policy of tucking away surpluses for a rainy day as they call it, are fooling the people because the value of money is falling, prices are rising and things are worth less to you day by day.

1.40 p.m.

There is no justification on economic grounds for the continuation of the Revenue Equalisation Fund; you are taking more from the people than you need to take. The very fact that you have a surplus must mean that your budgeting is not as accurate as it should be. Mr. Speaker, the whole point I am trying to make is that if you want to encourage prosperity instead of budgeting for a surplus in these circumstances, you should budget for a deficit; leave the money in the people's pockets where it rightfully belongs; do not take it away from them when even if you leave it with them, it is hardly enough for them to pay the daily expenses.

I cannot stress that point too much; it has to be understood that when money values fall, that is not the time to save. Go into big countries Mr. Speaker, and you will observe if you follow financial trends that whenever it seems as if money is fetching a loss, people buy things rather than save; because they say if you do not buy a bicycle today when it is worth \$80, it will be \$90 next week and therefore it will cost more money to buy the same article. And if you put away the \$90 and say you will buy the bicycle the next week, you will probably find that it may cost \$100, \$102 and \$130 as time goes on. Therefore a Government which follows these trends when it comes to rising prices and the falling value of money must think carefully before it decides to take from the people what it cannot give to them.

There is an aspect of this matter which may even escape them: nowhere in the Premier's speech or in the Estimates as we have them here, is it stated that the Government is pursuing a comprehensive policy of employment. It acknowledges the fact that there is unemployment, and I take it that they are as concerned as the rest of us at the fact that thousands of able-bodied men and women in this island are unemployed. But one of the causes of unemployment is a lack of investment; it means that there is not enough money circulating somewhere among the community that could be used to employ people.

I cannot understand, Mr. Speaker, how they, knowing that they have put forward as yet no policy to cure unemployment, could take away abstract as it were from the Community \$1 million and a half or \$2 million every year which sum of money left in private hands, might well be used to create employment. If the Government itself is not going to create employment through the development of a programme, until it can do so, it has no moral or economic right to extract money from circulation which left in private hands, could be used to create additional employment.

Turning now to the Estimates of individual Government Departments, I must admit that I have not studied them as thoroughly as I would have liked to; but I hope I will have an opportunity in between the discussions of the various Heads to do so. I wish to say that I want to protest most strongly against the notion held by members of the Government that these matters can be disposed of in time for anyone to go anywhere; that should be as clear to the Government as it is to anyone else. No one

wishes to prevent the Premier or any Minister of this island from attending conferences; but it must not be said that weighty and important matters of finance were hurried through merely because Ministers had to attend conferences. I for one will do what I can to see that there is as liberal a discussion and appreciation of these matters that are put before us, as there possibly can be; if it is necessary I will talk, but we will not rush them through. I am not going to obstruct, but I will make sure that discussion is liberal and that the thought given to them is given in an atmosphere of calm deliberation, and not otherwise.

In the course of the fuller debates on these matters when the House goes into Committee, I will have some observations to make. I would just like to make reference to one or two things which the Premier said. I wonder whether he does not think that there are alternative ways of doing things, alternative to his own way or the Government's way. I was interested and indeed very glad to see that the hon. junior member for Christ Church made reference to the rum industry, and made to my mind a very valuable contribution to the debate on the general policy of the Government with respect to the drawback which the Premier has promised to the rum industry.

While I agree with the hon. junior member for Christ Church that the policy of the Government is inadequate, and that the Government should state more clearly how it proposes to deal with this matter of granting allowances or rebates in Customs Duty to manufacturers of rum, I view the matter entirely differently. You see, Mr. Speaker, in a Budget debate, everything you say or do from the Government's side must bear some relation to your financial policy. If the Premier says for instance that they are going to make concessions in income tax to people who are sick and who produce genuine doctor's bills, I can understand that because it means you are leaving money in the people's pockets in agreement with the policy that I am advocating. When you are making a concession to an industry, you are not doing precisely the same thing; industries and businesses have a life of their own; they are not individuals, they are corporate bodies. You have got to be very careful therefore in making concessions that you do not appear to be onesided and favouring special interests.

I am as interested as anyone else in seeing that the rum industry is put on a proper footing to be properly advised in foreign countries; but I also remember that this House will shortly have to consider a new Bill which has to do in some measure with the Liquor Industry. That Bill is in one or two of its aspects a revenue raising Bill; I therefore cannot commit myself to the Premier's suggestion of giving a drawback to the manufacturers of rum until I understand well and clearly the relation between this new Bill and the general policy of the Government with regard to the rum industry.

What I feel Mr. Speaker is this: I am willing that any industry should be put on a proper footing so that it will benefit the island not only in the quality of its products, but in the actual returns which come back from the export of those products.

1.50 p.m.

This is another suggestion which I would put to the Hon. Premier: let him retain the duty which he now extracts from the rum industry; do not make any concessions to these special industries; I do not like concessions though I am interested in helping industry. Why cannot the Hon. Premier take up with the British Government the following

idea? Ask them to remit to the Government of Barbados, or if you want to be more generous, all your part of the duties exacted on West Indian rum in England which makes that rum bear a higher price than it now should. The position is this in England: if you buy a quart bottle of rum, it costs you something like 35 shillings. This has been fixed so in order that it might not afford disastrous competition to the whiskey industry in the United Kingdom. That duty is imposed on West Indian rum at the behest of whiskey, so that West Indian manufacturers cannot compete on an equal footing with their own product; this is what I may call a penal tax and therefore it is not necessary to British financiers. I am going to ask the Hon. Premier to impress the British Government to withhold your part of that tax of Barbados and of the respective West Indian Governments, so that the money which accrues from that windfall can be used in the Fund which the honourable junior member for Christ Church has advocated. Then if it happens that we are successful and the money so obtained proves to be large, you could then make the necessary concessions to the rum industry by lowering the export tax. It will only be fair to do that, because if you are getting back the proceeds of the taxes which are unfair to your own product, then you have the right to spread them out or pay them out among the industry concerned. I think it should be done that way; I am not prepared to support the idea of a drawback to the exporters, because leaving it like that makes it appear as if you are accommodating yourself to a special concession. I want to see it done in a way which will be of interest to the whole community.

Mr. Speaker, I have said quite a lot about this matter; I would like to emphasise that you cannot go on from year to year preparing a Budget in this slipshod manner. It may be that whatever Government wishes to do has to be done, and maybe the House may accommodate them in doing it. Maybe this expenditure is justified; but we must know whether we are becoming poor or more prosperous, we should know how rapidly the sum of the money which we have in circulation is circulated. We should know whether it is circulated or how it is circulated among the lower income groups, if more rapidly or less rapidly; and it would not do to say that these matters are academic and are theoretical. That would not do, because if it is good theory and allowed to practise, very often it modifies practice to a better degree; therefore, I appeal to the Government, though I realise that they cannot do it now, they must get through with these Estimates as they brought them, and I insist that they should not in the next Budget ask the experts to prepare for you a more comprehensive survey of the financial and economic position of the island as a whole, they must do it themselves, and in a way that you will know every condition of our earning capacity. You will know what it is we are actually spending, not only in Government but all over the community; you will also know what prospects of increase our money has; and by so doing, what prospects you can hold out to the individual members of the community that they may face a more prosperous future.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

The question was put and agreed to, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
1.55 p.m.

ESTIMATES —Cont'd.

On re-assembling.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was debating the motion that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates of 1955-56.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates 1955-56 was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division.

House in Committee

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply on the Estimates, Mr. Smith being in the Chair.

Head I—Governor

Head I — Governor — was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: As regards this Head, I am asking leave to make an amendment to Item 4, "Private Secretary". I am asking leave to increase that vote by \$504 so that the salary scale would be \$2,280 x 120—\$3,000. The reason for that is this: when we were starting the Ministerial system, we had to make certain re-arrangements; titles were changed, and so on. This Private Secretary is doing at Government House what another Senior Clerk in the Secretariat is doing in the same scale. At the same time, the question of the number of Permanent Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries arose, and it was through a desire not to spend too much that we came down with only two Permanent Secretaries for the five Ministers. We feel that this Private Secretary should be put on the same footing as a Senior Clerk in the Secretariat because she is doing exactly the same work. There should be another Permanent Secretary and another Assistant Secretary, but I will deal with that when we come to the next Head. We realised at the beginning that there would be additional work and that certain things should be done, but the general feeling was that we should not make these things too expensive; and therefore, we came down with the proposals with which we came down. There are people in my office who come down here Sunday after Sunday to work; there is bound to be always somebody on leave; and some of them are overworked; and what we are suggesting today we originally felt to be necessary, but because of expense we did not come down with the proposal. We want to put Private Secretaries on the same footing; the question of the Permanent Secretaries will be dealt with under the next Head, I repeat even Five Ministers are not enough, but we have not so far decided to come and ask the House for another Minister. However, we do feel that the extra work which this Private Secretary does is of the same nature as that which is done by the Senior Clerk of the Confidential Registry in the Secretariat, and therefore the two should be put on the same footing. I am therefore going to move that we vote an additional \$504 so that these two would be in the same scale: \$2,280 x 120—\$3,000; and a Civil Establishment Order will be brought down in due course.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not clear, Mr. Chairman, about what I am doing. The House is supposed to be adjourned until today, and as to the unsatisfactory manner in dealing with this matter, I want to make this protest. It is only by accident that I saw the honourable senior member for St. Andrew in my office this morning and I knew that the House had adjourned until twelve o'clock today;

up to now I have not been officially informed. I came to this House late because I made an arrangement to meet somebody this morning without the understanding that the House was meeting to-day, and therefore, any speech that I make will have to be in the nature of a second reading speech, and I hope that no member of the Government will object to it. It is not my business to know that Parliament is being summoned, by a newspaper headline. I make no apology for making what might seem to be a second reading speech; it is not incumbent upon any member to be in the House when the adjournment takes place, and he should be notified when the House is going to be resumed.

The general debate has been passed, and it would not be good for any Government not to know the views of Parliament on matters affecting the Budget; and there should not be any diffidence when the Premier makes a statement to hear the views of other honourable members; otherwise you would be in a very difficult position to discuss anything which comes under my particular Head in these Estimates.

Under this Head, I would like to know to which particular Item the Hon. Premier was making reference. I take it that we are dealing with Head I—Governor; and I would like to know with what particular item we are dealing. [MEMBERS: Item 4.] Well Item 4 is something which is fixed by Law, and I would like to know the proposal that is being made.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I will repeat that when we were about to start the Ministerial system, the question arose as to the number of Permanent Secretaries and so on. It was patent to us that inasmuch as there was no difference in the work which the Private Secretary was doing at Government House and that which the Senior Clerk in charge of the Confidential Registry was doing in the Secretariat, therefore there should not be any difference in the salaries. It was agreed that there should be Five Ministers and two Permanent Secretaries. We backed down from our original proposals and we came down to the House with proposals which have not worked. When we come to Head 2, of the Estimates, we will deal with the Permanent Secretaries. The proposals with which we came down were different from those which we originally thought of; we anticipated a lot of criticism and did not press for our original proposals which we now find to be necessary. We are asking under this Head that the Private Secretary at Government House be put on the same footing as the Senior Clerk in charge of the Confidential Registry in the Secretariat who is doing the same sort of work. It would be manifestly unfair to pay one a different salary from the other.

This is nothing new. As I said, we perhaps made the mistake of anticipating too much trouble and we should have brought this down at the time that we created Ministerial Status. When we are dealing with Head II, I will deal more fully with what we consider as a necessity. As I was saying, they are not separate things; it is part of what we originally worked out that would be necessary under the new set-up; and it was only because, reasonably or unreasonably, we felt that the Legislature would feel that we were spending too much money, that we decided to cut down and drop out so and so. But people are being asked to do too much work.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the timidity which the Government felt was more or less the Premier's timidity, rather than that of any one else. I do not know what views any other members will express, but the only difficulty I see — I have to speak on these

matters in a general way. The Premier knows my views on these things; they have to be put down in the Civil Establishment Order. If you are going to make additions, you should have an Order to deal with when you come to the question of Permanent Secretaries.

You must bear in mind that under the Civil Establishment Order you get an agreement for the post and then you budget for it. To budget for it and then bring the Order, if you get an agreement in the Budget, the Civil Establishment Order follows. If you get the Civil Establishment Order first, it means that there does not have to be any debate on it; that is what I want to say.

With regard to Item 4, I cannot remember any previous discussion, but it seems to me that the Private Secretary at Government House was adjusted so as to suit the other Private Secretaries that would be necessary with the introduction of Ministerial Government. If you look over the page, you will find eight Secretaries in the Secretariat at salaries of \$888 x 72 — \$1,392 x 96 — \$2,160, and you will find that it is the same salary scale for the said Private Secretary; because on the original basis, you had a series of stenographer-typists, but when Ministerial Government was introduced, there was a reorganisation and you created the post of Secretaries. As a matter of fact, I think some of that was done before Ministerial Status; because some of the Heads of the Departments had Confidential Secretaries. I do not know if any additional allowances would be there.

When you come to Head II you will find that Item II is in the same category. My point is, that if the decision is to increase the Private Secretaries, then you will have to look at it in the light of a general review of these posts. I did not know that the Private Secretary at Government House was to be placed in the category of a Senior Clerk. Confidential Clerks are not supposed to be Senior Clerks. There is only one clerk in the Secretariat that is in that position, and that is Miss Bartlett. She was never in the category of these stenographers at all; she was appointed to the Public Service as a Clerk. She is one of the remaining women in the Service who entered the Service as a Clerk and worked her way into this position.

I do not like Mr. Chairman, to bring personalities into these issues; but I would not like the post at Government House to fall into the category of the Senior Clerks. It is a post that has always been regarded as a prerequisite of the Governor, in that in the old days, the Private Secretary to the Governor was not subjected to the Public Service examination. It was always regarded that the Governor should have the right of saying who should be his Private Secretary; and the post was not a post in the general service where people were transferred from one Department to another. People only act for Miss Haskell when she is ill; she is not transferred to other parts of the Service.

I do not know what the Premier's reasons are for making the post the equivalent of a Senior Clerk, because I doubt very much that you can regard the responsibility of this post at Government House in the light of the post of a Senior Clerk. I would like to remind the Premier that Miss Bartlett was promoted as Senior Clerk in her own right. Wherever you transfer her, she will still be a Senior Clerk. Pardon me for calling names, but the person who would act normally for Miss Bartlett, (Miss Skeete now Mrs. King) did not enter the Service in the clerkship group; she entered as a Stenographer, and would have to come in the line with those who entered the Service in the same category.

I feel that this is likely to create dissatisfaction in the Service; if you pick a single person up and make their post that of a Senior Clerk. I say that, because other members of the Service would feel that if you are going to do that, you will have to decide to whom you are offering this post. If it is an upgrading of the present holder of this office, I would point out to the Premier that it is likely to create dissatisfaction in the Service. He knows better than I do that Miss Bartlett has worked her way up to her present post over a long period of time; she is one of the women in the Service that can be promoted in the regular way; the others, the Stenographers, cannot because they did not enter the Service in that way.

As regards the other point, I am in an agreement with him. I was not one of those timid souls who felt that you should have Ministerial Status as cheaply as possible. Some Ministers felt that we would be spending too much money; but now they have realised that that is not so. I said from the beginning that if you are going to have five Ministers it would be impossible to expect the system to work properly with three Permanent Secretaries. I said that you should not have Ministerial Status at all if you could not afford to work it properly. I suppose that as you grow older like the Premier, you adopt the attitude of coming down for part of what you want and getting the feeling of the boys in order to see if you can come later for the rest of what you want.

In my opinion you should have had five Permanent Secretaries for the five Ministers from the beginning, and you would get back the additional expense by way of increased production and efficiency.

As far as the other matter is concerned, I am diffident about it although I have no objection to increasing anyone's salary. As I have said, knowing the arrangements of the Civil Service machinery, I think that this will create dissension in the Service. I am warning the Premier about that, because there is a temptation in this island that if you push up the salary of "A" you have to revise the whole structure of the Service. If you are not careful you will find yourself in this invidious position.

It is not good for the colony to be faced every eighteen months with pressure; and the pressure must come next year, because it will be near the time for elections. People who are afraid to go into it now, knowing it is hard, will be willing then to make a compromise. Government must offer something by way of compromise, even if it is nothing more than an investigation.

2.50 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Roughly, I entirely agree with the honourable member who spoke last; it shows that he is getting older and wiser. I do want to say while I agree with the honourable member, that if this were the slightest attempt at helping an individual, members of the Government would not have agreed that the suggestion should be brought to the House. If honourable members can remember, when we were revising the office of the Governor, we made provision for a Private Secretary to the Governor and also for an Aide-de-Camp at a salary of \$2,400 per annum. We thought that the job of Private Secretary was not that of ceremonial; the person who has to do the job of Private Secretary has to deal with correspondence (by telegrams or otherwise) to the Colonial Office and so on; what you may call the foreign affairs work of Barbados. I must contend that what Miss Bartlett is doing in the Chief Secretary's Office, Miss Haskell is doing at Government House. Miss Bartlett is a Senior Clerk and Miss Haskell does

the same kind of work as Miss Bartlett; therefore, the same salary which you pay to one you should pay to the other; it simply means one sitting here and the other sitting there. Sometime ago I was at Government House, and I sent a cable to the Colonial Office from there through the Governor. I was in my office and I sent a cable to Jamaica, and it was in respect to the same sort of work. The Clerk in this office did just the same thing as the Clerk at Government House. It is only a question of procedure; that is, certain things may go through the name of a Minister while certain things must go from the Governor. It is for the reason that both jobs are similar, that we are asking for this. I know as the honourable junior member for St. Peter knows (we all know) the danger of repercussion. We do know that some of them are going to say: have you seen what Trinidad is doing for her Civil Servants; have you seen what B.G. is doing? Because we were quite conscious of that, and because we know it was the same kind of work which both of them are doing, that we have done what we have done. I will not say anything more.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not want to prolong this debate, but the Hon. Premier did not give me a full answer to what I put across to him. I put it to him in this way; you do not make a person a Senior Clerk, because he or she is doing this job or that; when a man is made a Senior Clerk, then you put him to do a certain job. Miss Bartlett was made a Senior Clerk and she was then given those duties; or she was doing them before. In short you earn your position as a Senior Clerk.

As far as I remember, when we were making different arrangements for Government House we thought of doing what was done in Trinidad; that is, to provide a Governor's Secretary and then furnish him with a staff; but after consideration we thought that would be too elaborate. So far as this post is concerned, if you do a little research you will see that it is a post of \$888 rising to \$2,160, and that it has been ungraded when we last made a change. Now, when you take the Secretary at Government House out of the context and put it in the context of that of a senior clerkship, it can be only on the basis of this accidental arrangement, where Miss Bartlett happens to be a Senior Clerk who is doing the same sort of work. I may say in passing, that there are numerous ladies in the public service who join as secretaries and have to remain as secretaries, because they cannot be roped in as Senior Clerks. It seems to me that this must create dissatisfaction among your other secretaries. As the Hon. Premier said, I do not want to discuss personalities; because there are two many brilliant secretaries whom I can name apart from Mrs. King. I do feel that in the rearrangement of Government House this thing should have been taken up. If you look at Item No. 5, that person is a Cypher Officer, and you moved that person from the Chief Secretary's Office and put her at Government House; the salary of that post is \$960x72—\$1,392.

3.00 p.m.

