

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 8th March, 1955.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock noon today.

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Hon. Dr. H. G. H. 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. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*) and 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 confirmation.

Messrs HAYNES, CRAWFORD, BARROW, BRANCKER, F. L. WALCOTT, BRYAN, and Hon. G. H. ADAMS entered the House and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Message No. 4/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly regarding representation at the forthcoming Conference in Trinidad on Freedom of Movement within the proposed British Caribbean Federation.

MESSAGE NO. 4/1955

His Excellency the Governor
To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that Barbados will be represented at the forthcoming Con-

ference in Trinidad on Freedom of Movement within the proposed British Caribbean Federation by the Honourable G. H. Adams, C.M.G., Q.C., M.C.P., and the Honourable H. A. Cuke, C.B.E., M.L.C. The Honourable Attorney General will accompany them as their legal adviser.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
March, 1955

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Statement on control of the mealy-bug pest.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$100 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1954-55, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1954-55 No. 45 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of \$831,064 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet expenditure during the financial year 1955-56 on Capital Works included in the Estimates 1955-56, Part II, Capital, A — Loan Funds.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, No. 2, 1955.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ending on the 31st March, 1956.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To

His Excellency The Governor

The House desire to draw to Your Excellency's attention the fact that the unequal distribution of

profits from the Sugar Industry is cause for deep disgust among peasant proprietors and Agricultural workers.

2. The House desire to point out that the current sugar price and current production cost would permit of an increase price being paid for cane and additional wages for sugar workers.

3. The House would emphasize their convictions that considerable profits are currently being made in the sugar industry and in order to demonstrate this so that the increases referred to in Paragraph 2 (above) can be effected, the House respectfully request that a Committee of enquiry be appointed immediately to investigate the matter and that such Committee be empowered to obtain all the necessary facts and figures so that a more equitable distribution of profit can be made.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House desire to draw to Your Excellency's attention the immense importance to the economy of the island and the B.W.I. generally of a metal industry.

2. The House respectfully request that a Committee be set up to enquire into the possibilities of the manufacture in Barbados of Agricultural implements, carpenters' tools, nails, locks, screws, chains, pots, pans, bedsteads, and the general run of foundry products and ironmongery using imported iron ingots.

3. The House further desire it to be drawn to the attention of the Regional Economic Committee and through the Committee to the attention of the Government of Jamaica, its opinion that the considerable quantities of iron ore which are now being mined in Jamaica and exported after being mechanically crushed, should be smelted in that colony and the ingots made available for the building up of a metal industry in the B.W.I.

BILLS TO BE READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX that a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ending on the 31st March, 1956, was read a first time.

ESTIMATES—Cont'd

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS asked for and was granted leave to take Order No. 2 as the first Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order therefore is to resume Committee on the Estimates.

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

Head XXI—Science and Agriculture

Head XXI — Science and Agriculture was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$564,964 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw attention to Items Nos. 90, 99, 107 and 108

As far as the insurance on the boat and tractor is concern I would like to know what is the Government's general policy about the whole question of insurance. Last year during discussion of the Estimates I drew attention to the fact that considerable sums of money were being estimated each year for insurance; and it would be a good thing if some investigation was made relative to the Government carrying certain insurances in order to save the colony from the expense which it now undergoes in paying out money to insurance companies, money that could be utilised in building up a fund for the purpose of insurance at possibly lower rates than are now charged by private companies.

It does not need a Solomon to see these things; it is a matter of commonsense. It does not need a Professor Richardson to come here and tell us these things after we have been living here for so many years. If you look through the Estimates you will see that the Government can relieve the colony of a substantial portion of this expenditure. I would like to know Government's general view on these things.

Item 99 refers to the expenses of the co-operative section. All of us in this colony agree that some aspect of co-operation should be attended to; and the Department of Science and Agriculture is the Department that you should endeavour to work through in view of the fact that it represents the main industry of this colony. But none of us here can say with any pride or satisfaction that the co-operative efforts that are being made in this island have begun to impress the Community that there is such a thing as co-operative organisations within our midst.