I was more or less under the impression that you could not put that Cypher Clerk in the category of Secretary. I am somewhat diffident, in fact, I do not agree with the method of arranging these senior clerkships. I warned the Hon. Premier that he will get in the Civil Service a number of posts. He will have this problem: the Secretaries to the Ministers will feel that you should make them eligible for the senior clerkship at Government House; and you will not be able to resist that. If you do this now, you will have to face that position; I can afford to tell

you that if you have secretaries in the Public Service who have given years of service, and who are efficient; and with due deference to the Head of the Administration, if you have a first-class Secretary to a Minister, that Secretary is called upon daily to perform a function which will supersede what the person at Government House is being called upon to do. At Government House you have an A.D.C., a Private Secretary and a Cypher Clerk; in the Ministerial Offices, a Secretary has to perform many duties; so that an efficient Secretary can relieve a Minister of a lot of work. It seems to me that in the constitutional arrangements, your Secretaries are more in need of greater consideration than the Private Secretary at Government House. If you do this for the Private Secretary at Government House, the Premier will have to face the problem where he would have to give similar treatment to other posts. I do not see how you could make this post a senior clerkship and deny other people in other departments. We know that there is somebody now out of the island who is in the same category as the Private Secretary at Government House, and that this person left the service but would have remained here. I can match Mrs. King with anybody in any Secretariat I have seen in the other British W.I. islands; she is a person who could take shorthand notes at a speed other than dictation; she has worked with Secretaries and Commissions; and it looks to me as if you go to Government House and make the Private Secretary's post a senior clerkship, then trouble might arise. I do not think that any damage will be done to the person who is holding this post if the Hon. Premier examines this post in the light of all the others; I must say that I do not agree with picking out one post and saying that you will make it a senior clerkship. What Miss Bartlett is doing, she is doing because she is a Senior Clerk and not because that post holds senior clerkship. This post at Government House was up-graded to come within the post of Secretaries, because it was felt that this post at Government House should rank with your highest Secretary; and it was regarded that the highest Secretaries would be those people who do Stenotypist work. I would therefore ask the Premier to go very slowly in this matter, because it is not a matter of urgency.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I hope I will not say anything wrong; and I hope that this is merely an indication of honourable members getting old. All that the honourable member has said is extremely sound; but if you have a really first-class Secretary to a Minister, he or she should not differ in calibre from the Confidential Secretary at Government House. I do not want to fire anybody out of a job or hurt anybody's feelings; I do agree that the Secretaries to all the Ministers should have the same sort of work to do and get the same salary. Sometimes you do not change the law relating to the salaries of Magistrates, because you hope that a particular Magistrate will get a job somewhere first before you raise the salary. It is rather difficult to phrase what I am saying now, but we have got to face reality. There are people in the Service who, through no fault of their own, were not allowed to think for themselves and who are just not up-to-date; and you may find that you give somebody a \$2,000 a year salary when he is not worth it. I quite agree that salaries should be fixed to posts and not persons; if you feel that the incumbent of the post is doing \$2,000 worth of work, then you should pay that salary and that is what the position is today. What we should have done a year ago, we are doing now. I will bear in mind what the honourable member said; I am aware of all possible repercussions that we are not doing the right thing as regards a

particular post; and we have to face the consequences. Just as we increased the salaries of professional people because they were clearing out of the island, fully conscious of the fact that doctors and specialists will fire at us, so we have come today and asked for this increase in this salary.

The question that Head I as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative.

3.10 p.m.

Head II—Secretariat

Head II Secretariat was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head II stand part. In saying that, I will repeat what I said just now: we felt from the beginning, that each Minister should have a Permanent Secretary. Even with this increase, there will be only four Permanent Secretaries; so that we will not yet be in the position where there is a Permanent Secretary for each Minister. I am asking under Item IV that you vote \$5,760 under the "to be voted" column; and I am also asking that we add the sum of \$2,160 under Item VI so that there will be an increase of the Assistant Secretaries from eight to nine. Also under Item 15 the Cost of Living will go to \$8,022.

As I have said, we have tried hard to work the system on the present basis. If the Committee will pardon me for a personal statement, (so to speak) it is no exaggeration to say that since leaving school, I have not worked so hard as for the last thirteen or fourteen months. There is a terrible amount of work to be done under Ministerial Government. There are cases which come to the Minister's desk, and which would never reach there at all if we were fully staffed with capable and experienced Permanent Secretaries. Three Permanent Secretaries serving five Ministers must be overworked; and it is no exaggeration to say that even the Assistant Secretaries are over-burdened. I do not think it is necessary to say more.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter knows, as he has intimated, that when we were discussing Ministerial Status we felt that every Minister should have a Permanent Secretary. The Governor of another West Indian colony told me that if I wanted the system to succeed, I should look for five of the cleverest men in Barbados and make them Permanent Secretaries; otherwise the system would break down. We have now found that it is necessary to increase these posts; but even so, because of our desire not to be extravagant, we are only asking for four Permanent Secretaries instead of five. The Assistant Secretary has to be a peripatetic or roving man who will be able to give his attention to this or that office in proportion to the amount of extra work; especially if, as it is bound to happen, a Permanent Secretary or Assistant Secretary goes on leave.

The other day Mr. Turner was on leave and Mr. Barton acted for him, now Mr. Barton has gone on leave and some other Secretary is there to go on leave. Obviously in the Civil Establishment someone is bound to be always on leave; therefore we feel that the best way of solving the problem is to add another Assistant Secretary who would not necessarily be attached to this or that office, but who would relieve pressure in any office from time to time. I beg to move that \$27,593 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it is hardly necessary for me to repeat that from the outset, I felt that we were trying to run Ministerial

Status too cheaply. I saw that some of the Ministers seemed to be satisfied with it. The system however has not been working properly; they cannot produce things so that you can get them in time. All these things show that you do not have people enough doing the work.

If you look at page 12 of the Estimates you will see a list of duties enumerated there for the various Ministries to do. Now one of the things I have always criticised, is that they took the two heaviest departments and placed one Permanent Secretary in charge of them—that is the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Communications, Works and Housing; they do not even deal with allied subjects. It is a physical impossibility; a proper mental approach to these two jobs is impossible for one man.

I am not one of those people who are afraid to say, that you cannot run a perfect Ministerial Status even with the increase of the Permanent Secretaries to four; the Government will come back next year and ask for the fifth. We have a Report on Social Security; we have not even heard a word about that yet. It was printed since September last year and the note attached to it is to the effect that the Government has it under consideration. There are recommendations made in it that were not even mentioned by the Premier in his Budget Speech.

3.20 p.m.

When this Government takes over Local Government, I wonder if it realises that Local Government is going to call for a man by himself. You have placed the portfolio of Local Government under the office of the Hon. Minister of Social Services and he is at present dealing with Prisons, Industrial Schools, Public Libraries, Medical, Old Age Pensions, and Social Welfare. The difficulty which I foresee is that when you have one Permanent Secretary dealing with a variety of subjects, (because after all he is the man who is called upon to put up all the things from all the Assistant Secretaries to the level of the Ministers) that you are going to find that he has more work than he can do. How are you going to expect to get a good flow of work from one man when he has so many Heads to deal with. On a matter of policy, it is easier for a Minister to run all these Departments under one Ministry than it is for them to be run under one Permanent Secretary. In the United Kingdom they have about fourteen Ministers and they have Minister's Secretaries and Under-Secretaries to every Department. The idea that you can run an administration with two or three people is farcical; and I do not subscribe to that view. The Hon. Premier spoke of getting a sixth Minister in the process of time; I do not know the person he is getting now for that post; but I do think that it is not so much a question of getting a sixth Minister, as that of the allocation of some of the duties you have in certain portfolios among the Ministers. I do not think any harm can be done if you allocate more duties to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labour. If you look at that Ministry, you can see that all the portfolios that Minister has to concern himself with are Labour, Controls and Subsidies. Of course every now and then you get a debate on Emigration; and to let people know you are doing something, you travel but Control and Subsidies really cannot take up the full time of a Minister. The Hon. Minister of Social Services—as I have said, has to do Prisons, Industrial Schools, Public Library, Medical, Old Age Pensions and Social Welfare; and he has now added to his Ministry, Local Government. There is a Minister of Communications, Works and Housing who now has to deal with Harbour and Shipping, Lighthouses, Public Works, Highways and Transport, Civil Aviation, Electrical Inspection, Housing Board and Water-

works; and the Hon. Premier is called upon to deal with financial matters, Education, as well as other things. Now, I will throw something out to the Hon. Premier in the interest of his own health; a man of much younger years cannot very well devote his time to all those things; and he should not be asked to do it. If I were him, I would be very cautious about getting the sixth Minister at this stage. I do not know if I am hurting anybody if I say so, or if it looks as if I am throwing cold water on what is being done; but if the Premier is thinking about the introduction of the sixth Minister, he would have to think of the Cabinet as a whole and about the Executive Committee. What are his proposals about the Executive Committee? I only throw that question out now; a little later in the debate I am going to speak on it.

The Hon. Premier has to deal with finance; it is true he has a Financial Secretary, but he has to admit that within this set-up the Financial Secretary is not really a Permanent Secretary in the sense of the word. He is only a Head of a Department; so the Permanent Secretary to the Hon. Premier has really to deal with the financial matters. I do feel that if you are to get better service from the individual Ministries, that there is need for the re-allocation of the portfolios among the Ministries; and I do think the Hon. Premier in the light of his experience will also see it that way.

I am one of the persons who believe that the reason why we do not know anything much in the line of Social Services, is because the Minister concerned does not have any person to give him anything on it. The Hon. Premier has put forward a proposition about four Permanent Secretaries, and I have no objection to that. I think he should be bold enough to tell us that we need this number of people so that there could be greater efficiency. It may be said that there is not enough people in Barbados working in the Public Service to fill these higher positions; but I am saying that there are enough people in Barbados working in the Public Service and outside, who are capable of filling those positions efficiently. I see that in Trinidad they have appointed Mr. Solomon Hochoy as Deputy Colonial Secretary; and he is a man who did not go to a University. Of course he was one of the best Labour Commissioners in the whole territory. I am saying that there are enough Barbadians with enough education who are capable of filling the post of Permanent Secretary efficiently; and I hope it will be taken notice of by those who have to deal with these appointments.

What I would like to know also, is what is proposed in relation to this post of Statistician. I see there is a dollar set down as a token vote for that post; I am not clear as to the need for this post of Statistician, and I would like to get some information on it. We know it had something to do with the setting up of a Statistical Department, but we would like to know if Government intends to set up a separate department, and if it is only for a period or if it is to be permanent. Perhaps the vote of a dollar may only mean that Government is examining the question. Is this something new? I would like to know. I do know that we had Message No. 34 coming down from His Excellency the Governor making reference to it; but it is a fact that the Government does not worry to set up a Select Committee to deal with these things. I do not know if an answer was given to that Message; and I would like to know from the Hon. Premier what Government proposes to do in the matter.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am also interested in this Statistician and perhaps we may get some information today as to when and how soon

it is proposed to fill the office, as well as to know if the Government has anybody in mind. I am mentioning that because it is wide spread among some people, that there is a certain high official in the Department of Education who is going out of his way to make a certain Head Teacher give him pen practice in order to enable him to fill the office of Statistician so as to give up his teaching appointment. It therefore would be good, if we can get a little information as to how soon it is proposed to create this office, and whether the Government has anybody in mind.

Incidentally, I congratulate them on the individual who is a Barbadian and his qualifications are strictly firstclass.

Now, sir, the Hon. Premier referred to what someone has told him: the Permanent Secretaries should be the cleverest men in Barbados. I would emphasise that in Barbados it is not necessary with the material we have here, to bring in Secretaries however distinguished they may be, when we have as good material available in this island or within the Caribbean area, as anybody who can be brought here. I would like the Government to adhere to this: in selecting the cleverest men, I would suggest, (and I wish the Premier would listen to me) that it would prevent difficulties with regard to the first grade schools getting qualified people for their staff, if Government would not just willy-nilly select the people by chance from these first grade schools, without considering that they could get better people outside of these first grade schools. There is difficulty at Harrison College in getting proper staff, and at least two or three of the members of the staff have been taken away and transferred to the Secretariat. If you cannot get anybody else, why should Harrison College suffer; however, we do not want to feel that the best public school in the Caribbean has to carry on with a second class staff. If you can get people to work in the Secretariat as efficient as Messrs. Daniel and Williams without depriving the staff of Harrison College, I do urge that this be borne in mind when the additional Permanent Secretaries are about to be chosen. When you are choosing you must choose the best; but at the same time, bear in mind that the schools cannot stand the depletion which is taking place; it is not easy to fill their places, because we are not paying salaries in Barbados to attract the best type of specialists for our First Grade Schools; we are paying much less than what Queen's Royal College or what the Gold Coast is paying; and we want the best for Harrison College.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This Message No. 34, of 1954 reminded the House that in consequence of having an adverse reply, we have placed this dollar in the Estimates. This is what is stated in the Message:—

"This application has been made subject to the provision by the Legislature of the funds to cover travel, local expenditure, accommodation and junior assistants, etc., which are expected to be the obligations of this Government under such an arrangement. It is proposed to submit a Resolution for the required amount as soon as a reply has been received from the Secretary of State and it is possible to arrive at an estimate of costs."

Since then I have spoken to the Head of the United Nations on Technical Assistance Administration, and he has assured me that our request is likely to meet a favourable reception with the United Nations and they will send us an expert on the same terms of Professor Richardson, Mr. Matthews or anybody else. It is because we have this assurance and because we have not been told not to do it, and be-

cause we feel that we should have sufficient assistance in the Secretariat, that the principle of having a Statistical Department has been established. When the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration tells us that we are likely to get him this year he will come and train local personnel, and we will have a Statistical Department.

The question that the sum of \$27,593 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head III—Accountant General

Head III—Accountant General—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$8,440 be voted under this Head.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to.

Head IV—Auditor General

Head IV—Auditor General—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$3,500 be voted under this Head.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to.

Head V—Harbour & Shipping

Head V—Harbour & Shipping was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$103,546 be voted under this Head.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to.

Head VI—Customs

Head VI—Customs was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that \$159,339 be voted under this Head.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to.

3.40 p.m.

Head VII—Powder Magazine

Head VII—Powder Magazine was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that \$234 be voted under Head.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to.

Head VIII—Legal

Head VIII—Legal was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that \$3,731 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, under Item 10, purchase of Law Books there is an estimate of \$400 recurrent expenditure, to keep the Attorney General's Library up-to-date. Under Item No. 14, there is \$1,600 for the purchase of a set of English Reports. Could I find out whether this set of English Reports is for the Attorney General's office or for the Law Library? [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: For the Attorney General.] Were there none before? I do not know if any outgoing holders of that post can explain if there were English Reports in that office before, and where they are now I understand that there used to be a set there before; I am wondering if this new set will duplicate the old set, or whether this old set will find a place in the Law Library.

Law Books are necessary for everyone connected with the law, and even for lawyers who are not practising; but the Chief Justice is, I feel, the most requisite person to whom the best Law Library should be available. It is not always convenient to send over to the Attorney General's office to borrow books; and in addition, such books would be available to the other judges who have been known to do occasional research into the law. I would suggest to the Premier to check up and find out whether this set of Reports is not already in the Attorney General's Office, and to suggest also that a set of English Reports should be in the Law Library.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: May I deprecate the suggestion that an ex-Attorney General walked off with books? To be serious, the Attorney General has to draft laws and he must have law books at his elbows. I cannot use the argument of old Doctor Hawkins who used to say that if he employed a carpenter, the carpenter must bring his own hammer and chisel, and if he employed an Attorney General, he must bring his own books; I am not using that argument.

Honourable members will agree with me that any Chief Justice should be a lawyer who has had an extensive practice, and should have built up a library over the years; but the Attorney General so far as Barbados (I hope it will not be the case too long) is transferred from the Far East to say Jamaica and Trinidad, before he reaches here; and he has to deal in different colonies with different sets of laws. An Attorney General has to be drafting laws every day of his life, and has to be drafting Bills for the consideration of the Legislature; therefore it is reasonable to say that if we cannot afford to place one set in the Attorney General's office and another set in the Law Library, we should lean to the side of the Attorney General's office. That is the only reason why this vote is here as it is.

Mr. BRANCKER: I take it that the honourable member is really not certain as to whether the Attorney General has or used to have this set of books in his Chamber? Perhaps another member of the Long Robe might be able to recall if there were such a set in the Attorney General's office, and when were they last seen. [Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: They are still there.]

There is an interesting point which the Hon. Premier made, and I hope it will be taken to heart by certain officials: that a Chief Judge should be a lawyer who had an extensive practice. I would like to underline that by repeating it, so that by repetition it might appear in the *Official Gazette*.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph wanted us to get through the Estimates because he has matters of greater moment to deal with in a neighbouring colony. If he is going to skirt around and evade answering questions in the way he has just done, we will be here for a long time. Members of this Chamber are certainly entitled to know what the situation is as regards public property. I understood the honourable senior member for St. Lucy to ask the Minister of Justice whether the Attorney General had a set of the English Reports; up to now the Minister has not answered that question. Surely if he does not know, that would not be an unpardonable sin. All that he would have to do is to tell the member that he would send across and find out; I do not think that he should insult our intelligence although he is always telling us how great a lawyer he is and how little everyone else knows. Do not let him think that he should skirt around the question by trying to be facetious.

There is a set of the English Reports in the Law Library; most of them have been borrowed by some members of the profession and not returned,

and some of them are in very bad condition. I do not think that there is any member of the profession or any of the judges who are entitled to use the Law Library, who would not share the view of the inadequacy of that Library even though there are some volumes which cannot be traced; although we may suspect who has them. It would be amusing to report at this stage that the Attorney General never had a copy of the English Reports.

Now the problem is this: the Law Library is distinct from the Attorney General's Library. The Law Library in Barbados is easily the worst and the most inadequate in the West Indies, including all the small Islands; the sum of \$150 a year is spent on replacements for that Library. The only sort of capital disbursement made in respect of the Law Library is for the All England Law Reports; there is no copy of the English and Empire Digest, nor a set of Halsbury's Statutes in the Law Library. There are none of the standard practice books. That Library has been the butt of criticism by all Judges of the West Indian Court of Appeal who have visited Barbados. Those are facts with which the Minister of Justice should be well acquainted.

3.50 p.m.

He himself I am sure, although he has a great capacity and would have us believe that he carries everything in his head, must have suffered as a result of the neglect on the part of the Government to stock the Law Library with the books and volumes which it should have.

Now the trouble about a Law Library is this: if you are a Minister of Housing you can go to bed and dream about how many houses you propose putting up and how many stand pipes you proposed putting in certain villages, or how many roads you proposed building for certain people, but if you are a Minister of Justice from the point of view that there are a few practitioners, you can live for your entire constituency because lawyers' votes do not count. I am pointing out this because I want to tell the Government, that they are not catering for private practitioners, because we buy our own Law Books. Of course there are certain books which are beyond our means; but the purpose of having a Law Library is for the proper administration of justice; so that the Judges of the West Indian Court of Appeal when they meet here, will have books to refer to and our own judges can make themselves more familiar than they are at present with the present state of the law. We must bear in mind that the people who suffer in the last analysis will unfortunately be your parishioners; although you may not have Lawyers among your parishioners if the implements for the carrying out of the law are not available, it is obvious that you cannot have good workmanship. This is not a vote-catching scheme; and I challenge any one practitioner or otherwise to tell me that what I am saying now is not true. It is a fact that the Judges of the West Indian Court of Appeal have made criticisms of the present state of the Law Libraries in Barbados; and it is not good enough with the present state of affairs, that you can get three or four times the amount spent on the Law Library being spent in the Attorney General's department where there are four Law Officers operating and where the department is well supplied with books.

It is only a question of getting the statutes up-to-date; and I find it difficult to believe why this should be so; and if some honourable member will hold the floor for a while, I will go over there and get the information so as to give the reply which the Hon. Premier cannot give. Year after year I

get up on the floor of this House and say that the administration of Justice and the machinery of Justice are creaking at the joints, because this Department is completely disregarded by the Administration when it comes to the equipment which should be there, and the manner in which justice is administered. We should see that proper facilities are placed at the disposal of those who have the onerous task of administering law and order in this country.

There are two amounts, Mr. Chairman, for the purchase of Law Books. There is a four-hundred dollar vote and there is a sixteen-hundred dollar vote. (See Items No. 10 and No. 14). I have already made my observations on the English Law Reports and the explanatory note is inadequate. It seems to me that the person who is in charge of this Department does not know himself whether the books will eventually find themselves on the shelves.

When you come to another Head, Mr. Chairman, I will make my observations on the state of the equipment which the Police Magistrates of the various districts of this island have at their disposal. My criticism of that would come under Head XIV so I will dilate on that particular issue at present. Mr. Chairman, although you may strictly rule that hon. members should only speak of things which come under the particular Head, I must draw to your attention that under Head XIV, Judiciary, the Attorney General's Law Library is again mentioned. I think that is probably a transfer of the total amount which is voted for the Attorney General. For the purchase of Law books only five hundred dollars is voted, and it takes this four hundred dollars which we have in this Head alone for the recurrent expenditure of Law books in the Attorney General's office. The capital and the recurrent expenditure when not together, is in the vicinity of \$500.

I would like to answer the question which the hon. member for St. Lucy asked the Hon. Minister of Justice. It is not alleged that here it is no English Reports are in the Attorney General's office and apparently this sum here is needed for replacements, as it appears to me for something which should be there but does not exist there at all. The Attorney General's office has been functioning ever since yet in that Office there is not a copy of the English Law Reports.

I hope therefore as regards the Law Library, that some substantial capital vote is contemplated by the Government for the purpose of bringing the Library up-to-date as it should be in the very near future.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: What has just struck me is this Item No. 13, "Furniture and Equipment." The Note says: "For the purchase of two office chairs, two cushions and two stapling machines." I am wondering if that is an indication that it is proposed to keep permanently the staff at this office at the same number of professional men. I am wondering if the hon. member would tell the Committee whether these two office chairs is an indication that it is proposed to maintain the professional staff of this Department at the present level of five, or if this Item should be more properly stated as replacements.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: With regard to the English Reports, the Item last year in respect of the Attorney General's Chambers was "purchase of law books." The Note says: "to meet recurrent expenditure to keep the Attorney General's library up-to-date. Increase due to purchase of new edit-

ion of certain publications." The amount was increased from \$280 to \$400; therefore, the amount was increased last year by \$120, but this year they have left off the additional note and they have left the amount at the same \$400. The amount of \$280 would have been sufficient last year; they wanted an increase due to the purchase of new editions of certain publications, but they did not give that as the reason this time. The English Reports as the Hon. Premier would know, would not be of any value to the Attorney General in drafting. Last year we were asked for \$832, and he specified that he wanted a set of Cox Criminal Cases for prosecution; and secondly he wanted the purchase of back numbers of All England Law Reports which would be \$160. The English Reports which you can find in the Law Library and those which have not been taken away and not sent back there, would be used by him. If those Reports were in the Library, they would be sufficient for him and they would be there when he needed them.