We find that the expenses of this section come to \$780. I would like to know to what extent has the co-operative idea taken on in this island, and to what extent this section is helping the people to understand the aims and objects of the co-operative movement.

As regards Item 107 and 108, this is one of the things that the Other Place has complained about. If you read the Note to Item 107 you will see that it relates to the installation of radio sets which is really Item 108; while the Note of Item 108 relates to the pig-breeding scheme which is Item 107. The Notes are transposed.

What I want to know about is the pig-breeders' subsidy; I would like to know if the Government is satisfied that the \$60,000 now voted is really carrying out the aims and objects of this particular scheme. What I would also like to know is whether there is any shortage of pork, and if there is, this scheme is supposed to be for the purpose of purely and simply producing more pork but at no particular price; or if it is aimed at improving the pig industry as a pig industry, and related to whether there is a shortage or glut of meat or anything like that.

12.35 p.m.

I should like to know what progress can be made at this stage. Sixty thousand dollars have been asked for, and I think every hon. member will agree that this Item has been increased; and the Note in the column states: to meet the cost of a scheme for subsidising pig-breeders. I do not think this amount of \$60,000 should be voted unless the Government is prepared to say how it is to be used; it is necessary that we should have some further explanation to this Note. I hope the Hon. Minister responsible would be able to give the answers to the questions which I have asked. [A PAUSE].

I hear a member of the Government has asked you, Mr. Chairman, to put the question. We know some members of the Government are far from being polite; even when you invite them to dinner they are also impolite, unpunctual and all like that; they come to this House of Assembly to carry on that conduct. If it is the intention of the Premier by his attitude to show his impoliteness which he shows in social engagements—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the hon. junior member for St. Peter. It was not the Premier alone who said so.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The remarks came from the Government's Bench. You ask them questions, and then someone turns to you and tells you to put the question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You said it was the Hon. Premier.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Let the Hon. Premier get up and deny what I said. If the Hon. Minister in charge does not want to give the answer I will continue to debate the question until he feels like answering.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that we are dealing with the Head, Science & Agriculture, for which the Hon. Minister for Agriculture is responsible. Before I ask you a question, I would like to know why did you wait until we come in here to discuss Agriculture to put a statement in our hands. You could at least have given us this statement over the week-end at the same time when you sent out the Order Paper. I do think the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would have to make some explanation on this. The honourable junior member for St. Peter has asked questions to which answers should be given; and I am sure it is not the way of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to run away from answering questions which concern something with which he has to deal. It is but courteous that he should give some answer. Mr. Chairman, you would be the first to say that if this statement is in connection with the particular Head, Science and Agriculture, it should not be put in our hands today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with the Head, Science and Agriculture; we are not dealing with any statement.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not think the Hon. Minister intends to discuss that statement right away.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on all the Items which are to be voted under the Head. I will give you the particular Item in a short while. I will speak on Item 98, Control of Mealy Bug. I am asking the Hon. Minister for an explanation, because if you have notes on anything and you would like to make a criticism and before you do so the Minister comes in with a statement, my argument is that the statement should be brought in in good time. Obviously this statement is in connection with this Item; it should have been sent to us over the weekend when the Order Paper was sent, so as to avoid criticism which might be unjustifiable.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you want the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to explain something in that statement before you go further?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I have not said so.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In reply to the honourable member who just sat, I thoroughly agree with the point which he raised; but I may say that far from being guilty, the statement was only approved at the meeting of the Executive last Thursday and I tried to

have it presented to honourable members as quickly as possible after that. I may say that members are expected to study the statement but they need not do so at the spur of the moment. It was presented to honourable members because some weeks ago I gave the undertaking to present it; I also felt that it should have been presented at the earliest time. I do not expect honourable members to comment on it today; but any comment which they may want to make on the Mealy Bug, I will try to reply on. No matter how simple that statement may look, I would like to say it was prepared by the Department of Science and Agriculture and was then sent to the Executive Committee who met and discussed it. It was then sent to Professor Sherlock who is Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture; it then went before the Mealy Bug Committee to be approved, then to the Executive Committee again and now to the House. It is not a statement which I have made or even the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Will the Hon. Minister say whether steps are being taken to import the insecticide from the United States which has been suggested by various planters? Can the Hon. Minister tell me anything about that?
12.45 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, that is really what I intended doing a little earlier. I may say that my way of doing things may not be quite in keeping with the general practice, but to my way of thinking, I feel that each and every Minister is expected to give some resumé of the working of the Departments under his control and to give a summary of the Heads of the Estimates which come under his control. I have taken the trouble to make a summary of those under my control—