What I really wanted to say is this: as everybody knows, the Chief Justice has had the Law Reports (which I bought from Sir Herbert Greaves in his Chambers) since the day I bought them, and the eleven volumes of Cox Criminal Cases have disappeared. We have been able to trace some of them and they are in the Chambers of gentlemen, and I will suggest to these gentlemen that they look and see if they have a Library mark. But they were left in the Chambers of the present Chief Judge on the understanding that I would take them over; and it would have appeared ungracious to ask for them before. They were left there on the understanding that I would remove them on his vacating office in the fairly near future. That means, that the coming Chief Justice will not have any Reports in his Chambers at all. Possibly he has not made any representations to the Government that his Chambers would need Reports. In the near future you might have a new Chief Justice, and if the near future is before the next Estimates, it would be as well for the Hon. Premier to look into the matter because he knows about it. Not only are the books going, but also the cases in which the books are. The Hon. Premier should see that the new Chief Justice is supplied with books, Reports, and such things. These English Law Reports should more easily be placed in the Chief Justice's Chambers, because there are rare occasions on which the Attorney General will need them. Any judge will bring the actual text books with him; but no judge will travel about with Reports. Our Reports which are probably the worst in the world, will not be sufficient for him. The position is that the judge cannot be expected to go to the Law Library to get books; he should have his own Library. I think it is well that the Government look into this matter; if they are going to supply Reports, I shall be glad to have my Reports back. I hope Mr. Chairman, that you will not mind my saying this: I think that the Premier might find out that some magistrates and Petty Debt judges are somewhat diffident about asking for books to do their work. The Magistrates should undoubtedly ask for a few books which are of great value and which may be referred to in case any practitioner refers to a book, and has not brought his book along.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the supplying of the courts with books has always been bad. It is all well and good to tell people that they must restrain their needs, but when you can afford to spend money

on this as you can at present, I think it would be a good opportunity to once and for all supply the books that are needed. If the Attorney General wants the English Reports give him, although he will probably use them about twice a year; but if the English Reports will assist him in the particular line of work that he is now doing I have no objection to giving them to him.

The Chief Justice's Library should be looked into at once. The Minister should ask the Chief Judge and the Puisne Judge what is the position; and at the same time I hope they will also ask the Magistrate's Courts what are the books they think they should have. I think that if you do that, you will find that it would be of great value. What you choose to put in the Law Library has been already spoken of.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I do not bite so easily: I am not taking any notice of stupid remarks. I am prepared to go further than he knows. If the Attorney General has the English Reports and the Chief Justice needs them, I believe we will be prepared to stock his Chamber with them also. Now that the new Town Hall is being built, we will have to come back for furniture, fittings, etc. The Financial Secretary and the Minister of Finance do not go out of their way to ask people if they want more money spent on them; on the contrary you often have to use the pruning knife. If they do not ask, they do not get.

However with the new Town Hall, new Law Courts, and a new Chief Justice more money will be spent on books of this nature. To go further, I will quote a legal maxim which says that the law resides "*In gremio judicium*" and may be the law is residing in the bosom of our local Magistrates and Judges; they have no need for books and therefore they should not ask for any. But I do feel as the hon. junior member for St. James said, that at this time when we have more money to spend, when the new Law Courts are built and the Judges and Magistrates ask for a decent Library we should give it favourable consideration.

As regards what the hon. senior member for St. Lucy has asked, owing to the fact that the Solicitor General is permanent now, with the present staffing, we need these additional chairs; I do not think there is anything else I can say.

The question that \$3,731 be voted under Head VIII was put and agreed without division.

Head IX—Public Market

Head IX—Public Market was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS moved seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, that the sum of \$30,428 be voted under this Head.

The question was put and agreed to without division.

Head X—Fire Brigade

Head X—Fire Brigade was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS moved seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, that the sum of \$33,883 be voted under this Head.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know something about the training of Fire Brigade personnel. A few years ago it was hinted that the Government proposed to train some member or members of the Fire Brigade Service.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Under what Head is the honourable member speaking?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am speaking under Head X Fire Brigade. As I was saying, it was hinted

that the Government proposed to train members of the Fire Brigade in the same way that they train Policemen, Nurses etc. Now that you have a Fire Officer on the Established Staff, is there any intention of training Firemen as they are trained in Trinidad? The Government has sent Policemen to the U.K. for training; do they have any such proposal in mind in respect of the Fire Brigade?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable member is perfectly right. I hate to say what I am saying now, but I have been informed that the last holder of the post was not of sufficient calibre to train Fire Brigade personnel; that is what I have been told; I know nothing about it. I suppose it is just like the case of people who can play cricket well but cannot teach it to others. The present holder of the post is spoken of very highly, and it is proposed that he should train persons to act as his deputy, so that in case he is on leave the persons whom he trains can act for him as Fire Officer; I mean a man from the ranks with experience. He comes to us from that unhappy colony, British Guiana, but I understand he can do a good job; he should be able to train local people to act for him when necessary.

I repeat my initial statement that the station which has gone up is an example of excellent work by Captain Tomlin, and one of the new Fire Engines is already in the building.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have noticed that in Trinidad they have sent some of their Firemen to the U.K. to be trained as Fire Engineers. I do not know what facilities we have here for training; that is why I wanted to know if these Firemen can be sent abroad for training.

There is another point. I do not know if there is any law relating to the speed at which the Fire Engines can travel when they are going to a fire; but some of them travel at a pace which is no faster than can be made by a good cyclist. I do not know if a speed limit is set by the Police in respect of the Fire Engines, but it seems to me that they make more noise than they travel fast.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: What I do not like about the Fire Engines is the banshee howl that the sirens make. When you are trying to sleep at 3 o'clock in the morning and you hear the siren, you wonder if the Russians have come. I personally would prefer to see the engines provided with a loud sounding bell than with those awful sirens. As regards the speed, I understood the honourable member to say that they do not travel fast enough. Perhaps that is because you do not have certain people like doctors driving. The average speed of a doctor in this island is 45 miles and hour.

As regards the other point, I have no doubt that we will do to the Fire Brigade what we do to Policemen and give them all possible training here and then send them to a Training College in England.

4.20 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would be grateful if the honourable member would refresh my memory in connection with Item 16 as to the reason for treatment at home of members of the Brigade who are unable to be sent to hospital, and also for the supply of medicines. Are they too ill to be sent to the Hospital?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I cannot imagine it to mean anything else than what it says. If you do not have any room at the Hospital and a man is suddenly injured and the doctor says: "Do not move him," that is really all what it means.

Mr. BARROW: Arising out of the remarks made by the honourable member for St. Peter, I would like to say that I entirely agree with him when he spoke of the alacrity with which fires are answered in this country or the lack of it, in that it leaves a lot to be desired. I think there is some pop-

ular misconception in the minds of the firemen that if they ring the bell loudly, they are going fast; and they seem to completely misconstrue the purpose of the siren with which the new engines for fire destruction are now equipped. That is to get people out of the way; there can be no justification for the blowing of the siren at three o'clock in the morning on a road such as Black Rock continuously. It should be used sparingly, and especially during the hours of the night. I do hope the Fire Officer will pay attention to criticisms made by honourable members on the floor of this House and do something about it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I too hate that sound of the siren; and I wish that they would use it sparingly (or not use it at all) especially during the hours when people are asleep and mobs are not gathered on the streets. One member complained of the slowness of the Fire Brigade in getting to the scene of the fire; I would like to say that when the honourable member sees them travelling slowly, they may not always be going to a fire; they may be doing routine. When they are going to a fire I do not think they go slowly; but I will draw it to the attention of the Department that they should go slow on the siren. I will cheerfully draw that to the attention of the Fire Officer; but maybe it will be well to bring to the notice of the public that it is their duty to draw to the left of the road, and to stop when they hear the sound of the fire siren. There is a law which compels you as soon as you see the Fire Engine, to draw onto the side of the road and stop. If we do both of these things (that is to remind the public that they have a clear cut duty to draw into the side of the road on the first sound they hear of the Fire bell, and also to notify them), then I think it would be alright.

The question that the sum of \$33,893, be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XI—Lighthouses

Head XI—Lighthouses was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to add a new Item under this Head; it is non-recurrent; it is Equipment, and in the column to be voted \$500. The note to this Item should read: "For repairs to Harrison's Point Lighthouse". If honourable members want any information on it, doubtlessly the Hon. Minister of Communications would give it with much pleasure. The new addition would cause the figures in the vote to be changed to \$4,370. I beg to move that the sum of \$4,370 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BARROW: I could not really follow clearly what the Hon. Minister of Finance was saying, but I gathered that he wants to insert a new provision for the repair of Harrison's Point Lighthouse. Now Mr. Chairman, it is only about three days ago that we were asked for \$600 for the South Point Lighthouse; and the two figures are so closely related as well as both Lighthouses are still burning, that I am forced to wonder why we have kept one for the Estimates and have brought the one for South Point Lighthouse in a Supplementary Estimate. It would be rather alarming to think that the dilapidation which has occurred with respect to the Harrison Point Lighthouse has occurred within the last forty-eight hours or say since the last week-end; therefore if the South Point Lighthouse Resolution was so urgent, why were we not warned at that time that we would have to spend \$2,300 or that we expected to get a gift of that amount?

I have been at great difficulty to understand whether the same firm, Messrs. Chance Brothers or

alternatively the Central Foundry or the Director of Public Works, were not aware of the dilapidations at Harrison Point at the same time as they found out about the South Point Lighthouse.

I want to correct a false impression which is given in a report of the Press that the Government was slipping in the name of the Director of Public Works and was not mentioning the name of Messrs. Chance Brothers. They were not mentioning that the work was carried out by the Central Foundry and by the Director of Public Works, or that credit should be given to them; but as far as I can understand their names were left out, since we have been treated to the explanation that Messrs. Chance Brothers were also responsible for this; and if the proper Department had been doing their job, it would have been rather inconsistent to have two Resolutions of a similar nature, one being the subject of a Supplementary Resolution a few days ago, and the other being put in next year's Estimates. I do not know if it is because of the reason that the South Point Lighthouse happens to be in the parish which the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has the honour to represent, and because the Harrison Point Lighthouse happens to be in the Parish for which the honourable member on my left (Mr. Tudor) has the honour to represent. Whatever is the case, I am only asking you to be consistent.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I asked a question about Needham's Point Lighthouse and I was promised that when we are dealing with the Estimates, that something would be said about it. I would like to hear what it is. At another Lighthouse there is a head-keeper and two assistant keepers, but at Needham's there is a head-keeper and an assistant keeper. My point is that you should have somebody to relieve these people who have to work every night in the week. They are working on a twelve hour basis, and that is not fair; it is not a good employment practice for anybody to be working for these long hours all through the day; that is a point which I raised.

4.30 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: On the last occasion, I promised the honourable member that I would go into this matter. However, the time was rather short and we have not yet had time to discuss the matter. I quite appreciate the point which the honourable member has made. I went into the hours of work of these keepers, and I find that they work six hours on and six hours off; I agree with the honourable member that they should have the night off.

As regards the point made by the junior member for St. George, the report was also made to me by people who took the opportunity of checking up on the Lighthouses; we have certain recommendations which were made, and which will be brought before the House at a later stage. We feel in view of the fact that the South Point Lighthouse had broken down on us, it would be better to put this matter in the Estimates and have the money to hand so that we could effect the necessary repairs.

The question that the sum of \$3,870 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division.

Head XII — Registration

Head XII — Registration was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$15,705 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BARROW: I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Finance that there is no Registrar at present; there is an Acting Registrar—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what Item is the honourable member speaking?

Mr. BARROW: I am speaking on the whole Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Certain Items are fixed by law.

Mr. BARROW: I am not trying to reduce the Item; I am dealing with the general state of affairs in the Registration Office; there is no Registrar at present; the Deputy Registrar is acting Registrar and the Deputy Registrar is expected to leave this month. The gentleman who is required to perform the duties of Registrar would be in an awkward position, because we have just lost two gentlemen, one a qualified solicitor who has been in the Department for a long time; and the whole Registry seems to have revolved around their experiences and both of these gentlemen happen to have the same name. It was known for some time that the Registrar should have been appointed; if he had been appointed, we would not have to bring two Heads in the office who have to get the experience of office routine. I say that with a certain degree of confidence; they cannot promote everybody in the present office not because of their inability or incapability to carry out the requirements of the post, but the law demands that both the Registrar and the Deputy Registrar should be legally qualified; and none of the Clerks there are legally qualified. That is the first difficulty which will face us in the future.

The Registrar is not only the Registrar for births and deaths, but he is also in charge of documents; he is Master-in-Chancery for the Chief Justice, he also has to attend the Court of Grand Sessions and act as Clerk to the Court, and he is local Registrar of the West Indian Court of Appeal; I can say that that office is a very important one in the administration of justice in this colony, and I hope that the Government or the proper authorities will not persist in their policy of not wanting to appoint anybody to judicial and legal posts in the island, and keeping Civil Servants acting in posts in which there should be proper appointments made as soon as a vacancy occurs. I do not know the reasons for this state of affairs, and I am not speculating on them; but some two years ago I pointed out to the Government that our method of keeping records in this island is not as up-to-date as it should be, and I suggested that we should have a photostatic department and a process for recording deeds and private documents by photographers. Nothing appears to have been done, and I hope that the Government has not allowed that suggestion to pass by entirely. The other matter which I drew to the attention of the Government last year, is the question of land registration and registration of titles. Barbados is not a large island and it should not be difficult for the Government to set up a system of land registration in this island; it would prevent a lot of fraud and bribery which is affected in places like Graveyard, Boscobel and so on.

4.40 p.m.

I can speak with a certain degree of authority on that parish, because I have all my roots and origins in the parish, and I am in a better position even than the hon. senior member for St. Lucy to speak on the necessities of the inhabitants of that parish and other parishes as to their legal rights, and getting conveyances and matters of that kind to secure their property. If we had a system of land registration all these difficulties would be overcome. Of course it would mean that proper surveyors examinations and methods of articling surveyors would have

to be investigated; that is done in the neighbouring colony of Trinidad and in the colony of British Guiana. The apprenticeship of surveyors and draftsmen is done by the Registration Department and the Department of Lands and Surveys. The smaller the territory you have to cater for, the easier should be the scheme.

Quite apart from that, we have an aerial survey of Barbados which has provided us with an aerial map, and the stations could be ascertained from that survey and from the knowledge of the local surveyors. Those are things which I urge upon the Government. It would from the point of view of the average person like yourself, cheapen the cost of transferring property from one person to another; and it would simplify the whole procedure of land transfer.

What is more important is that you should have every square inch of land in this island set out on a map to which you can refer easily so that some peasant's plot can be easily found and traced in the Registration Office. Obviously you cannot then expect to wake up one morning and find that some one has put your land through the Assistant Court of Appeal, because before anyone could go into Court and say he had a title, he would have to get the Registrar to produce the map showing that he is entitled to that portion of land. There is nothing to prevent some of the rogues who rob the less educated people of their land from advertising land for sale and just stating that the amount of land is 3,000 square feet situate at Sugar Hill, St. Joseph, butting and bounding on lands of three or four fictitious persons or they may not necessarily be fictitious. A person may therefore wake up to find that his land is for sale when he knew nothing at all about it. Our system of acquiring a title in Barbados is definitely obsolete; and I would like to see the system brought up-to-date for the benefit of all concerned.

The question that the sum of \$15,705 be voted under Head XII was put and agreed to.

Head XIII — Legislature

Head XIII — Legislature was then called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS moved seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS that the sum of \$29,768 be voted under this Head.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on Item 27, payment of substitutes, \$1,850. The note says that this is a new item provided for the payment of substitutes for Officers of the House; Chaplains, Reporters and Typists if necessary. I do not know if the Chaplain is going on vacation this year. What I really rose to say is that we passed an Address last night for a temporary Typist; could that not have been included in this amount? I think that just by adding to that Note you can have additional staff for an emergency. It would certainly save having to bring down a Resolution for \$60 or \$80.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I do not think so. First of all this amount in the Estimates is to pay for substitutes, while the particular legislation referred to is for auxiliary assistance. In the second place, this amount in the Estimates could not be used for the payment of auxiliary assistance without being referred back to the Executive Committee, because the Executive inserted it in the Estimates for the particular purpose set out here.

Mr. BRANCKER: There are two items under this Head to which I want to refer: one is for the Allowance to the Messenger and Library Attendant

in respect of late sittings of the House. May I take this opportunity of reminding you and other members of the Committee that we have been without a Messenger and Library Attendant for many months; I do not think we should continue without filling the post. It is most unsatisfactory; and unless it is intended to be carried on indefinitely, the present arrangement in my submission, is not good enough. I doubt that this appointment would be so highly controversial as to make the selection of someone to fill the post very difficult; this is one of the occasions on which few will disagree that the Minister of Communications has not backed a wrong horse.

The next item on which I want to comment is Item No. 18, Members' Libraries. I would suggest Mr. Chairman, that the emphasis in selecting books should be placed on works on Constitutional History and Constitutional Law. I cannot speak for the medical members of the House, but I have no doubt that Black's Medical Dictionary is a book which is of some use to the medical profession. That work is in this Library. I can not see that Words and Phrases are of any workable value to the Legal profession but it has found its way into our shelves. Unfortunately I had already bought a copy when I saw that there was one in this Library. Books on Equity, Motor Insurance, Factory Law, Industrial Law, Legal Terms and works of that sort are highly valuable, but for the specialist legal practitioners. Of course deference is being paid to the profession or trade of certain members of this House, not to speak of our two Clerks.

I agree that money should be spent: but we want the emphasis to be placed on books dealing with parliamentary subjects, constitutional subjects and constitutional Law and History; but these highly specialised works do not really seem to form an essential part of the Parliamentary Library.

5.00 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I entirely agree with the remarks made by the hon. member for Lucy; but I do not think it is fair to make reference to the Clerks of this House personally, because they are not in the position to defend themselves; and secondly the Libraries of the firms to which they belong, are probably among the best of the Solicitors in this island. The particular legal code which finds its way into the Library of this House is not particularly useful to their branch of their profession; I want to make that clear. I think a great deal of the fault must lie in the lap of the discrimination of the Librarian of the House himself, because he does not seem to be completely conscious of the purpose of the Library in a Chamber such as this. We should have all the standard works on constitutional law, whether of a legal nature or purely of a descriptive or analytical nature. I would also like to say that some works on the American constitution, like one by Harold J. Lasky which one member has had in his possession for the last eighteen months. [VOICES: Shame! Shame!] I do not think this is a matter of shame, but a matter of members interested in the subject of the American constitution. This is a very lengthy book and one cannot read it like a novel. Surely we can do with two or three copies of that book and a little less of the books on the Hammer and Sickle Revolution. I think the Librarian might very well take a note of that. I do not think that we would be called upon to refer to some of the books which are in the Library. We do no drafting in here, and I do not see the necessity for Roland Burrows' "Words and Phrases;" I do not see any justifica-

tion for the purchase of the four or five volumes of that work. I doubt whether any member of this House in his capacity as a member of this House has referred to it, with all respect to the legal members who might now and then want a book like that to do their legal work in the Lobby of this House; they should keep that for their Chambers. I think the Debates Committee or the Library Committee, (if there is one) should make recommendations as to the new volumes which are to be bought in this field, and do not leave it to the youthful discretion of the Librarian. He probably tries his best but he is not as experienced as the members of the Debates Committee. Perhaps this Committee can be asked to advise us on the books which would be a fitting contribution to our present stock.

Mr. TUDOR: Perhaps Mr. Chairman, the reason why the Library is in such an unsatisfactory state may be because the Debates Committee does not function as it should. I think one of its functions should be to make a review, perhaps every three months, of the books that are in the Library, and of what new publications are known to them, and then to make decisions accordingly. There is one other matter with respect to the Library. Not only should it be possible for us to have books of a political or constitutional nature, but we should have made available to us periodicals. It is very useful, I think to have a magazine likely "English Statesman and Nation;" I consider it as very informative and important to Legislators where-ever the British constitution is in practice. I think our reading should be brought up-to-date, and what we read should be as up-to-date as possible; we should know something of what is taking place in the outside world; we should have periodicals like the "African Bureau" which gives you something of what is going on in Africa and the Eastern Colonies of the British Empire. We should also have some English and American periodicals which are of similar importance. I agree with the two previous speakers that we want the sort of books in this Library which will assist us in our work as Legislators; we should have at our disposal the latest publications and there should be no delay. In addition to up-to-date books dealing with politics and political science, we should also have periodicals and subject matters relating to economics, politics and sociology. If we have such magazines and periodicals. I think many of the facts which appear to be unknown to Ministers and Legislators generally, would of course be known. It is very important; I think the Debates Committee are the chief offenders; and perhaps with a little warning from this House, it might be possible for them to take their share at the control of the Library and see that we have a quantity and range of books which are interesting to Legislators. If that is done, I do not think this vote of \$600 will be a lot of money to send on books for this Assembly.

I do not think that this money is too much to spend on books for people who enjoy reading, and in an Assembly such as this if we are spending even \$600, we should have quality for it; and we should have the very latest to read. It is fastly becoming the fashion set by the Government to imagine that books do not hold any importance; I look forward to the day when the Premier or one of the Ministers will hand to us a bit of information and we should have to comment on it," the Hon. Minister is now fresh from the books"; then we will know that the Library is functioning with the Ministers who are fresh from their books.

5.10 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am glad to know how I can hurt people. I quite agree with all that has been said about the Library; I do not know that usefulness is anything to do with it all. Usefulness may have something to do with some of things; but it were otherwise, some Barristers over there would not dream of buying books. As the hon. member has said, I believe that the text books in the Library are books which no lawyer uses in ten years. We must have a Committee of the House, not necessarily the Debates Committee, but any Committee which already exists, to choose books which will be of real benefit to members of the House. Why should members of the House not have the works of Oscar Wilde and one or two works of that nature? When we are wealthy like the House of Commons, we will be in a position to have all sorts of things; but most of the books should be concerned in one respect or another with the work of Parliament. If the Law Books primarily dealt with constitutional law they should be there; we would not have had yesterday's debate if they were more books on constitutional law here. (Laughter). But it is regrettable that money is spent on books which hon. members may have in their own library. Doubtless, the Hon. Leader of the House will take pains to suggest the appointment of a permanent Library Committee to be re-appointed every session.

The question that the sum of \$29,768 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to.

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

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

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.
The motion was put and agreed to and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

On resumption.

ACCOMMODATION FOR SECRETARIES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, before we resume debate on the Estimates, I think we should settle the question of the reservation of the front row of seats for members of the Civil Service; there is at present some uncertainty about it. Yesterday I spoke to you on the point and you were unwilling, in fact you said that you would not undertake to do it. The hon. senior member for the City and the hon. junior member for Christ Church gave the impression then that they would agree to it; but to-day there seems to be some uncertainty about it. I think it should be done by a motion of the House.

These front seats have always been used by members of the Civil Service especially during the period in which we are discussing the Estimates, in order that they may be on hand to give certain information with regards to various Departments. That is a custom which should be preserved. It has also been a custom to reserve certain seats for visitors. Yesterday I understand that a gentleman from a neighbouring island who was here on a visit to the Assembly, a legislator of long standing, was put to some difficulty in getting a seat. As I have

said, Sir, I think that on particular occasions the front row of seats should be reserved to the discretion of Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no discretion of mine.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: If it is not within your discretion I take it that I would have to make a motion. I beg to move that the front row of seats on the West be reserved for members of the Civil Service or visitors to the island.

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there are two issues involved. I do not think that there is such an important constitutional principle at stake as regards the reservation of seats for certain visitors in this Chamber. I would like to make one or two comments on the matter. Certain things which are harmless and appear harmless at first sight, have an unfortunate tendency of developing to proportions which the initiators of those things never anticipated.

None of us is immortal except the Ministers who have a desire and intention to perpetuate themselves in office eternally. I do not think that any of us could be so arrogant as to question firstly the discretion of members of the House who are not present and also that of future legislators, by creating a precedent of this sort.

I believe that it is usual to give notice of a motion; Your Honour can correct me if I am wrong; but it seems to me to be a safer precaution because if that custom is not observed, a member of the Government can during the course of a day's sitting when the atmosphere is congenial make any motion and get it passed. Such a procedure could lead to an abuse of parliamentary democracy, and—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I object to that statement insinuating that I tried to take advantage of the absence of hon. members.

Mr. BARROW: No one who was listening to me carefully would say that I made such insinuation. I said I did not think that any great constitutional issue was at stake. I do not want to repeat everything that I said. To come back to the point at which the Hon. Minister took me up, the usual procedure is that you give notice of a motion. This motion which has just been made by the Hon. Minister may be perfectly harmless, especially as it is one in which no great matter of moment is at stake; and it may appear to be one which can be made without notice being given. I am saying that the danger is that this kind of procedure if it is made into a precedent, may possibly lead to abuse by other persons who may make attempts to undermine parliamentary democracy by introducing snap votes. I am not suggesting that this is a snap vote.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member can object to leave being granted.

Mr. BARROW: I am not doing that. The whole trouble is that the Minister did not ask for leave. I think that Your Honour's attention had been drawn before to motions being introduced in this peremptory manner. Putting that aside, I would like to assure the Minister that I do not regard this motion as an attempt by him to introduce a snap vote when the political atmosphere is congenial; I was saying that if a precedent of this sort is created, it might rise to that unfortunate tendency.

The second point is that all members of the public are here on sufferance. Your Honour will probably remember the Water Riots in the neighbouring colony of Trinidad which I think was somewhere in 1902 or 1912, Your Honour more seized of these historical instances than I am; but

it was specifically stated here that members of the public, as was the case in the Trinidad Water Riots, were present in the House on sufferance. That means all members of the public.

If the Minister gets up and moves a Resolution of this kind, are we not drawing the attention of the Chair to the presence of strangers in the House, although perhaps not in the same manner in which one gets up and says "I spy strangers" or one of those statements which we use to clear the House when something of a secret nature is being discussed.

5.50 p.m.

Would it not be better to do what I suggest, that is to place some chairs in the alley way outside of the visitor's gallery and without the Bar of the House, but in such a position that Ministers passing along the highway would be able to note the fact that they are needed outside. I think that would prevent a lot of the confusion taking place now and the summoning of the Marshal to take a message or that sort of thing. That is the suggestion I have to offer and I see no need for a Resolution at all.

I think it will be most unfortunate if we went on record as preparing to make a division between one subject of Her Majesty and another, and give Civil Servants the impression that they have a right to certain seats in this Chamber. I want to say at once that any observation which I have made so far and any which I make before I sit down, is purely for Your Honour's consideration. I am completely unconcerned with who moved this Resolution, or whether it came from the side of the Opposition or from Members of the Government. I regard it purely as a matter of what should be our rights and privileges. In the final analysis, it is a decision which you rightly should make; whether you consider it in the light of the present constitution (a) that they should be a distinguished strangers gallery and (b) what part of the House would be appropriate for this purpose and (c) whether Civil Servants are entitled to sit in the front row. I see no advantage of having them in the front row; because in any case, they will not be as conveniently sited as if they are sitting in the alley way which leads to the Ministerial benches beyond the Bar of the House. I myself will be very reluctant to support a Resolution which may be intended only as a temporary expediency, or in the end turn out to be one to be used by certain persons to discriminate between one subject and the other. I am not saying that any member of the Government will do it, nor do I think any member of the Government would call the Marshal of the House to chuck somebody from out of one of the chairs of which mentioned has been made, or because the person whom they saw in that chair has spoken against them on a public platform. We must be very careful, because in passing a Resolution of this kind, there is danger despite what the Hon. Minister of Social Services is saying that it is a custom. Certain Officials by the very nature of their faces and their up bringing, feel that they are entitled to a front seat whether it is in church, the theatre or when they come up here. We know that in churches certain people go right up to the front because they feel they belong there; but I know of no custom that they have the right to come in the front seat here. I know Your Honour agrees with me and has said on many occasions that they are only here on sufferance. I do not object to their sitting in front, but I know of no custom which entitles them to a front seat at least no custom re-

cognised by us. They may arrogate a front seat to themselves and we may pay them no attention or they may be invited by a particular Minister to come to a position where he considers them prominently placed for his own use.

I hope no precedent will be created which will give any member of the public any right to come in here and sit in the front seat. He is here on sufferance, regardless of whether he is the Officer Administrating the Government, (who cannot come in here anyhow,) or his Deputy or emissary or whether he washes off the cars at Government House or if he is a frequent visitor to this Chamber to listen to Debates. Some people think that they have a right to certain seats in this Chamber because they come in here often; because they come in here every Tuesday they think they have a distinctive right to any seat. What then Mr. Speaker, is the solution? I have already made one recommendation. I am sure Your Honour will approve of the suggestion for additional accommodation being placed in the alley way than in the visitor's gallery. No complications can arise when somebody is asked to get up nor can anybody be embarrassed when asked by the Marshal to allow that accommodation for somebody else. As a matter of fact, there are some visitors who claim that they would be treated unfairly if you did not allow them to sit in the front seat because of their continual presence in this Chamber.

The other alternative method would be, that before the House commences its sitting, signs should be placed at the backs of those chairs so that the people would know that they are reserved for special persons; but that would be a matter for Your Honour if you felt disposed to do so. I do not like the idea of removing a person from a front seat when he might be there from 3 o'clock in the afternoon, just because some Head of a Department is telephoned for and he wants to exercise the right to his pew, when he displays no interest in the proceedings of the House. We are trying to do away with the idea of pew rent in the churches, and I do not think we should support the ball going in the opposite direction now, by accepting a Resolution of this nature. I have tried to outline my feelings on the matter without any acrimony; I have made what I consider useful suggestions which the Hon. Minister of Social Services should accept or reject at his pleasure. As long as these suggestions go on record that would meet the position in this matter, I am completely unconcerned as to the outcome of this Resolution.

6:00 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Fortunately or unfortunately, I am not verbose; I allow commonsense and business to dominate rather than words. I do not think anybody in Barbados who knows me could accuse me of discriminatory practices. I said in my opening remarks that I do not want any reservation made perpetually for Civil Servants, but merely during the consideration of the Estimates for the purpose of convenience; not only since Ministerial Status began (I have been a member of this House since 1935), the practice has been that during the consideration of the Estimates, Civil Servants attend here and I think that the same thing should prevail.

What has brought the matter to a head is this: I spoke to Your Honour and Your Honour was not willing to move in the matter; I then spoke to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the honourable senior member for the City who were present, intimating to them that I intended to do what I have done today. They said, "Don't worry to make any motion, we will allow that front row of seats to be

reserved for Civil Servants." Today three or four Civil Servants came there with their files and occupied that row of seats; subsequently one or two members of the public came in and occupied those seats to the inconvenience of the Civil Servants; the Marshal was unwilling to go and stop them because he feared the repercussions from certain members of the House; therefore I thought it was in order to have a ruling in one way or the other as to whether we could have a motion made, hence this motion. It is a matter for honourable members to decide whether they want it to be so or not; I thought that for the convenience of the Civil Servants during the consideration of the Estimates, that this system should prevail.

Mr. GODDARD: This is a matter which I think could be and should be handled by Your Honour. I think we have sufficient trust in you or we should have sufficient trust in you to be able to conduct things in this House. If you came here and told us that during the consideration of the Estimates you had decided to retain that front row of seats for Civil Servants who would be needed by Government members from time to time, I think that would be in order and nobody would question it, provided that you made it clear to the public that those seats are reserved so that the Civil Servants would not be embarrassed. I recall an instance of great embarrassment to them one night; the seats were reserved for Civil Servants and a gentleman sat in one of them. He was asked to go behind and soon after that the Governor's Private Secretary sat there. He was not a Minister's Secretary, but if those seats had been marked for Government Secretaries or Ministerial Secretaries, he would not have sat there. It would be embarrassing to everybody including the Governor's Private Secretary; but what I am getting back to is this: I think it would be wrong for us to have any formal motion made on things which used to be; and I think it is Your Honour's prerogative to rule. If you say that for the period of the Estimates that front row of seats should be reserved for Ministers' Secretaries you would be in order, and you would be upheld in that. You could make sure that some label be placed on those seats to the effect that they are reserved for Ministers' Secretaries. I know that there are people whom I invite here and they are afraid to come because they are afraid that they would be locked up [Laughter]. I do not see that people should be prevented from coming in here and listening to the debates; I would like to see some of every section of the island represented in this gallery. I would like the affairs of this House to be conducted in such a manner that you are left in trust; and if we feel that something should be drawn to your attention, then we will do that. It is only if we see that something you have done should be changed that we draw it to your attention; but the internal working of things should be left to you.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: We were asked to come here and consider these Estimates today. Nobody could claim that we are not working for the money which the taxpayers are paying. We have had long hours and now you find that the Hon. Leader of the House has chosen a most inappropriate time to raise something that need not have been raised because nobody is affected.

There are some empty chairs—

6:10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not draw my attention to strangers.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am talking about chairs, empty chairs. From time immemorial the custom has been to reserve seats for the members of the Civil Service. What is wrong with human conduct that such a matter of politeness could not

be settled without a motion? From time immemorial people have been coming here in a dignified manner; do you mean that we may soon have to pass a motion saying who may be taken inside to dinner? Going to dinner is a matter of privilege. Will someone make a motion to take Mr. A. or Mr. B. into the dining room? Is it not a fact that visitors have come here and have been taken to dinner, the only requisite being that Your Honour should be acquainted. Will someone make a motion that only certain people be invited to dinner? The next thing is that you will pass a motion that members' wives be given nothing less than the second row of seats in the House of Assembly!

If you are going to give Civil Servants a privilege, you are making a mock of parliament by talking about reserved seats. I was amazed to hear the Leader of the House, after asking us to come here today to do Estimates, making an attempt to keep us here until 2 o'clock tomorrow morning. You cannot ask members to agree to a formal motion to reserve the front row of seats. What is to prevent certain members from waiting until the Government side is thin to make a motion that all the back rows be taken up and put outside? What kind of fantastic stuff are we going in for?

It is not a matter of saying that someone is suffering great inconvenience; all that need be done is to discuss the matter with Your Honour; and the Marshal could be informed. The Marshal is a servant of the House, and if he is under threat from members of the House where his job is concerned, he need not have to be worried; it is his duty to see that people conduct themselves properly. This is nothing new and the Marshal would not have to ask you to go and tell someone that you need a seat.

I do not know if it was necessary to make a motion that members of the Press be allowed to sit around the Press table. I saw last night someone who is a relative of a member of this Chamber sitting at the Press table although he has no connection with the Press; would someone have made a motion that he should get up?

I do not see any useful purpose would be served by continuing with a formal motion that the front row of seats be reserved for the Civil Servants. What would happen if the Messenger only placed four seats in the House, so that they will be all front seats? It is ridiculous when we have to discuss serious business to attempt to have a motion like this discussed and passed in the House. What is beginning to happen with people's brains today? Is it a matter of power? Is it an obsession?

You will soon get domestic affairs coming to the House and motions being passed on them. It is really becoming farcical when you are asked to consider a motion for the reservation of front seats for the Civil Service; the House has never had to discuss a matter like that. There has always been the custom that certain members of the Civil Service come here during discussion of the Estimates; I have never heard that anyone has objected to that. If a member of the Civil Service came here and found that a seat reserved for him was occupied by a member of the public and he asked the person to excuse him, I do not see any civilised Barbadian refusing. I do not see any necessity for this ignoble spectacle of a Minister of the House passing a formal motion that seats be reserved when we could be doing the Estimates that we came here to do.

Without casting any reflection on you sir, I would say that private members are not allowed to make these motions without giving notice of them. In any case this is something that could be settled outside of the House.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I am not convinced of the necessity of a formal motion of this kind or that this is the appropriate time to do it. As a matter of fact even if three other Under-Secretaries arrived, there will be still ample accommodation in the front row. It has been said that the Marshal, our Marshal, was asked to do something in connection with the chairs and apparently he was unwilling; one could not expect him to be otherwise than timid, after his experience of not so long ago, an experience which he probably will not forget for all of his days. Your Honour will recollect (reference has already been made to it by the honourable junior member for Christ Church) how one very distinguished, although very humble ex-Civil Servant, a former acting Police Magistrate was required to leave that front row, and when someone else (this is a mixed community and we must face facts) who was not a Secretary to any Ministry, and who though very amiable, was not distinguished but was of different complexion, when he was about to leave was invited to remain. That sort of thing must rankle and must be among the unpleasant recollections which we must always carry with us in connection with incidents in this Chamber.

This matter I think could easily be handled without the passing of Resolutions. I was unfortunately not able to be here at the opening of today's sitting to hear if and when a notice was given of this motion and that leave would be asked to deal with it in the course of the day.

I feel that a thing like this should not be dealt with in this informal manner; if it is a Resolution it should be put on the Order Paper for consideration by members to decide what is the best solution. During consideration of the Estimates and at other times, you must have Permanent Secretaries to tell you something and to show their zeal throughout the sittings of this House; they should be there to supply any information which the Ministers may want; and we must see that there is adequate accommodation for them and that they are handy. I would suggest that over on the other side would be a better position for them than over on this side of the House, and the situation should not present any difficulty. I presume that the Estimates would be passed by 5 a.m. tomorrow morning. However, I do not like this talk of visitors to the island and of distinguished visitors.

6.20 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: On a point of Order, Mr. Speaker, I never used the words "distinguished visitors". They can be the lowliest on my part; most often they are.

Mr. BRANCKER: I did not say that the honourable member abused the word "distinguished." I do not see the reason for this point of Order; I did hear the word "distinguished" used in the course of the debate.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: That must have been the imagination of the honourable member; I never used the word.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Lucy said that the word was used during the debate.

Mr. BARROW: I rise on a point of personal explanation. I have no recollection of what the Hon. Minister of Social Services said; I said there is a distinguished visitors' gallery in the House of Commons; I used the word in that way. Whether the Hon. Minister of Social Services used it or not I do not think it is important anyhow.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I always place the best construction on what anybody says; I blame only the acoustic properties of this House and not the Hon. Minister for having used the word "distinguished".

guished." However, I think the matter has been sufficiently ventilated. It is necessary for the Secretaries to be handy and available. I may say, that you will never get any rush on a night like this; therefore, it is unfortunate at this inopportune time that this matter was discussed. I think the matter should be discussed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and Your Honour, and a practicable compromise arrived at.

Mr. TUDOR: I rise to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Social Services on the humour with which he has put forward this matter. I do not think he meant any harm, but he was just trying to see about something which could have been done otherwise. Let me say, that everything in this Chamber is under Your Honour's immediate supervision and control; and as you always say, and as we all know, whoever comes in here and sits in the precincts of this Hon. Chamber comes in here because you do not see them. What the members of the Government have to do is to say to you, "reserve four or five seats anywhere where you think it convenient for their servants" and I think you can grant their request, because it is within your power; and I do not think any member of this House would challenge you unless as a result of that some discrimination was being practised. Only on that account would you be challenged. It is a fact that earlier today one of the members of the Government attempted to instruct the Marshal to move someone in one of the front seats of the gallery. The Marshal did not obey the instructions of the Minister either, because he remembered a similar instance, or because Your Honour did not instruct to do so. It is not within the province of members to implore you to do anything, and I implore you to keep every bit of your privilege; do not allow them to be taken away under the guise of some semi-official motion. They are drawing your attention to the fact that they have been strangers in this House. It does so happen that except on a few occasions Secretaries of Ministers are willingly accommodated at this time of the year in this Chamber. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to exercise a great act of faith; that is, to withdraw his motion; and I think the House will give him leave to do so and discuss this matter conveniently with Your Honour. I think if that is done, a lot of embarrassment would be saved and a lot of this debate. It is not necessary for us to order this by reason of motion; it is silly. Let the Hon. Minister withdraw it and then let him ask Your Honour about it and abide by what you declare. No issue of principle is involved; we are all willing that the Secretaries of the Ministers should sit near enough to the Ministers and make contact with them when they are wanted. We will not subscribe to anything which is secret and slimy. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister of Social Services to withdraw the motion.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further discussion on this motion be postponed.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I beg to second that.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to accept that.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like my position to be made clear. Honourable members in the course of their addresses, have made mention of the problem now besetting the Hon. Minister of Social Services, that it could be settled easily if authority were given to me to control the seating arrangements in this House. That has been very well said, and I appreciate it; but I will tell this honourable Chamber this now: if at any time there is any complaint made by any honourable member resulting from such a decision or such opinions of this ancient and

honourable House, I will in no uncertain terms tell this House that I think that honourable members themselves collectively should bear the responsibility. I have very strong reasons for mentioning that; I do not want to go over any instances which have occurred in the past; but I have very strong reasons for speaking in those terms and in that manner.