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of Order. I should be the last to interrupt the hon. member; but certainly the time for doing that was before we got in Committee on the Estimates. The Hon. Minister says he regards it as his Ministerial obligation to present to the House a resumé of the policy of the Department under his control; manifestly, that is correct, but the time for doing that is during the second reading on the Estimates. As he knows or should be aware of it—

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I do not consider many of the explanatory notes to be as fully explanatory as they should be; and for that reason I have prepared greater explanatory notes on points which I feel would need further explanation.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The position is this: what the Hon. Minister wants to do cannot very well be done now; all he is supposed to do now is to reply to points raised by hon. members. If the Government had not rushed the Estimates through the second reading stage and had given hon. members the opportunity to comment on the principles underlying the Estimates, then the Hon. Minister would have been given the opportunity to do what he wants to do.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As regards the control of the Mealy Bug Pest, the provision of \$5,500 is to meet the cost of the purchase of insecticide for the present campaign. A statement has already been handed to hon. members. The insecticide which is now being used is "Agrocide." This insecticide is effective in controlling the pest, and it is as effective as any other insecticide so far tried. This insecticide is really a first-aid measure, but the real trouble is that with the mealy bug there is the deficiency in the soil; the soil has become deficient. In other words, the treatment of this insecticide is just a first-aid measure; and there have been many experiments conducted with the use of other insecticides. The position is that as far as ratoon canes are concerned,

the insecticide may be helpful; but as far as plant canes are concerned, it has been proved that the ploughing of the land is almost as effective as any of the insecticides. The idea is to plough up the land and allow nature to do the rest, but "Agroside" has been helpful so far.

The hon. member made a point about the use of some new insecticide. There is a new insecticide which has been introduced known as "Geigy" and it is intended to try that out along with the other experiments which are being conducted.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I thank the hon. member for the information which he has given, but my question is somewhat direct, in that I asked what the Government has been doing as to the importation of the American insecticide which has been used for this purpose, and which has been represented by a section of the planting community to the Department as being very good. I am asking the hon. member now that this insecticide has been recommended by planters, what is the policy of the Department, whether it is to recommend to the Government that they release those dollars in order to get this insecticide from the dollar area. I know as a fact that this insecticide has been used extensively and it is much cheaper to use than what the Government has been using; therefore I ask: what is the policy of the Government? I am saying that there is no point in fooling ourselves that we are not faced with a disease which goes to the root of our economy and which is destroying our industry, there is no point in any one of us becoming so pigheaded as to say that this thing comes from England and therefore we are going to use what comes from England and nothing else.

12.55 p.m.

My way of looking at it is that it does not matter if it comes from Russia; and that is how the Government should look at it. If it is something which has been discovered and which has to be imported from America, I would like to know what is the Government's policy, and if it has been reported to them that this has been successful, whether or not they propose to release dollars to get it in. I appreciate the explanation which the Minister has given; but surely he will be able once and for all to let the House know and to let the people interested in agriculture know what is Government's policy as regards the importation of this stuff. We have been told that the English stuff is only a palliative.

When this question was raised, the question was whether the Government would allow this American product to be imported from the U.S.A. We have been told that a statement from the Department only came before the Government on Thursday; while that is so, it could have been sent to us by Saturday. Now that it has been represented by planters who actually got a little of this American stuff (I do not know how they got it) we should be told what is Government's policy, and whether they will release dollars in order to get it. We are interested in how the Government will save the crop of this colony; that is why we are in this Chamber; and that is why I am asking what is the Government's policy. If the Government's policy is to refuse to release the necessary dollars it would be very stupid; because if people who are interested in their own affairs are willing to get this stuff and try it out, why should the Government continue with something expensive that will be a flop? The Government should release dollars in a matter as important as this.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as regards Item 64, propagation and distribution of Ornamental and Useful Plants, you will probably know that there is much activity in trying to upkeep wayside gardens

which play their part in making the island more attractive to tourists.