ESTIMATES RESUMED

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

Head XIV — Judiciary

Head XIV — Judiciary was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$59,224 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On the last occasion when these Estimates were being considered, the Hon. Premier when questioned in connection with Item 32 "Jurors and Marshals at Grand Sessions," said that he regarded this service as a civic responsibility and he saw no reason why a Juror should not serve at the rate of \$1.54 a day which was being paid. Everyone will agree that there can be every valid reason to say that if this was the rate in 1891 and you paid a Juror at the rate of \$1.54 per day in 1891, it is time that you should review the rate and give a Juror something more for the service which he is called upon to perform. We have to take a reasonable view of this matter; it is not that a man does not perform a civic responsibility; there are certain employers who do not give their workmen their full day's pay because they are serving as Jurors. We know the circumstances of a man where he cannot always get an excuse from serving at the Court; and if a man is working for \$2 a day or even \$2.50 a day, he has to leave his work; and therefore, would it be anything wrong to review the situation so that this man can recoup himself? I do feel that more discretion should be given in these instances, because the people who serve are people who are not well off.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The most I can suggest to the honourable member is that we should change the law.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: We are being asked to vote \$4,800. That is not fixed by law; the rate is fixed by law. Last year I mentioned this matter am I doing anything wrong in asking for a review of this matter? I am asking again this year if the reasons which the Premier gave last year for not doing what was requested could be valid reasons today.

6.40 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: I can hardly remember a year since I have been a member of this House that I have not focussed Government's attention on this same Item; and again this year we are being asked to vote the same amount of £1,000. It is not in dispute that the amount is fixed by law; but when we come here to vote a certain amount which cannot be changed, of course it is entirely within our competence to remind the Executive Committee that these are the only category of persons, with one or two very trivial exceptions in respect of whom legislation has not been amended to provide them with a reasonable rate of remuneration. In the old days it was

said that it was an honour to serve in this Chamber, and that you should not have expected any monetary reward for so doing; well Sir, it is still an honour to serve in this Chamber but it has become unavoidable for one to accept the honorarium of which we are now in receipt. That has become an unavoidable necessity, but the honour remains; it is perhaps an even greater honour to sit in judgment on one's fellow man and these Jurors are still being paid what they were paid 64 years ago when the Act of 1891 prescribed the rate of \$1.54 a day.

There is no justification for perpetuating this economic injustice, and for the failure to take this matter into consideration and initiate amending legislation. It will constitute a charge on the Government and therefore it must be initiated by the Government. I do not see why this section of the community should be treated this way.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter has on this occasion got ahead of me. I am wondering why when he was on the Executive he did not use his dynamic rhetoric to persuade his colleagues on the Executive as to the necessity of introducing an amending Resolution. I should hate to think that his efforts in that sphere were unable to bring the results which his efforts in this Chamber almost invariably succeed in achieving.

It is not fair. If a juror fails to attend the fine is £10. and the average person loses at least \$1.54 a day.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Will the honourable member accept my assurance that the whole matter will come to the House in connection with the re-organisation of the Judiciary?

Mr. BRANCKER: I accept the honourable member's assurance that the whole matter will come before us and that this aspect of it will be properly dealt with. Well then there is the question of the Marshal at Common Pleas; that also perhaps is something on which we can expect the assurance of the Premier. In this matter, it is not so long ago that the honourable and learned member for St. Joseph used to have to toil at the Bar; and he will not have forgotten the matter of special juries. I would remind him of the necessity for the abolition of the Special Jury; I think that in his day he has had as much trouble with that peculiar brand as those of us who survive and are fighting up to now. I would say that had it not been for the trouble which Counsel have with Special Juries, all of us might remain and try our luck at the Bar.

I turn now to Item 46, "Examinations under the Solicitor's Act" in which we are asked to vote an increase of \$280. That is another matter to which I would invite the attention of the honourable and learned member for St. Joseph in connection with the re-organisation of judiciary. There is no reason why the Government should foot any part of this Bill. Perhaps now and again you may peruse a Solicitor's bill of costs; there is no section of the community which earns a more substantial livelihood than solicitors. A person intending to become a solicitor should foot the entire bill because he is acquiring a profession which will bring him no less than £1,500 a year net unless he is no good. The Barrister's branch of the profession is supposed to be senior; but the solicitor's branch is junior and remunerative. I feel that Government should no longer be saddled with this. [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: We agree.] I am glad that the honourable member agrees. He knows that if he had been a solicitor how much better off he would be today, let alone if he had studied medicine.

Item 48, "Incidentals." This is always a sore point. The Note says \$2,228 for cleaning Courts and other incidental expenses. There is nothing more inadequately attended to than the cleaning of the Courts. As far as the Town Hall is concerned, in fact as far as the whole area is concerned, I think there is only one cleaner provided to do the whole Town Hall building, the three Police Courts, the Petty Debt Court and the Assistant Court of Appeal. It is a job that would take two or three people working every morning for two or three hours, say from 7 until 10. The Courts always now sit at 10. If a visiting Barrister sits at the Bar table, within a few minutes he finds his sleeves covered with dust. I am not blaming the particular individual who cleans; that person has to clean every building, and all have to be done by 10 o'clock. I hope that the Minister will make a note and see that additional staff is provided.

Now Sir, there is Item 25, "Revising Officer," for which we are asked to vote \$960. This payment is of course made annually, and incidentally it would be very helpful if the person responsible for compiling these Annual Estimates would be more careful in his reference to the Acts; on many occasions when reference is made to an Act the reference is entirely wrong.

Another point is that I do not like when appointments of this sort are made; they should not be made without advertising for applicants. I am not suggesting that they should be advertised for annually; but the post should be advertised for in the first instance so as to give interested persons an opportunity to apply; persons who did not know that the previous holder of the post had resigned. I have a similar comment to make, and will make it later on, on an even more serious matter — the appointment of the Queen's Solicitor.

Sir, I am only throwing this out so that if and when this office becomes vacant, Government will take my advice and advertise in the public Press. 6.50 p.m.

The question that the sum of \$39,224 be voted under Head XIV was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XV — Police

Head XV — Police — was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I would like to make an amendment to this Head. It concerns Item 19, Scrubbers and Cleaners. The amount to be voted under that Head, now stands at \$6,483 and I am amending it to read \$6,525. The difference is because a Scrubber will have more to do; therefore, we are paying extra money to the Scrubber. I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

Mrs. BOURNE: Under Item 34, Cleaning, Water and Light, there is the sum of \$13,700 to be voted. I should like to draw to the attention of the appropriate Minister that at the Belleplaine Police Station the lighting is very poor. On the last occasion I made mention of this, and it does not appear as if much attention has been paid to it. If anyone goes to that station at night time, (and I have been in that unfortunate position) to get a telephone message, for them to see they would have to get someone to strike a match; otherwise they would not be able to get information from the Directory or to dial the particular number. On the occasion that I went there, it was in semi-darkness. I am suggesting to the Hon. Minister in charge to ask those who are responsible for furnishing the Belleplaine Police

Station with light to do something to improve the lighting conditions there. In the absence of electricity, Mr. Chairman, you appreciate what we in that part of the island suffer.

I can assure you sir, that I have been there again, and have seen Policemen at work cleaning the building. They told me when I questioned them, that although they did not like doing it they could not complain because they may lose their jobs as a result. In my opinion cleaning the building should not be a Policeman's duty.

Another thing is this: Mr. Chairman, the geographical condition of that parish is very hilly, and I see that bicycles are being used to assist policemen in their duty; I feel that they should be given motor-cycles; and I think it would be a good thing if one of these motor-cycles be placed at the Belleplaine Police Station. Sometimes when you telephone the station to get a policeman to come to an emergency call they tell you that the motor-van is out; therefore, I think it is quite necessary that they should have motor-cycle conveyance to transport them to whatever part of the area they have to go to perform their duties. It would be much cheaper and better than by bicycle. Let us take for an instance that there is some occurrence in the district of Boscobel which is part of the area of the Belleplaine Police Station; what time do you think a policeman would take to get there even if he takes bicycle when he has to travel over those hills? I am sure that by the time he gets there, he would be so tired and exhausted that he would not be able to perform efficiently the duties for which he was called. I am therefore strongly appealing to the Hon. Minister who is in charge of this portfolio to give active consideration to better transport at the Belleplaine Police Station and better conditions of lighting. We have no public telephones in the parish, and perhaps it will be surprising to know that if anyone has any important or urgent matter to telephone, instead of going to the Belleplaine Station, there is not a telephone available, except at times that of the St. Andrew's Almshouse; and it is a fact that you find it very difficult to get a message through from there.

I feel Government should take some urgent steps to install public telephones for the convenience of the public not only in St. Andrew but in other districts where telephone service cannot be had.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if it is important to mention at this stage the question of the conditions of policemen at District "F". I know you would have said something on it, if you were not Chairman; the question coming under your purview as a representative of that parish. I would say that the social amenities at that station are far below what one regards as the proper thing for any man in the position of Police Sergeant. This is a question for the Hon. Premier. [A VOICE: He is absent.] I think the Hon. Leader of the House can answer for him.

I would like to draw the attention of Government to Item 69, contribution to Regional Police Training School, for which \$7,500 is to be voted. I would like to know if this school has been erected and what this contribution of \$7,500 at this stage is for; the reason for my question is because I am not aware that the school has been completed, and I would like to know whether this is part of our annual contribution. What does it represent under this Head?

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, the two questions which the hon. member just raised were the same that I was going to raise. I do hope that the Hon. Minister of Social Services is going to reply to

them; I really would like to get answers to the same questions.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I do not know the latest information on this school. I do know that it is in process of being constructed and progress is being made, and it is hoped to be functioning later this year. The contribution which I see here is the contribution of Barbados. As hon. members know this school is built for the training of police from both the Leeward and Windward Islands as well as Barbados. I do not know the exact amounts which the Windward and Leeward islands are going to contribute to the running of it.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not want to know the exact amount.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I am not acquainted with the figures, but I do know that the building is being erected at the expense of C.D. & W., and that the recurrent cost will be shared between the three areas—the Windward and Leeward islands and Barbados; I do not know the exact figure.

Mr. GODDARD: In this expenditure there should be a saving in our police training at the District "A" Training School. I am wondering if this would mean a saving.

To get back to the other question with regard to the condition at District "F". The hon. junior member for St. Andrew is not in his place now, but he raised the point with me and asked me to make mention of it.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: If the hon. member would give way, I would just like to say that so far as that station is concerned the difficulty is to get water installed. Government is aware of the conditions existing there and it is now examining the problem of the removal of the station to another site at which the necessary amenities can be provided.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: The matter referred to by the hon. junior member for St. Peter as to the sanitary conveniences or lack of sanitary conveniences at this Police Station is a very important one; as a matter of fact, I intended mentioning it under the Head "Judiciary." No sanitary accommodation except the most primitive is there; and you had a lady acting as Magistrate up there! I wonder if when that acting appointment was made, it was fully realised the inconvenience to which the lady Barrister would be subjected to when she was sent up there to work and to suffer. I am not suggesting that the Administration has anything to do with that, but you Mr. Chairman, are in the unfortunate position of being in the Chair when this Head comes before us. I speak as a practitioner; and you have the feeling as a parishioner as to the necessity for the removal of this station. Let it not be thought that there would be any dissenting voice as to the capital expenditure of a new Police Station up there. The Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing need not feel that this would be another Spa Road! [Laughter] It is something which everybody would substantially support for the service of the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Andrew. Bissett Hill is entirely inconvenient for the residents of St. Andrew.

There is Item No. 39 "Burials" and the amount to be voted in respect of that Item is \$100. I notice that there is no note to this Item; perhaps the Hon. Minister of Social Services would be good enough to tell us how that vote is normally expended. Do the Police advertise for tenders in connection with burials? And if they advertise, whether their practice is to accept the highest or the lowest tender even if the lowest tender is as good as if not better, than

the highest one. I did hear a rumour that they advertised for tenders and they awarded the contract to the highest tender. I say this for confirmation or contradiction if necessary; if you award a tender to the highest tender you should pay regard to the taxpayers' money.

With regard to Item 27 "expenses incidental to upkeep of animals" I see that that Item has been increased by \$200, and I see that this amount of \$2,700 includes provision for food and medicines for dogs. I wonder if the Hon. Premier could tell us anything about these Police dogs; is it time that the taxpayers' property, (I refer to the dogs now,) are lent to private individuals for use outside? If the Executive Committee has approved of it, the matter is in order, but if it is not so then no Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police should have chosen to lend out the taxpayers' property to anybody.

If the Hon. Ministers have not heard about that rumour which is very persistent, I wonder if they would take it up and see that these dogs are not lent out to private individuals who are friends of Police Officers; that would be opening the door for lending out other property. Some years ago a Police horse was lent out to a member of the St. Joseph Vestry, not you Mr. Chairman, [Laughter] and one can never tell to what extent these things may go.

7.10 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. Premier who is Minister for Police a simple question. For the past four years we have been voting the sum of \$2,880 under Item 32, and included in that is a provision for tear smoke. We would like very much to know how much if any of this tear smoke has been used over that period, where it has been used and on whom. If the answer is going to be that none of it has been used, I would like to know why that vote has not been reduced; because I presume that if you vote money for something which you do not use for four years, you would not have to go on buying the same quantity.

I would also suggest, under Item 37, "Expenses incidental to upkeep of animals," that it is known to be a fact that the Police Dogs for which provision is made in this Item are misleading the Police in the tracking down of Criminals, and meanwhile the cost of upkeep continues to rise. I would like to see the provision reduced by not increasing the number of dogs; and I would suggest that in case they die they should not be replaced.

Another point, and one that I have raised before, concerns the replacement of horses in a motorised age such as this. Certainly we see the vote for that Item repeating itself everytime that we discuss the Estimates; I am hoping that more motor-cycles and less horses should be provided because motor-cycles are much cheaper and they are more in keeping with present day methods of police transport and things of that sort.

There is another thing which I would suggest, (I think the point was made by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy) and it is in connection with Item 35 which deals with conveniences at the various Police Stations. If the Hon. Premier visits these Police Stations he will notice that in certain parts of the guard-house there are several different little stoves knocking around; each Police Constable has a two burner *Beatrice* or something like that. I would like to suggest that the Government should supply to each of these Police Stations one big stove which would be used by the Police instead of each one having a little one burner stove which sometimes blows up, endangering Government's property. It looks untidy and the Government should put a coal

stove or a three or four burner stove or a five burner *Valor*.

What is more, you will have to excuse these policemen who find it necessary to have these small stoves; because in one month a policeman may be stationed in Bridgetown, another month at District "C" and the following months at District "F" and his family cannot reach him at all times with his meals; therefore he is forced to do some cooking of his own.

As regards Item 79, I noticed that there is provision for the purchase of new Motor Vehicles. Some of the vehicles, which are discarded by that department may not be suited for Police Transport as such, but they can still be used. I am making this plea again. The Hon. Premier should suggest that one of these discarded vehicles be repaired and put at the Prison so that it can be used to carry sick prisoners to hospital; many of us see them walking down and it looks very out of order. A warder has to walk down to the Hospital with sick prisoners and it very often takes him a whole day before he gets back. Such a vehicle could also be used for going into town for small items instead of sending a cart for them as is done now-a-days. I hope the Premier will consider my suggestions.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, as you know Sir, the whole trouble with District "F" Police Station and Court is that it is situated in the wrong place. In the early days in the colonisation of Barbados, due to the fear of invasion by the ships of hostile powers such as the French, Dutch and Spanish, it was necessary to place these military look-outs on prominences in strategic points such as Queen Ann's Fort, District "F", District "C" and places of that description.

It must surely be a matter of cheapness on the part of the Government in days gone by, when they decided to use Bissex Hill as the site for a Police Court; as it is well known that it is one of the points in the parish of St. Joseph which is furthest removed from any centre of population. In addition to that, Bissex Hill is not on any main bus route at all, to my knowledge and belief; but quite apart from that the Police Station as well as the court has to serve the parish of St. Andrew and the parish of St. Joseph. As you know Mr. Chairman, there are certain centres of population in these two parishes such as Belleplaine in St. Andrew, and places like St. Simons, Sugar Hill, Horse Hill, Bathsheba, St. Elizabeth's Village and other villages and the centres which are well known to you yourself.

Bissex Hill as you know, is one point between these two parishes which if you draw a line bisecting the bases between two of these districts, thickly populated districts, Bissex Hill will be found to be the farthest removed from these thickly populated districts.

7.20 p.m.

That in itself would not be a serious difficulty if it were at the same time a kind of public thoroughfare where you could arrange the transport of the parish to revolve around it. That is not so, and the result is, that anyone who is in the unfortunate position to be summoned to attend the Court at District "F" has to first travel up hill of three and a half to five miles; that is the average distance that particular station is from any population centre. Barristers have to do that journey perhaps for one 20/- arrears application, probably two or three times; and if it were interpleaders case, thirteen, fourteen or fifteen times over the course of two or three months I am sure you will say that is not a satisfactory state of affairs because the court is to serve the community; it is almost a duty in the widest sense of the term.

It is something which is directly related to the preservation of peace within the community; and if the court is something to be put on a hill four or five miles away from the average population centre and the police station, it is not performing its function as the preserver of law and order in the particular district. The only purpose that Bissex Hill can serve is a look out for the Cane Fire bug; it is not serving any other useful function to this community. It could possibly be used as a T.B. sanatorium; but here again there is no water or electric light. I say there is no electric light, because I have had occasion to be there not only in the day, but at night. I can tell you Mr. Chairman, that I had to walk from Cattlewash to Bissex Hill; so I am sympathetic with the people who have been subjected to many adjournments of the court which are usually at the requests of counsel and that is why I am very diligent since then to turn up when I am wanted.

It is general notoriety that Bissex Hill Police Station is the punishment station for policemen; the policeman does not have to commit any offence, but if he incurs the wrath of a superior officer he is sent there. There is no light or water there, and even the Sergeant is limited with the amount of gasoline he uses for travelling. Again, the station is far removed from any part of the community; there is no sanitary convenience or fresh water; there is no human habitation within a mile. It is true to say that there are one or two houses before one turns down the Park Road, but there is no human habitation within the limited distances; and it is performing no useful purpose for them. If policemen are there to preserve law and order, they should be placed in the centre of the community like the Belleplaine Police Station is in St. Andrew; the station for St. Joseph should be placed at Bathsheba, or St. Elizabeth's Village or in a thickly populated district, where the police would be easily available to members of the community. As a matter of fact, I think there should be three places in that parish where the Police Magistrate should hold his court. If a Police Magistrate's court is to decide disputes between citizen and citizen, you should not place a court in such a position as would deter people from seeking local redress for wrongs. The inevitable result of the retention of the Bissex Hill as a Police Magistrate's court must be that the incidence of lawlessness would rise and surely, it would increase. Maybe, Mr. Chairman, that is why we sometimes cannot check the rate of crimes of violence in some remote parts of these two parishes; it is sometime difficult to say what is the cause and what is the effect. In view of the transportation difficulties and the precipitous nature of the terrain which militates in uncomfortable journeys for pedestrians, you should have two places for holding court in that parish; one perhaps at Sugar Hill, and one under the Hill at Belleplaine, because all of the roads in St. Andrew converge on the Belleplaine area. It is ridiculous to have a Police Court at Bissex Hill; it is as ridiculous as it would be to have a school up there. Obviously, to put a court in Belleplaine would be further away from the people who live in St. Joseph, therefore the solution would be to put one court in Horse Hill with separate sittings to the court which you will put in St. Andrew. There is no reason why a court could not be held in a Vestry room; it is done in other countries. I see no reason why a Civic Theatre cannot be incorporated into a school; you set up separate buildings and call it a Civic Theatre or a Social Centre; but it is not the building which counts, it is the spirit you use it in. It is very important that a Police Magistrate's Court and the Police Station should be within the centre

of the community and not a distance of four or five miles from human habitation.

7.30 p.m.

I say this: even if you have to rent at Bathsheba or Horse Hill or Belleplaine, you could do that and have your Police Court there; I say without fear of contradiction that any room you rent could be one which is more commodious than that in which the Police Magistrate holds his Court.

The other matter which I would like to draw to the attention of the Government, is the question of the Writ Servers. I think the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has said time and time again that it is not fair to expect a Writ Server to work in a Court all day long and then send him out to serve summonses all night and all morning. There is a popular superstition among the hierarchy in the Barbados Police Force that any policeman who works in an office or inside the Court, has an easy job and therefore you must find extra work for him to do, although they sit in offices most of the day, drive around and catch fresh air and then go home to their families at night. They would resent the suggestion after having done a solid day's work, if they were to be asked to patrol the water front all night. I think it is unfair to the Writ Servers who have to get back to the Court at 10 o'clock in the morning after serving summonses; it is not fair to the Writ Servers to make them work like that. The whole basis on which the Writ Department is organised needs revising.

Under Item 51 "Maintenance of Prisoners in lock up" what I am saying now is not news to us. Anybody who knows anything about prisoners being kept overnight, the first complaint they make is that they get absolutely nothing; and when you ask the sergeant in charge what is happening he says, "you ought to be glad that he got a cup of tea because he got some of mine." The sergeant may offer a prisoner a cup of tea. If this vote is going to be spent, I am very glad to see it; but this \$120 for all the Police Stations for a whole year for all the prisoners you get on Saturdays would not be enough to give them something to eat and a cup of tea on Sunday mornings. Under that same Head, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to the arrangements which are being made for prisoners who are brought down to stand their trial at the Court of Grand Sessions. There is a horrible dungeon under the Courts which I understand was once kept for people who were condemned to death, and they used to hang them around the Town Hall. This cell is poorly ventilated; there is nowhere prisoners can sit down, there is a dirty cell with cobweb all around it and the prisoners are there from nine in the morning until five in the afternoon. There are not enough cells; they are all below ground level and there is no adequate ventilation provided for them. I certainly think that better arrangements could be made for prisoners who are awaiting trial at the Court of Grand Sessions. I do not want to reflect on any measure which this House may have voted, but when it comes to the maintenance of motor transport, if members of this House had been shown a photograph of the monstrosity which they now have to bring down prisoners from Glendairy in we would not have voted one cent for it. It is the ugliest thing that we have seen for a long time; and it draws unnecessary attention to the fact that prisoners are being conveyed; and it is only designed to strike terror into the hearts of all and sundry; it is a most ridiculous vehicle. I am quite sure that if we had been given sufficient information as to the nature of that vehicle which the Government contemplated purchasing, honourable members would not have voted for it at all. I

saw nothing wrong with the Station Wagons which they had; the prisoners did not mind sitting in them. You only have to bring down prisoners to the Court of Grand Sessions about three times a year, and you can bring down those prisoners in two or three trips in the Land Rover. It makes people think that the olden days are being brought back to Barbados.

As regards Item 67 "Upkeep of Photographie and Finger Print Apparatus," time and time again I have drawn attention to the fact that they take people's finger prints and photographs and they do not return them when these people are acquitted. 7.40 p.m.

Under the Law any person who has had his finger prints and his photograph taken is entitled to have them back if he is not convicted. Some people collect stamps and someone in a Police department is apparently collecting the finger prints of people who have no criminal record at all. When a Lawyer turns up and asks that the person's photograph and finger prints be returned, the police say they did not tell the people that they could come for them.

My personal view is that the onus should be on the police, having taken the finger prints to return them; and it is not for the owner to demand them. Many people do not get them back and we have to go and build a row about them; it is contrary to all established principles of British justice that a man who may have been arrested on suspicion and arrested falsely but who has not been convicted of a criminal offence, should be in the Rogues' Gallery.

I do not think that the police photographer should really have a lot of work to do, and I have already suggested that this department should be sort of co-ordinated with the records department and his skill should be used in the Record's Department for mimeographing work and photostatic copies of documents. After all he was trained at the expense of the Barbados Government and no great harm will be done by having one photograph department and having the police photographer and anyone working with him in control of both technical processes.

Now I notice Mr. Chairman that under Item No. 78 we are asked to vote a sum of \$1,000 for the purchase of one Electric Fan, one Filing Cabinet, one Typist chair, twenty steel chairs for the use of the Police at Lectures etc; also one filing Cabinet and accessories for recording road accidents statistics. I would also like to know whom that fan is for; that certainly is a luxury to which I cannot rise myself in my office. That fan means that some current is being used up; I think it is rather an unfortunate method of acquiring a fan for someone by throwing it in a vote for chairs for lectures. Is this the replacement of the electric fan for some officer? If the lecture room is so warm and uncomfortable that they need an electric fan, they should hold their lectures in the open air like how many of our elementary school children do today. I believe that at District "A" they have lectures under the trees sometimes. What do they want electric fans for?

I think that you are equipping Government offices at a standard of luxury that you do not want to make a common stand, as you will put it in some of the more important offices in Bridgetown. It seems to me that anything the Police ask for they can get. Why not put an electric fan in the Law Library; there is not even proper electric lighting there.

I notice that under Item 79, we are buying two new station waggons; those surely could be used to assist in bringing down prisoners. But we have given a nice commission to someone for selling us a Black Moriah, or a meat van or an agglomeration of both.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the hon. senior member for St. Lucy and I will not have to make these observations on the next occasion that the Estimates come before the House; I hope they follow the suggestions that have been made, and that they will be implemented by that time.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would certainly support, Mr. Chairman, the comments of the learned and gallant member for St. George in connection with the Items about finger prints. I remember sometime ago that a comment was made by a former colleague of mine in connection with the taking of finger prints by the police. The police insist on taking the finger prints of nearly everyone whom they arrest, and they do not let these people know that they are in a position to decline having their finger prints taken. I have put that to a policeman who unsuspectingly told the truth. I asked him if the prisoner had been told that he could decline, and he replied that they had not told the person arrested that they could have refused.

We well remember the answer given by the Government in this connection; and of course we know that the Government got their information from the Head of the Department who probably knew as little about it as the Government did. I know the trouble I have had in the case of a person acquitted at District "E". In order to discourage him from getting back his prints the police told him that they had gone down to Central Station, so that he either had to give up getting them back or take a day off from work and go to Central Station for them; and he was never told that he could have declined from having them taken.

I can also support the hon. senior member for St. George in connection with the Writ Servers; because it is a great hardship when a man after working a whole day, has a bundle of summonses to serve; he has to get up very early in the morning and deliver some and then he has to go home after the Court rises and go around the district serving summonses to people. I would invite the Premier to insist on the Commissioner of Police that that practice be immediately discontinued.

I am glad to see the hon. senior member for St. Michael back in his place. I would remind him how in days gone by, when Item 32 was being considered, he was my lone support in urging the abolition of the vote for Arms and Ammunition and Civil Defence equipment; I am sure that he has not changed one whit since he has become a member of the Executive. I am assuming that he is encountering opposition from his colleagues on the Executive in getting this Item removed; that is why so far we still see every year £600 for the purpose of Arms, and Ammunition etc., for spare parts for rifles and for Tear Smoke equipment. I entirely agree that the Soldiers in the Regiment must shoot; but as far as the police are concerned, I do not know.

7.50 p.m.

They are a branch of the Civil Service; they are servants who have certain duties to do which are predominantly of a preventative nature; they are there to prevent crime.

The honourable senior member for St. John referred to the matter of staff and suggested that a larger staff should be provided; I had at the back of my mind that suggestion. I feel each of the Police Sub-Stations should be provided with a cook to prepare meals for the policemen; many policemen have assured me that they cannot cook or that they can only cook indifferently. I would suggest that the Government have a word with the present Commissioner of Police in order to discover his reaction

to the suggestion of not only providing a staff, but also a cook for the convenience of these policemen. Before I sit, I am wondering whether we can get any more information on Items Nos. 37 and 39 about expenses incidental to the upkeep of animals and burials.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: There is one point I wish to draw to the Hon. Premier before he replies. While some things are lawful, they are not expedient. It has been drawn to my attention that within recent months policemen are charging a dollar for giving a certificate of character to people who want to go out of the island. As honourable members ought to know, there are certain countries which demand that you must be possessed with a certificate of character; it might be lawful for the police to charge for this certificate of character, but it is one of those things which do not seem quite right to me. Will the Hon. Premier tell this Committee how long was the practice started, because I know that up to a year or so, it was not in operation. As I have said, some things which are lawful are not expedient; I am not prepared to say that this is expedient. People leaving the island are called upon now to pay for a certificate of character. That means that if you are a criminal you cannot go out of the island. In nearly all cases the people who require this certificate cannot afford to pay for it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I will only say perhaps it may be that you need money and you charge for everything you do. There are a lot of miscellaneous taxation to rope in all sorts of things, and it may be that they started it for the raising of fees. I will enquire into it, but I am not persuaded particularly by the argument of the honourable member that the people who want this certificate cannot afford to pay the extra dollar. You have to find the money to go to America anyhow.

As regards the other point, I will enquire and let the honourable senior member for St. Lucy know. He raised the point about finger prints before, and I will make it my business to put it to the Commissioner of Police. It is true to say that some people say: what does it matter? As an instance, all sorts of people have to get their finger prints taken in foreign countries. I have known people of the highest possible importance who had to get their fingerprints taken; I believe that Sir Winston Churchill had to get his taken in the United States of America. Some people who have got them taken to satisfy the immigration Authorities. I agree with those members who feel that if a man is charged for a Crime and no case has been found against him, he should have his finger prints removed from the picture gallery. It is the duty of the Police to let people know that they have a right to have that done.

As regards to Tear Gas for which provision is made, I would like to tell those honourable members who spoke about it, that it is constantly used for practising. As honourable members should know, you cannot wait for the last minute that you want to use Tear Gas and put it into the hands of a policeman and tell him to use it; therefore, policemen are constantly being given instruction in the use of Tear Gas Bombs which in any event, is ineffective after three years; such stocks have to be replaced every three years. I can hardly imagine, I will look into it, because funny things happen sometimes in some departments, but we have no clear instance of a tender being given to the highest tenderer.

8.00 p.m.

I know that in some respects the contract is not always given to the lowest tenderer or to some persons

who ought to be able to carry out the contract, because those persons who have to see about awarding the tender are sometimes doubtful as to the ability of the tenderer to carry out the contract. From the smiles which appear on the face of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. I know he knows what I am referring to; and therefore I need say no more. With regard to "Maintenance of prisoner in lock up" I have no means of saying anything off hand in answer to what the hon. senior member for St. George has said; and I will put that among the list of enquiries which I will make. As regards the Land Rovers which are being replaced, they have done 64,000 miles and they were condemned by a Survey Board since 1953. I will take up with the Commissioner of Police the suggestion of the honourable senior member for St. John; we have been saying "No, No" to the Police Force when they come for new Items when the old ones have been condemned twice. We agree to have them replaced by new units; and it may be much better when it is reported that a vehicle is unserviceable to buy a new one than as it might be uneconomic to repair the old vehicle and use it.

With regard to the Police Training School, I have not seen it but I have spoken with Captain Tomlin about it a few days ago and that is going up fast like the other jobs. Everything came before the House and we approved of this before the work was started. The allocation was made on the authorised strength of the Force; we have 566, Leeward Islands 286 and the Windward Islands 634; the allocation at the school was based on the respective establishments in the Colonies concerned. On this basis the normal number of recruits to be sent by the Colonies will be Barbados 23, Leeward Islands 12 and the Windward Islands 25. The minimum contributions will be: Barbados £3,590; Leewards £1,814 and Windwards £4,021. The maximum contributions will be Barbados £4,214; Leewards, £2,129 and Windwards £4,721. The Colonial Development and Welfare has agreed to a grant of £57,000 for capital expenditure.

As regards the District "F" Police Station, we have not carried the water there because it would not pay to do that; it would be better to let the Magistrate go to Belleplaine and try cases from St. Andrew. We have considered Melvins Hill as the probable site for the Police Station. Chimborazo was offered too, but the price of the land was terrific. [Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: What about the Spa?] We have considered that. It is quite conceivable that we may come back with a supplementary vote before the financial year is out. We will have to consider whether we will buy the land and at what price and how long it would take; those are our considerations. In connection with the whole problem I have had the file in connection with District "F" sent to me and it is on my desk at the present moment. I assure hon. members that I made notes of what has been said, and I will try and get in touch with the Police Department tomorrow morning.

8-10 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: I am sorry I was not in my seat, but I wanted to ask one or two questions in connection with this Head. My questions are in respect of Items 43, 44 & 45 in connection with the Police Band. As regards the expenses of the Band Cadets, I see here a fairly large sum: the sum of \$8,820 and the Note says this: "Includes \$50 for prizes to Cadets" I would like to know if this sum includes salaries and other things. With respect to the general set-up in the Police Band, I noticed sometime ago that the Superintendent in charge of the Band

was on leave, and the second in command was given the temporary rank of Inspector.

I want to know since when that division of the police is not good enough to have a second person in it made an Inspector; and whether the Government does not think that in the interest of the efficiency of the Band, more scholarships could be given to promising members of it, so that the musical education of these members of the Band could be advanced as well as that of any Cadets who have shown that they deserve such help. I think that this House would always pay tribute to Capt. Raison, in that he has without doubt raised the musical standards and appreciation of the people of Barbados; and the Police Band can hold its own with any similar Military Band anywhere else. But I think that there must be quite a number of promising young men in it who deserve to have their musical education furthered; it should be possible to send two or three people for a one-year or three-year course to Kneller Hall so that they can be taught proficiency in the instruments of their choice and so that we might raise a general standard of musicianship in the Band itself.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have discussed that point with the Commissioner. There is a general feeling that many boys who have a chance of becoming good musicians in the Band leave the Band later on for better positions. Some of them get jobs in the office as part time occupation but no more money. I think it is a pity that the opportunity for giving a musical career to more of these boys does not exist for more than a few, simply because many of them feel that there is nothing in it; they remain in the Band for a long time and then they go to get whatever jobs they can for more money. I will, however, discuss the matter with the Commissioner and Capt. Raison again.

On the question of rank, I will say that police affairs as far as this is concerned, is nothing to do with the Government; that is a personal matter between the Police Commissioner and the Governor. I will however ask about it and give the answer to any hon. member who wants to know about it; but as I have said, the question of commissions and the question of staffing at all stages is a matter for the Commissioner and the Governor by statute; just as the question of staffing of the Civil Service is a matter of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. BARROW: On the question of appointments in the Band, I have not got all the details, but there are several Inspectors in the Police Force proper. There is an Inspector in the Fire Brigade and there is a Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. In the Police Band Capt. Raison is Bandmaster, and the next person to him in rank is a sergeant. When Superintendent Calver made a report on the Force, he recommended that the Police Band be given a person of Inspector rank as well; in view of the fact that it was a much larger establishment than the Fire Brigade.

For peculiar reasons, Mr. Chairman, the person next to the Director of Music, Capt. Raison, would obviously have more responsibility, say than the average Inspector in the Force itself; as a matter of fact, the sergeant who holds the next position to Capt. Raison does the brunt of the work in the Band. I am not saying that Capt. Raison does not do a lot of work as well; but the brunt of the work naturally falls on that person's shoulders.

Now this is where I must join issue with the Government. They allow certain officers in the Administration to play fast and loose. The Calver

report was adopted not in its entirety, but in its main provisions; it was never in dispute. But because of certain circumstances I understand, (and I do not understand it from the person concerned) I would like to make it clear that the person concerned has had no conversation with me on this matter at all. My work brings me into contact with the Police Force and I find out things that the average lay person does not; I am speaking from my own information which I did not elicit from anyone in the Band directly.

It was recommended that the Calver report should be implemented vis-a-vis the Police Band, and Sergeant Archer be made an Inspector. There was a spree at the Crane one night and the lorry carrying the Police Band broke down; (I am telling you what was told to me, and therefore I am taking no responsibility for my statement;) but I understand from several people in fairly high positions in the Police Force, that when the Police Band did arrive on the scene the late departed Commissioner of Police, (not the present one) who was arrayed in all his glory said, "You let me down in front of my friends by arriving late." The Band was only half of an hour late; it broke down between Boarded Hall and Edgecumbe; and that is all that happened.

Nearly everything in Calver's report was accepted by the Commissioner of Police and this recommendation to which I have referred was actually made. But because of one drunken spree, (I do not mean that the Police Band were drunk) are you going to victimise one man because you consider that he has let you down, a man that has put in a long number of years in the Band, and who must have been in the band before I was born? This sergeant is a man who has written music for the band; music that has been played here and overseas. There is nothing against him; there is no fault that can be found with his ability; but you are going to withhold a post recommended by Superintendent Calver because of what happened at a spree at the Crane Hotel.

I must emphasise that that information was not given to me by the sergeant concerned; I would have been embarrassed if Sergeant Archer had told me any of this. If you doubt me, ask the Minister of Social Services if what I say is not true. The Minister of Communications must know about it. All of them know about it, perhaps except the Premier because these things do not filter through to him; he is too far away.

8.20 p.m.

That is a disreputable state of affairs, and it is not good enough. If the man who is not filling the post is not worthy of promotion then I say appoint an Inspector over him; do not expect him to do Inspector's work and because there is a misunderstanding between a former Commissioner of Police and the Inspector, you will take him out of the Inspector's uniform. It is a waste of public money and uniform. I would like the hon. member to ask the present Commissioner of Police why in the Fire Brigade there is a sergeant who is not of the same technical efficiency as Sgt. Archer and holding the rank of Inspector; in the Police Band you have Sgt. Archer with 28 years experience; he is not an Inspector, and you still have him presiding over the destiny of the Sergeant's Mess. Unless you can give some good reasons why that state of affairs should remain, I suggest something should be done about it. The Hon. Premier has talked about frustration among fellows who want to do music but find it a sort of blind alley. Of course it is a blind alley if you cannot be promoted after 29 years; and especially to

a member who has attained a certain amount of skill. You are holding up promotion in one branch of the Police Force, and you are giving it to others who come from behind. I say, remove him altogether from that position if you conclude that he should not be in that position; because when you keep him down, you are also keeping down all the other youngsters behind him.

The question that the sum of \$319,649 be voted under this Head, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.25 p.m.

ESTIMATES RESUMED

On reassembling:

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

HEAD XVI.—Prisons

Head XVI—Prisons—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$56,688 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I want to draw your attention to Item 23. Last year I asked about this primitive method of the disposal of this soil, and I was told that some investigation would be made about about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what Item is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Item 23.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would be glad if the hon. member would be more quiet in answering me; I am asking for the number of the Item, and you are answering me as if you are answering somebody in your backyard.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Very well Mr. Chairman, on some other occasion I will reply to that. The Item on which I am speaking is Item 23 "Disposal of Night Soil." Last year I asked a question about the disposal of night soil and I was told that the matter would be investigated; now the same amount is set out here, and I would like to know if there are no means of improving the system or if they are continuing with the same method. Having regard to the amount of money we are spending on public health, it must be agreed that it is a very primitive system being used up there.

Mr. TUDOR: I am speaking in connection with Item 16. [Hon. M. E. Cox: The hon. member cannot discuss that Item.]

Mr. TUDOR: Will you ask the Acting Minister of Communications to tell me what to say?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The hon. member is not too old in this Assembly, and somebody is correcting him; that Item is fixed by law; we are trying to put him along the right track.

Mr. TUDOR: I think it would be well to hear one or two sentences of what I want to say. The Hon. Minister of Social Services would not even wait to see if I am asking a question. The number of female prisoners has been reduced to a small number, and I wanted to know whether the number of female prisoners who are now there will keep all the Matrons employed; or whether alternative employment will be found for them, or if provision is being made to employ these Matrons who have been serving a larger number of prisoners.

Mr. BRYAN: I am speaking on Item 22 "Maintenance of Hospital"; the Note says "includes extraction of teeth, special treatment and diet of prisoners." In making reference to the 1954-55 Estimates I see that mention was made that there was an increase for that year due to an increase in the cost of drugs, and special expensive treatment of T.B. patients. No reference has been made to that in these Estimates today, and I wonder if the Hon. Minister can tell us what the position is up there. I should like to know if there are still T.B. cases at the Prison, whether such cases if any are being treated on the premises or whether other arrangements are made for the treatment of these cases outside?

Like the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I notice that there has been a considerable reduction of the amount in respect of the disposal of night soil and I am wondering if this reduction has been caused by improvements in the method of disposal of same. In connection with Item 29 "Fodder" I see that there is an estimate of \$1,200 revenue as compared with \$1,500 last year in respect of the Stock farm; and an estimate of \$300 as compared with \$500 last year in respect of the kitchen garden that is under Head of revenue. I am wondering if there are fewer heads of stock at the Farm or whether that denotes that fewer heads are sold outside and more used inside the Prison. Similarly with the kitchen garden; if less of the garden produce is sold outside and more used inside the Prison. I also wonder whether the diet of the prisoners is being improved, and I hope that the Warders are reaping some benefit as a result of this reduction in sales. I am interested particularly in the Stock Farm and the kitchen garden and the reductions in revenue as mentioned.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: As regards Item 16, I maintain that if the hon. junior member for St. Lucy wants to question that he should do it by way of introducing an Address or something of the sort; however I will still give him the answer. There are four women prisoners at Glendairy Prison; and as was pointed out there are ten Matrons. The Government is looking for places in other Departments in which we can place these extra Matrons; we can very well remove about four or five of these Matrons from the Prison, and it is the intention of the Government to do that. The difficulty is to find places for them.

9.25 p.m.

As soon as there are vacancies on a comparative scale of salary they will be removed or transferred wherever possible. As regards Item 22, the hon. junior member for St. Michael enquired about Tuberculosis. There was and still is a Tuberculosis patient at the Hospital. His condition was improving satisfactorily and his last X-Ray showed that he was actually cured. There is, as will be seen, a

great reduction in the vote as a result of the satisfactory progress of this patient; expensive drugs had to be used; he was a very expensive prisoner; he cost the Government \$80 a week, which included the cost of medicines and injections. As I have said, the vote is reduced because of his satisfactory progress and we will not have to spend so much money by way of medicine.

As regards the disposal of night soil, those hon. members who drew attention to this must have noticed a decrease in the vote from \$400 to \$100. If you turn to Capital Estimates, Head VIII, Item 10, Sanitary Conveniences, provision is made for \$5,000 for sanitary conveniences at the Prison. There will be ten toilets on the male side and six on the female side which will be provided for the women prisoners and the matrons. This \$100 in the Current Estimates is to carry on with the present system until the new system is installed. We hope to have it installed as soon as possible this year; and when that is done we will be able to hold up our heads with more pride that the present blot has been eradicated from the Prison. The present method of disposing of night soil at the prison is a primitive one; but as I said, it is going out and in a short time it will be gone.

With regard to Item 29, there used to be some fowls which were unremunerative and some sheep which were always undernourished. Actually they are getting rid of these and the prisoners will be concentrating on the keeping of pigs; they will be rearing more pigs and less sheep and fowls. I think that that answers all the points that were raised.

Mr. BRYAN: With regards to the T.B. patient the Minister's reply was that he is actually cured. This reply opens up a new trend of thought. It would be a pity if at the expiration of his time the prisoner was not completely cured and was sent out of prison, perhaps in a state in which he could infect other people. Quite recently I heard that the Superintendent had sent a T.B. patient out of the General Hospital and this patient had gone back into his home and had infected the other occupants. It is unfortunate that we have no means of isolating such persons and making them stay in hospital or in the Infirmary until they are completely cured. The incident of T.B. seems to be on the upgrade; I hardly think it is necessary to make a remark like this to the Minister of Social Services. Any increase in the incidence of T.B., should be a matter of great concern. I am not in a position to offer advice as to ways and means of dealing with it, but I just mention it so that the matter can be gone into.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I think I can safely say that when this prisoner's time is up he will be cured. I think he still has about three more years in prison; and to judge by the rate of progress that he is making, he will be cured by the time his sentence is over.

The question that \$56,688 be voted under Head XVI was put and agreed to.

Head XVII.—Industrial Schools

Head XVII—Industrial Schools—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$42,265 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, Item 18 deals with provision of personal allowances to the Superintendent and Chief Matron and the Schoolmistress. The vote shows an increase of \$480 over last year's; I would like to know what is the cause of the increase.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: That Allowance is paid to the Superintendent because under the present rate of pay to the School Master and the Chief Overseer at the Industrial School, the rate paid to the School Master would exceed that paid to the Superintendent. That was brought to the attention of the Government, and the Government has decided that instead of giving a permanent increase to the Superintendent they will give him an allowance of \$480 a year.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I asked that because I think it should go on record as saying that the Government is against personal allowances as a matter of principle. If at this stage of our development you re-introduce a system that has been frowned upon, for the reasons given by the Minister of Social Services, it means that you are giving an allowance to a senior officer because the junior officer's allowance brings him too near to that of his senior. Sometimes these allowances are non-pensionable and you will look at this post in the same way as you look at the post at Government House — the Private Secretary and senior clerk. You are giving this officer an allowance and that allowance attaches more money to the post in a way that does not reflect the true position. I am opposed to personal allowances unless they are given for reasons of a purely personal nature that could only relate to the particular person holding the post.

9.35 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I rise on a point of Order, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if the hon. member happened to be out of the island when there was a Resolution which was dealt with by this House on this matter. I would like to tell him that this matter was dealt with by this House; and he is reflecting on a vote of this House.

This is a further explanation of the matter. We were advised to make it a permanent increase of salary because of the point which the hon. member made; it was accepted on the scale in which this officer was paid, rather than accepted on the salary scale brought in by way of allowance.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: When that was put in the Resolution during the year it was not stated; what you stated was the result of the next Item; however, if a Resolution was passed in this Chamber during the year on it, this is the end of the matter. There is nothing in this to show that this was passed by a Resolution during the year; so what I say cannot be regarded as a reflection on a vote of this House.

The question that the sum of \$42,265 be voted under the Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XIX.—Ecclesiastical

HEAD XIX—Ecclesiastical—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XIX—Ecclesiastical—stand part.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Speaking under Item 5, Cost Of Living Allowance to Rectors and Vicars etc. I made it clear on the last occasion when we were dealing with the Estimates, that I would vote for the discontinuance of allowance to Rectors etc. if something were not done with regard to the disestablishment of the Anglican Church. In other words I want to know now how near are we to disendowment so as to relieve taxpayers of this burden. Will the Hon. Minister in charge of Ecclesiastical tell us?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I can assure the hon. member that this Government is still interested in the question of the disestablishment of the Anglican Church. It may interest him to know that the Lord Bishop has appointed a Committee to consider the matter and a sub-Committee of the Executive Committee is also actively considering the matter. We are beginning to get somewhere.

Mr. BRANCKER: I hope great things will come out of it, and in this case from small beginnings.

The question that the sum of \$10,200 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XX—Education

Head XX—Education— was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XX Education, stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There are some Items here such as Items 19 and 30 which I am going to speak on, and there are others as we go along I will deal with in due course.

The first question I want to raise is with respect to the inclusion of an additional senior clerk. No reason has been stated; I await an answer on that.

With respect to Item 30, Supernumerary Teachers, what the Hon. Premier has already heard on the matter is very important; however, with all that, he must agree that the rates of pay which are granted to supernumerary teachers are inadequate. I do not think anyone today can justify these rates which are based on figures given between four and six years ago. It is ridiculous to talk of giving a supernumerary teacher \$1.18 a day, the maximum being \$2. Bear in mind that there is no guarantee of working for a week far less a month; this is on a day to day basis. The Honourable Premier must admit that this does not speak good of this island, where Government is paying such low wages to teachers; particularly in view of the private employers' reaction to the matter; they will feel that they are paying comprehensive wages. When you pay such low wages you must reduce the standard of teachers to a very low level. I am sure that those which you will get at those rates the quality is not going to be very high.

In a general way I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Education whether he thinks the time is not ripe for the introduction of compulsory education, in order that the majority of children attending elementary school would be able to go on for the entire period of their school career. We are spending enough on education to get the maximum results from it, and not medium or meagre results. I do know there will be the suggestions and arguments about the children not having suitable clothes, but those arguments are outmoded. A child is better in school than outside, and school attendance prevents many a child from beginning as a delinquent. Let me ask again: what are the Government's views on compulsory education in this year of grace.

I will now turn your attention to the aided Secondary Schools. Item 49, (d) which deals with the Alexandra School, and I am going to turn your attention to the Appendix dealing with this Item, which is Appendix 1, on page 145 and 144. The Item to which I want to draw the attention of the Minister in charge is under non-recurrent: erection of mesh-wire fences around tennis lawns, extension of enclosures around School grounds and cost of installation of Government Water Supply. There is a blank in the column for 1955-56 and \$600 was

spent on that account in the last Estimates for 1954-55. What I would like to ask the Hon. Premier is: what is the policy with regard to that school? Is Government prepared to provide this school with the necessary things so that it can carry out the installations to the watering that has been asked for. I am sure no one would disagree with the idea that if you have a school you should provide it with the minimum requirements it needs; because when you do so, you allow the teaching staff to function as it should. I remember well that the estimate given us was the one which was approved in this Chamber after being the subject of a long debate. It is a fact that sometimes Government gets estimates which are not the best; but no one should say that because you may get an estimate which is not so good that you should reject the whole scheme. I would really like to hear what the Hon. Minister would have to say on that matter.

I would also like to turn the attention of the Committee to the Coleridge-Parry School. What I have to say on that school really concerns capital expenditure; so I will reserve the question which I have to ask the Hon. Minister on it, until this Committee reaches that stage of the Estimates.

I would like to ask him to be kind enough to give me the replies to those questions which I have asked, and I hope he has taken a note of them.
9.45 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, with reference to Item 46 "Elementary School Sports" I see the amount to be voted is \$144 and the Note on the opposite page says this: "to approve grant-in-aid for Elementary School Athletic Meetings." It seems odd to me that all that is required to meet these payments is \$144; it must either be that Athletic Sports at these schools are not as widely carried out as they should be, or that this amount is only confined to certain schools. If this is only \$144, most of it must go in prizes; or the money collected for prizes is collected by voluntary subscription of friends; but I would like to know what is done with this \$144. As regards the Combermere School I noticed that in last year's Estimates a subsidy of \$440 was given against the lunch account as honourable members will see from the Appendix on page 138 of these Estimates; and in these Estimates no such subsidy has been given. So far as I remember, that subsidy was given to the Governing Body by the Government to enable lunches to be bought by the boys and to be prepared for them at a reasonably low cost. It meant not only that the children would be able to buy reasonable lunch at a reasonable cost, but having that extra bit of money, the Governing Body would be able to authorise the payment of salaries to the Canteen Staff during the long holiday. It may be that there are other sources of revenue and the subsidy has been withdrawn and the expenditure can be met from other means. If the subsidy has been withdrawn for over riding purposes, then that is a serious matter. When that subsidy was paid a meal could be served and eaten at a reasonable cost, and money was released for the payment of salaries to the cooks and maids. I should like to know why it has been withdrawn this year and whether so far as the Premier knows, the Governing Body at that school had funds at its disposal to pay the Canteen Staff at holiday time. Perhaps he could say whether the withdrawal of this subsidy will mean any increase in the meals served to these children.

Mrs. BOURNE: I am speaking on Item 30 "relief teachers." I do not know if I could suggest this to the Hon. Minister, but I feel that the number of statutory teachers should be increased; because the number of children have increased and that

would cause less work for the permanent staff in employing relief teachers; although it is true to say that the salaries of these teachers appear to be small, one can say that these relief teachers can more or less be termed as apprentices; and it is known that apprentices are not paid above the master workmen. When I was a teacher those who were relief teachers were considered as honorary teachers in order that they may fill the places of permanent teachers in the near future. Now Sir, as regards the appointment of these relief teachers, there is some complaint about that; and I think it is well justified. I think it is done in this manner; the Government sends a pay clerk to pay permanent teachers, whereas these teachers I am told must go to Bridgetown and get a pay voucher and then journey up to the Garrison and draw what is already termed a small sum. It would be well if the Government could see fit to employ some means whereby the salaries paid to these teachers could also be sent to them if not on the same pay sheet, on a different one. What is worse, is that one teacher reported to me that she was told by an officer of the Department that the money voted for the relief teachers was spent in connection with the visit of Princess Margaret. I think that this is very misleading; and if that officer could be found out he should be punished for having said that.

9.55 p.m.

I do not know if the teacher accepted that statement, but it should not have been said by a responsible person in that office. However, Sir, as I said before, the number of children has increased, I think that forty children are too many for one teacher. You would be surprised if I told you that at one school a teacher has as high as eighty-five children to contend with. The Headteachers should also be called upon to teach. After all, they are teachers too; but as soon as they get into the position of being Headteacher, they cease teaching and too much is expected of the assistant teachers. The Headteachers should be made to teach; I am not saying that they should be responsible for a class, but they should make their services available throughout the school so as to be able at least to gauge the intelligence of the children. Some day in the future these same Headteachers will be called up to give a recommendation to a pupil; how can he or she give such a recommendation without knowing the ability of the child? I have passed several districts and found Headteachers outside looking at the newspaper.

Another thing has been drawn to my notice by a teacher, when he took the local Certificate B. After trying three or four times, he did not succeed in passing that examination which is recognised by the local Education Department. He was told to take a shy at the A.C.P. which is recognised in the teaching world in all English speaking countries. Although he was successful in obtaining the A.C.P. which is the equivalent of Certificate B, it was not recognised; and he felt that not recognising it was a means of keeping his salary where it was, instead of carrying his salary to where it would have been if he had gained Certificate B.

I mention these things so that the Minister can go into them in detail and see if he can rectify these evils. As we look through these Estimates you will see from time to time that the school Inspectors are increasing; there are several Inspectors. Some of them go into the schools and the teachers do not know what they want. Each of them make recommendations contrary to what another has made.

What is gratifying is to see that at long last some provision is made on the Estimates for the extension of the Alleyne School. I am sure that the parents of children, not only in St. Andrew, but also in St. Thomas, will be glad. [A MEMBER: It

is easier to get to town.] It may be easier to get to town, but it will be nearer to get to the Alleyne School by transport or even on foot.

When children from these distant parishes have to go to school in town it is very expensive to the parents.

Well sir, we are spending a lot of money on education; I hope that we are doing a good job and getting good value from the money we are now spending.

Mr. BRANCKER: I observe from Item 37, Transport of pay clerks, that it is now proposed to institute a new system of paying salaries by cheques. I am wondering whether Government is assured that this will not cause any unnecessary inconveniences to the teachers. Will a cheque be given to the Headteacher from which he will pay the assistants, or will each teacher be given a cheque? That system may be alright in St. Peter where there is a branch of Barclays Bank, and of course a metropolitan teacher will have no trouble; but I am wondering whether in places like our respective constituencies they will not be some inconvenience in getting these cheques cashed. I am wondering how this will be done, and I am wondering what brought about the change, if the teachers ask for it or if it was decided that it would be best for them.

Now sir, as regards Item 48, Nutrition Scheme, I never get tired of repeating what I hope it will be someday unnecessary to repeat, Milk and biscuits are all right in their way, but they can never be appreciated as much as a hot meal in the middle of the day—a good stew and cou-cou and things like that; something sustaining and enjoyable. I know sir, that I may be referred to the report of Professor Richardson on Social Security. If the Government will hold on to that paragraph in section 10 and accept what the Professor says as the Laws of the Medes and Persians, they will also have to accept everything that is said in every part of his report and adopt it without reservation. What that report says in this connection is that the milk and biscuits give the highest nutritive benefit in relation to the cost. Of course he went on to say that the work of provision is very much easier than that involved in cooking and serving school meals, and the need for expensive cooking equipment, utensils and cooking and serving staff is avoided.

That is what the report says, and it should not be said that Professor Richardson says that milk and biscuits is the best for the children and therefore we should postpone what we have promised and what the people are still looking forward to—a free hot meal for Elementary School children to the extent of the Government's financial ability.

The Government should start with a trial scheme in two of the poorest parishes of the island—St. Lucy and St. Andrew; and as it is taken up in those parishes, it can be extended as Government's finances permit so that eventually you may reach St. Michael.

Well now, sir, under Item 61 for which provision is included for four scholarships at Codrington College, I know more or less, that these scholarships are dying out; but I am taking this opportunity to make an observation on this unfortunate phase of our educational history, which for so long has led other West Indian colonies. Codrington College provides a classical education in this country; and people of this island are going to suffer tremendously when these scholarships to which reference is made under Item 61 are abandoned, and people no longer find it possible to get a university education in this island in classics; and people who cannot afford even to go to the U.C.W.I. of Jamaica far less to an English

University. There is a small but valuable class of persons in this island who are going to suffer as a result of a suspension of classical teaching at Codrington College. I feel that some alternative should be provided to cope with those products probably of Harrison College, who want a classical education but cannot go overseas in order to attain it.

Those are the principal items to which I refer; and I will be glad to get some information on them; particularly on that dealing with Item 37.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there is an additional point which I wanted to make, and it is in connection with the Coleridge-Parry School. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if he knows anything of a situation in which in last year's Estimates this House approved of an allowance to be given to the Headmaster of that school for housing. I believe why that allowance was given was because the former Headmaster of that school received a house allowance, and the Governing Body of that school felt that since there were no quarters for the present Headmaster, it was but fair that a house allowance should also be given to him as other Government servants. What seems to be strange about it now, is that it has been withdrawn; and that means that what was regarded as something which should be given to the Headmaster is now withdrawn. If Government believes that the Governing Body of that school had acted *ultra vires* the Executive Committee should not have approved of it in the first instance when it was given to the former Headmaster.

The other point which I would like to ask the Minister deals with the question of adult education. I do not see anything in the Estimates about it; I do not mean that which is provided at the Evening Institute; I mean adult education in a broader sense. Sometime ago it was mooted that the Government was making some enquiry into expanding the work of the Housecraft Centre; I would like to know whether there is any reason why that work should not be expanded. Has it been proved that there is no need to carry out any of this work in the rural areas on a proper basis? Barbados employs very many domestic servants, which is one of the biggest employment forces in this island; therefore, any scheme which aims at making them more useful employees would mean that they would be able to perform a service which would be very useful both to themselves and to the people who employ them, especially in these days when you want to promote the tourist trade; it is one of the prerequisites of the tourist trade. Expansion of the work at the Housecraft Centre is one of the best means of providing people with that sort of trade. Anyone will tell you that there is a great need in this island for trained domestic servants or trained people for that sort of service; and if you are building up that trade, it could be a very useful employment force. I am sorry I have had to go into all these questions again; but I do not think that all of them had been noted and I would like the Hon. Minister to include this question among the other questions I have asked.

10.15 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: When my colleague was dealing with the Island Scholarships, something struck me. I know of one or two cases in which people who are now at Codrington College and due to leave this year or next year, have found it difficult through a reversal of family fortunes to pay their fees; and I was wondering whether some of this money which is allocated to Island Scholarships could be used to help those cases so long as they satisfy the authorities that they are deserving. I do not think a student at Codrington College finding himself short of funds

should go to the trouble of trying to borrow money, when there is a loan fund which is very often used by people going abroad to study. I am wondering if students who find themselves in difficulty could not be given small loans out of this fund for assistance. That is a point which I think is worth while taking up; and the same conditions of borrowing money and paying back should be attached as is usually done in these cases, and it might relieve hardships among one or two people.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: There is nothing to prevent people applying for loans just as other people who are going to the University College of the West Indies have applied for loans. The very case of which the honourable member is thinking has been brought to my notice; and I have discussed the matter in the light of why what we are doing in respect of the University College of the West Indies should not be done at Codrington College; that is to award the sum of money to the College and leave it to the College authorities to use it in the matter of need. You would not give a rich boy as much as you would give a poor one; and the money could be used for helping poor boys. I do agree with what the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has said in respect of Codrington College.

As regards Item 19 "Senior Clerks" we have agreed that a senior clerk should be instituted because of the amount of work which has to be done. As regards Item 30 "Supernumerary teachers" as I said the other night, I find myself on the horns of a dilemma for the reason that the vote on education was mounting. There was an understanding that we should aim at the ratio of one to forty, and the Director of Education went on to employ supernumeraries. While the vote was mounting and mounting we were using the title "supernumerary" and paying from that Head; and a supernumerary is different from a relief teacher. A relief teacher may teach from month to month, but a supernumerary is bound to teach for a year or two; and we have agreed to make this retention of supernumeraries who now amount to 162; and for relief teachers we have to put in the sum of \$37,000. I agree that it is a wicked thing for a Headmaster to think that he does not have to teach. For one thing you cannot get to know the children who are in your school as every Headteacher should know, unless you teach and go from form to form. Some Headmasters have more free hours than working hours, and that must be stopped. As I say, the position is very difficult; I do agree that the amount of \$1.68 or \$2.00 a day is small. Without attempting to open myself to any accusation as to what happens to these teachers, comparisons of salaries and wages are not always good things to make. However, merely putting salaries of relief teachers with those of a cane cutter is not a good enough way to put it. The Deputy Director of Education and myself sat down and worked out the position—I do not want to go back to the days when a relief teacher was glad to get a job, but some of these relief teachers and trainees are in the same position as in the old days; therefore many of them have to be put on the permanent staff. The matter is being kept in view in the sense of what we would like to do for education and we are keeping it in our minds.

We want to see whether we can make a beginning with the hot mid-day meal for school children. There is a total enrolment of 31,880 and the total recurrent expenditure for a school year of 39 weeks for meals alone would be \$1,243,320; and that is for meals not cooked. If the children did not pay anything it would be that amount and if they had meals plus milk, the amount would be \$1,367,246. The

In addition to that if you employ helpers at the rate of one for every 50 pupils at the rate of \$6.00 a week, the wages bill would be \$153,600 and that makes no provision for equipment or transportation.

10.25 p.m.

In short when you go into the expense of such a scheme the figures are staggering. Everyone agrees that you should try to help school children to the extent of your financial ability. We have been advised that in the tropics a hot mid-day meal is not as good as milk and biscuits; even Barristers seek after lunch. Medical experts say that fresh cow's milk and biscuits are better than a hot mid-day meal. In any case you will see from the figures that it is not an easy problem. Of course you could do it by giving up making provision for more beds at the hospital, or by stopping the cutting off of corners from roads.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter has been pointing out that there are several schemes of Social Security recommended by Professor Richardson. The honourable senior member for St. Lucy referred to Item 37, Transport of Pay Clerks. The present system is dangerous; it is fortunate that Barbados is not like other countries that we can think of. The new system proposed will not it is felt, create any hardship; as a matter of fact the Elementary Teachers' Association has agreed to it.

As regards Item 46, Elementary School Sports, referred to by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, merchants I have been told, have not in recent years been subscribing so liberally to school sports by the granting of prizes. I would say that if the number of school sports that take place in this island is not what it used to be, it is because those responsible for these sports may not give the Department all the facts; if they had told the Department that they got practically nothing by way of gifts, the vote would have been greater.

As regards the Canteen at Combermere School, that was intended to be self-supporting; neither a profit nor a loss. The \$440.00 is to cover the cost of keeping on the supervisor and the maids during the vacation time. It is felt by the Education Department that we should not run this canteen at a loss. The answer to that might be to increase the cost of the meals; or as I would prefer, not to employ the staff during the vacation time. The reason given for employing them is that it may be inconvenient to have to employ a fresh lot every time that the school re-opens; I do not think that there will be any great inconvenience, because there will be no difficulty in getting maids. The matter is still under consideration. My own view is that even if you employ a supervisor to take stock during the vacation, or to get things ready before the term reopens — As I have said the matter is still under consideration, and I am only giving my personal views on the situation. No one would like to see the Canteen stopped; and equally no one would like to see the cost of the meals increased to those children who very often are children of poor parents.

This matter was raised by the Governing Body. Ultimately it is a matter for the Government, because they have to satisfy us as to how they spend the money they get from School Fees; and the extra money they need has to come from the Government. As honourable members know we do not arbitrarily say £400 for Harrison College or £200 for Combermere; they have to give us an account as is set out in Appendix I.

The next item to which I shall refer is as regards Alexandra School. I do not quite follow all that the honourable senior member for St. Lucy said; if I have missed the point I hope that he will ask me again.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter asked about the Coleridge-Parry School. The Governing Body of the Coleridge-Parry School paid house allowances out of a sum that was not put there for that purpose. It was stopped. In the actual Estimates however, I think there is a sum of money to build the headmaster a house; it will soon be started.

10.35 p.m.

What I have to point out to the honourable member, is that at some elementary schools headmasters are somewhat lucky because there is a house attached to the school for his residence. I may say that it is the policy of the Government from now on to have a headmaster's residence attached to each school. A headmaster's house will be built, or we will make use of a building nearby. I may say that it is bad enough for the Headmaster of the Coleridge-Parry school that there is no residence for him as compared with the Headmaster of Combermere, or Harrison College.

The expansion of the Housecraft Centre was raised by the honourable junior member for St. Peter. I will tell him that the Government has not abandoned the development of that; in fact, the Housecraft Centre has been doing such good work that the necessity for extension is obvious. We do know of the good that can be done by training more people. I am informed that the teaching there is extraordinarily good, and that alone merits the extension of the centre. I hope I have not omitted to reply to any point which was raised. If honourable members feel I have omitted anything or my information was not sufficiently full, I will be glad to give further information.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Premier has asked questions on points which I have raised, and later I would like to answer the questions which he raised.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the attention of the Committee a point with respect to Item 43, which deals with repairs and minor extensions to elementary school buildings. I want to call attention to the principal school of St. John; this school is very old. From the time I was a little fellow I knew it, and it was always an eyesore to anybody who really has an idea of what a school should look like. We know Barbados is famous for the beauty of its elementary schools in comparison with those of the surrounding colonies. In this modern day, the St. John's Mixed school to which I refer is an insult to the civic pride of that parish. It is a combined school and as far as I know, from the time I knew myself I do not think it was given a coat of paint outside. Sir, there are many grand buildings in this important parish from its traditional educational point of view; therefore, it is really imperative that this school should be reconstructed. The site is an excellent one, and it is very disgraceful that there should be such an ugly and almost dilapidated structure on it. I do want the Hon. Minister of Education to seriously consider the building of a new school there. Administration after administration has been told about this unsightly building and somehow they all seem to ignore it. I would like in this year of grace for this custom to cease.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask the Hon. Premier a question with regard to the Headmaster of the Foundation School. The Headmaster of that school gets exactly \$4,080 per annum and the number of pupils in that school is 314. The Headmaster of the Coleridge-Parry gets the same salary and the number of pupils in that school is 309.

Now, sir, throughout the Dos Santos Report one thing has been pointed out, and it is in respect of the salary of the Headmaster of the Boys' Foundation School being not in keeping with the others; and he did draw it to the attention of the Government. That report dates back something like two or three years. All Government is saying since it was drawn to their attention, is that they are awaiting the building of the new school, but while they are doing so, the Headmaster of that school is being denied what he should be getting; and he is doing a very good job. Last year, he produced a Barbados Scholar from that school and an Island Scholar; and you cannot deny that that is commendable. I am asking the Hon. Premier to make note of it and take the matter up. It is urgent; it has been delayed for two or three years, and I do not think it is fair to the Headmaster that he should continue to suffer as a result. I want to see a Resolution brought down to this House very soon to pay him and with backpay.

The next thing is the St. Lawrence Boys' School; they are going to make extensions there. Personally I think it is in the wrong place. There is not enough play ground; the children play right on the road and I think they would have done better by going elsewhere with this school.

There is a suitable site nearby with plenty of land; this site is in the village. When you are spending money on these extensions you are only patching up something and making extensions. If you have not made your final plans and it is possible to revise them, I think it would be a much more suitable thing to do.

As regards the St. Christopher Boys' School, that is in a deplorable state; I have been there and it was the hottest time I have ever been there. They need a new building; the present one needs to be pulled down. I have drawn the Government's attention to that school. The Hon. Premier said just now that when the Foundation School was being built, they would build a headmaster's house. I have been on the Board for three months; I understand that plans have been made but we have not seen them. I think it is the duty of the Governing Body to see the plans before they are finalised. I think the Headmaster and Headmistress of the two existing schools should say something about the plan; if schools are being erected on a site or replacements to existing schools are being made, the Governing Body of those schools should have some say in this matter or their opinion should be sought. I have heard some talk about a principal for these schools; that is a new departure; I do not know whether he will have to take on a staff. This school could be a boys' and girls' school with a common hall. If the Hon. Premier has any conclusive views on this matter we would like to hear them. I understand that this school will be started within a few months.

There is another proposal (I can only speak off the record now) that the Rectory is on the site where this school will be erected, and the new Rector has suggested that if his house can be taken over and the entire lot of land and a sufficient sum paid for it, a new Rectory could be built on the site where the existing Boys' Foundation School now stands and that site would be suitable for both schools. The Rectory would have a proper site and the school would have proper playing fields where the Rectory now is. The Rectory might be used for the headmaster's house and the Primary School could be attached to that. It would seem to be much better to have the entire lot of land around the school than for the school to be on the Rectory site. I know that

there have been communications going on between the Rector and the Government in connection with this land; however I would like some action to be taken in this matter soon.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: About a week ago the whole of this matter was gone into by Captain Tomlin, the Director of Education and myself. The original plan envisaged three spots of land at the back before the Rector made us this offer. Both the Director of Education and the Director of Public Works felt that it would be a good thing; and I was told by the Director of Education that the Governing Body had asked for a copy of the plan and he thought that the matter should be referred to me. It was suggested that Captain Tomlin should have an amended plan showing what the new area would be like. If the Governing Body has not got a copy of the plan, I am sure they will be getting it because I asked to get it to them as soon as possible.

Only a few days ago the Governing Body asked for an increase in the grant, and surely there could not be anything wrong for us to say we did not know whether they would get the money or not. Would it be wrong for us to ask them to wait until the new school is built? The hon. member has the assurance that the Governing Body will see these plans as soon as possible.
10.55 p.m.

Surely it could not be wrong for us to say at the time to wait until the new school is built. I do not speak of any particular date, but it would only be reasonable to have back pay if the Government felt when the new school was built, that salaries should have been more. Why should we make two bites at one time?

As regards Saint Christopher, at one time it was thought that that was where one of the pilot open air schools should be built. To be perfectly frank, I considered that we were doing quite enough for Christ Church if we built the new Foundation School. I did not approve of a new school at Rendezvous; I considered that Christ Church had a fairly good provision when other parishes had nothing. When the suggestion of a new school at Christ Church came up I turned it down, frankly speaking. I suggested that we should repair St. Lawrence School until we went back to Christ Church and put up another school which would be a Modern Secondary School. We have not ignored Christ Church, but I suggest that if the two hon. members for St. Thomas were not Ministers, they would be attacking the Government for completely ignoring St. Thomas, a parish that Mr. Hayden selected to be the site of a Modern Secondary School. Those were the considerations that made me treat Christ Church in that way.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It seems to me that the Minister got mixed up with the question asked by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. I asked about compulsory Education and the installation of the Government water supply at Alexandra School, because an Estimate was made and approved as to what the amount would be. I said I wanted to know what was the position.

As regards the Coleridge-Parry School, the Minister said that the Governing Body did not have the authority to pay the house allowance which they paid; he explained that you have to make an estimate, and if the Executive Committee approves of that estimate the Governing Body can spend it. I understand the Governing Body prepared an estimate for the house allowance for the Headmaster, because the former headmaster received one; and there was no objection by Executive Committee. What I want to know is why the house allowance

was wrong this year or last year when it was right as regards the Parry School all along?

I do not know if the Hon. Minister of Education was dealing with the point made by the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, but I did not make any comparison as regards the salary of the supernumerary teachers. I am too old a horse at this game to make a comparison when it comes to salaries. I am saying that by any standard \$1.18 a day is too low. If the honourable senior member for St. Andrew wants to perpetuate a system like that which goes back to the old pupil teacher days, I do not know. That was the way of thinking in 1875 soon after emancipation, when teaching was thought to be an improvement on working in the field. I am saying that \$1.18 a day is too low by any standard. No Government with any Socialist tendencies should pay such salaries. You cannot justify these salaries on the ground that these teachers are apprentices. We employ some people to teach; they are not apprentices.

The honourable senior member for St. Andrew said that one teacher told her that someone at the Education Department told him that the money which was to pay them was spent on the preparations for the Princess' visit; I wonder what kind of mentality the teacher had who would come back and say that. If that is the type of mentality we get in teachers we have nothing to be proud about. However, I emphasise that the present rates are too low, and they should be examined to see what can be done about them.

In the Estimates year after year we have made increased provisions without reducing the number of beds at the Hospital or the number of doctors. I had no opportunity of making a Budget Speech; I cannot advise the Government on taxation; but if they want money I know that there are certain sources which can be tapped.

However, those are the points I asked about, and all that is necessary is an isolation of a good water service at the Alexandra. There was an old mill there and I will not ask to put that in order again, because it will be a waste of time to do so. As I have said, the house allowance for the Headmaster of the Coleridge-Parry School was provided and therefore should have been given him. Compulsory education if it is provided for, would mean that children will be able to remain in school longer. When children leave school too early they become delinquents around the city.

11.05 p.m.

Mrs. BOURNE: The hon. member seems to have understood the opposite of what I said; I said, I would not like to go back to the days when I was a teacher when we were called on to act, with the hope of getting a job in the future. It is only under the good auspices of this Government that has caused supernumeraries to be paid. I can tell the Hon. Premier that when some of them are appointed to teach, they then have to learn to teach; they are not qualified teachers at all. I particularly made that quite clear. We cannot get away from the fact that these salaries are inadequate; I am not saying that there are adequate. The hon. member said that these teachers are paid at \$1.18 per day in one grade, and \$2 in another grade. If they worked for five days in the week that would mean \$10 per week or \$40 per month which is the same as a salary paid to a teacher when he is appointed.

Mr. Chairman, I must agree with the hon. senior member for St. Lucy when he said that those who do equal work should receive equal pay; and he urged that there should be equal pay for men and women in the teaching service. I do hope the Government

will see to that in the very near future; female teachers should be paid the same salary as their counterparts, for the simple reason which the Hon. Premier gave to-day; that is if you have a clerk in the Secretariat doing the same work as the clerk at Government House, she should be given the same money. If a woman can do the same work as a man she should be given the same money. If there is a difference in salary of \$1.92 for women and \$2.00 for men I would say, give the difference of 8c. to the women so as to comply with what the hon. senior member for St. John said; that is, she has to buy lipstick and so on and is more expensive than men to upkeep.

There is one thing more, which I want to find out from the Hon. Premier; I see that the amount of money voted under Item 38 is the same as in the 1954-55 Estimates, and the Note to the Item says that \$5,000 of it is for stationery for use in offices for elementary schools and the cost of Scheme Books. I have heard from many Headteachers that the grant allowed to their school for that purpose is too small. If this is a reduction as has been pointed out then it means that the sum they are going to get would be a lot smaller. I have been asked on several occasions by parents why is it that they must supply their children going to elementary schools with slates and things of that sort. What I want to find out from the Hon. Premier is whether this money is granted for the obtaining of those Record Books and things of that sort; because I have been discussing the matter with several teachers and it is the opinion of the majority that the Record Order is simply a farce; and only a waste of the time of the teachers.

Another point which I want to take up with the Hon. Premier is this: he said that the Government has decided to send a block cheque to the Headteacher of each school; if that is so, it means that Government is going back to the old and unsatisfactory method of paying school teachers; and it was a cause of grave dissatisfaction among them. Why pay a Headteacher by a cheque when she cannot actually get it cashed unless she come to the Banks in Bridgetown; she would not be able to get any money until a Saturday when she comes into town. I do not think paying by cheque would be a better method; but if you have decided on that, see to it that each teacher is handed his own cheque. Some of the Headteachers now really think that the staff are servants of theirs; and when you put the cheque for a schoolteacher in their hands, they will think that the teachers are really their servants. It will create more dissatisfaction; that is my opinion.

11.15 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In an Assembly like this where you have one lady member you have to be very charitable to her; we have not yet reached the stage where women are expected to understand all the intricacies of the Parliamentary system. We must look upon women as our weaker partners when it comes to the matter of wages; the hon. member is uninitiated. I know what I am talking about. I drew the attention of the Hon. Minister to the wages which are being paid to these teachers; it is not based on any system which existed before. Some of these people here to whom the salaries apply would be already teaching, and these people might have been teaching for the past 20 years; therefore if you are using them you have to pay them at the proper rates. These rates are low and they need revision; the rates are low: \$1.18 a day to \$1.92 a day for women and \$2 a day to \$2.16 a day for men. These people are only paid for the days on which they teach; they are paid as if they were labourers working on a

plantation. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew must acquaint herself with these things.

Mrs. BOURNE: There is a point which I also wanted to make. The supernumerary teachers will be employed over a number of years to supply those who are trained at Erdiston. I am told that when a teacher is appointed permanently he is qualified after two years to take Certificate "B". I hope that that will apply to all these teachers.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I think I hear an hon. member mention a rumour; I do not know how it started, but I will call on the Director of Education to make it absolutely certain; I will tell the hon. member privately when we come back here. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that the teacher who objects to that should not be teaching. The whole object of teaching today is to teach a boy and watch his career through the school; otherwise you are not developing that secondary modern school education, let alone the grammar side of education. I want to say this: the teacher who says he has too many things to do is lazy and is only holding down a job.

As regards the hon. junior member for St. Peter on the question of compulsory education, nobody could object to that in principle; but compulsory education amounts to a question of dollars and cents. I have to be more than careful these days, because when I say somethings they can easily be twisted or misrepresented; but if for sometime the Labour Party did not press for Adult Suffrage, it was because everybody who would be registered would be an adult and they would be sufficient in numbers as to amount to Adult Suffrage. Our people love to educate themselves so much so that there is no danger as to what would happen in this island as has happened in other places which had to introduce compulsory education. Here it is a question of lack of space.

As regards the Alexandra School, the matter is under consideration. As far as the Coleridge-Parry School is concerned, as I said earlier, I am not endeavouring to provoke or interfere with anybody; but the Governing Body has done some queer things to put it mildly. If the Chairman were not a lawyer—[Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: He is a blacksmith.] Well they have listened to the blacksmith. The Regulation says that they cannot spend the money in any other way than what the Government has sanctioned. The Headmaster ordered chairs out of what we were giving them, and when we asked what was his charge, he wrote back a very rude letter saying "I have ordered them and they are mine." I do not know up to now whether the Governing Body knew before hand or not; when the Government said "we are not paying for them at that rate but at the rate at which we have been paying for chairs in respect of other schools" the honourable senior member for St. Lucy wrote a letter asking the Government to accept that. When you are dealing with a Governing Body like that, the first reaction is to sit on them; but the school would suffer and that is why we did not sit on them.

The Governing Body had no right to pay the house allowance out of the vote and we disallowed it. At another time they asked us if they could pay for the maintenance of playing-fields out of the savings from salaries.

11.25 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Premier has said that the Governing Body of this school does some queer things. What I was told by the Governing Body with reference to this matter, was that in the Estimates it was specifically stated that they had asked the Executive Committee for a house allow-

ance for the Headmaster. I said it seemed strange that the Governing Body would have sent a letter to the Executive Committee with a sort of peremptory notice that they were paying allowance to the Headmaster. Before the schools were amalgamated, house allowance was paid. There was an error as far as the Clerk was concerned, because when estimates go to the Education Department, they are not seen until they appear in the Annual Estimates. It would be wrong for the Governing Body to pay house allowance if none were authorised.

As far as the water service is concerned, at one time we thought it strange in that an estimate was made for something, and when the Bill came in you found that you were landed with a cost of nearly \$600; that happens with the Government itself. The only thing that one can say in any such matter is that sometimes you have administrative officers who are not as careful as they should be, and when these things are done you still have to defend them. As regards what the Premier has mentioned about the Headmaster he should realise that the Governing Body cannot be blamed for the independent action of the Headmaster; that was not drawn to the Government's attention.

Mr. BRANCKER: As far as the matter of the water supply at the Alexandra School is concerned, a representative of the Waterworks Department was asked by the Chairman of the Governing Body for an estimate for the expansion of the Water Supply at that school. A letter was sent from the Waterworks Department subsequently stating that the figure for expansion was \$120; the Chairman understood that that sum covered the cost of the labour as well as the material. We subsequently found out that the money only covered labour and the material came to a sum in the vicinity of over \$400. The letter was so worded that it could have meant either. The Chairman took up the matter early.

There can be no dispute that the material has been used for the benefit of the school. What I understand that the hon. junior member for St. Peter was asking, was what are we going to do about it. We noticed that provision for the installation of the Government Water Supply last year was \$600; this year there is nothing; we are wondering what is going to happen. As to the Coleridge-Parry School, during the long vacation the headmaster ordered a certain amount of furniture including additional desks and chairs so as to accommodate additional pupils; he ordered these things entirely on his own account. It is a matter for the Governing Body; and after all the furniture includes the desks and benches used in up to date schools in this island.

I understand that the Director of Education has found a joiner in Speightstown who has estimated that he can do the benches and desks for the school at a price below what Mr. Hunte and Mr. Roy Griffith have charged; I gather that his estimate is also a piece less than the estimate given by these other two concerns. It is a matter for the Governing Body to pay the cost of these items for the Headmaster or to remove them and dispose of them otherwise. I presume that the policy of the Government would not be to put these children out in the streets. I will say this: I have it on unimpeachable evidence that the Director has stated that these new pupils need not have been taken into the school at all.

11.35 p.m.

We are responsible for the children of this country, and we should provide every educational opportunity for those children to improve themselves

and be improved. We welcome imported officials when they fit into our scheme of things and are co-operative. When we have officials in this country such as the Director of Public Works or the Director of Highways & Transport, we all regard them as Barbadians; which is the highest possible compliment we can give to any visitor to our shores. If the Director of Education feels that we should not have the number of children which we now have educated at our secondary schools, he must be given another job; do not allow him to do anything which would restrict the number of children who would benefit by secondary education. The benches are there according to the directive received from Speights-town; a gentleman from that parish would have done that job a dollar cheaper per desk. If the headmaster did not get those items, they would not have been available at the beginning of the school term and the children would have suffered by having only two term's work instead of the three in the school year. Of course, it is true that the headmaster did not comply with official red tape. Even if the headmaster in his enthusiasm for education, in his exuberance and intense desire to provide for the children of the three Leeward parishes a secondary education second to none was guilty of a technical error, my contention is that the desks and the benches are there and the children are using them. The children of the people are getting the benefit; therefore the Government should have nothing to do with whether perhaps you were a little hasty in your getting them in time for the beginning of the term. The great thing about it was the intense desire not to lose any part of the term of the three in the school year with the consequent effect it would have on the examination results; that is the position as I have explained it to the House. What suggestion should be made as to those 50 benches and desks? Should you send them back or sell them to somebody else?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I just want to say that you were spending money on the house allowance when there was no provision for it, and that means, that you did something which was wrong. We have done nothing different from what you have done. The Government now feels that you cannot make provision for a house allowance for the headmaster, but looking through the Estimates what you see is a note stating that there is an allowance of \$1,080 for special duties; and that is how the house allowance was put down. I do not

know what the Clerk of the Governing Body of the Coleridge-Parry School sent to the Department of Education, but I want to say that a meeting of the Governing Body was held sometime in December last and the Governing Body was under the impression (as well as myself), that the estimate for house allowance for the Headmaster was sent in to the Education Department, and it would be paid to the Headmaster for something like ten months. When I looked through the Scheme of Government, it did not say that you cannot put in an estimate for house allowance. If the error is what I now pointed out, I do not know if it is what can be called a typographical error.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable member has given the explanation. There was another headmaster when that was done. I hope the Governing Body would be more careful after this and hint to the headmaster that when you are wrong you should not write a letter in the tone in which he wrote his.

The question that the sum of \$1,285,058 be voted under the Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

MOTION WITHDRAWN FROM ORDER PAPER

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to withdraw from the next Order Paper the motion standing in the name of the honourable junior member for Christ Church relating to the office of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 12 o'clock (noon).

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

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

11.45 p.m.