As regards the Board of Agriculture, it appears to me that this advisory board is of very little value to agriculture in Barbados, and I strongly advocate that the Minister should consider abolishing it; the Director of Agriculture looks upon this Board as a waste of his time. Very little is accomplished, and I am bringing this matter to the Minister's attention because I think he will see the futility of the Head of the Department leaving his work to go to that Board as well as the Clerk who has to attend the meetings.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: With reference to the point raised by the hon. senior member for the City, the present policy of the Government is to encourage the use of insecticides in order to destroy the pest *in situ*; thus (1) reducing damage in the treated field, (2) reducing migration of the pest in large numbers from heavily infested fields to others not infested, (3) protecting the treated field against migration from outside.

At this very time insecticide trials are being conducted to determine the most effective insecticide. The hon. member has made the point that private enterprise has already discovered that this insecticide and possibly another is superior to Agroside. I have been told that from other sources too and I have attempted to convince the experts on that particular point; but not being an expert, it means that these long-winded trials will have to go on. In any case, I will say these trials will soon have to be brought to a close due to the reaping season, because these are ratoon canes. The fields will soon be reaped however, and efforts will be made to determine which insecticide mixture is superior to the rest.

Mr. Chairman, with regards to the point which was raised by the honourable senior member for the City and other honourable members in the past, I would like to say with the greatest humility that I have done my best. Very soon two Agricultural experts will be here. Whether Agroside should not be used at all or whether it should be subsidised or not, or whether peasants will be assisted, or whether it is a waste of time, I would ask honourable members to be patient with this Ministry until such time as greater and further knowledge in the matter is ascertained.

1.05 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Not only do I want to congratulate the Hon. Minister for putting his case so very well, but I wish to say as Minister for Finance that there is not the ghost of a chance of anybody suggesting anything which we would not do. We will of course provide the dollars if it is necessary to import insecticide from the United States. It is the duty of the Government to make the profits in the Sugar Industry as big as possible; and we will release the dollars if that would help.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Premier said that there was not the ghost of a chance of anybody suggesting something which they would not do. I know that applications were made for American insecticide and the applicants were refused the dollars to get this insecticide.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am yet to get an answer to the question which I raised on Item 99. I also pointed out that Notes on Items 107 and 108 were wrong. I do want to know something on the subsidy for pig-breeding. The sum of \$60,000 has been set down for that purpose.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In reply to the point raised by the honourable junior member for St Peter about Co-operative Societies, I would like to say that the Co-operative Societies Act was passed a few years

ago and up to now there are eight registered societies. I appreciate the point raised by the honourable member in that the co-operative movement has not taken root in this island. However, the honourable member will appreciate that for the first time in the history of Barbados a delegate has attended one of the co-operative seminars which has been held this year in January. It was the Secretary of the Shamrock Credit Union who represented Barbados at the seminar held in Jamaica. That in itself goes to prove on the face of it that a more active interest and a more intelligent approach to the co-operative movement in this island is being applied. I appreciate the fact that the movement is not progressing as fast as I would like; and further efforts would be necessary to improve same. At present there is a new society in the course of formation to assist Government employees in being thrifty, and which would be put into operation as soon as the system of collecting has been fully clarified. The tendency in this new thrift society is to throw on Government the burden of taking up the collections by way of a compulsory contribution from the workers of each of the Government departments. The question is, whether the subscriptions should be deducted from the salary of those joining the Society or whether they should pay it generally.

As the hon. member knows, there are co-operative societies which go in for selling canes to factories in bulk for which a better price is obtained. There is one of those societies at Welchman Hall, St. Thomas, and one at Fair View, Christ Church. I hope that information would cover the point. I will read a note on the passing of the Co-operative Societies Act. It made it obligatory on the Department of Science & Agriculture to accept responsibility for the co-operative section in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The audit of the books of the Societies is required by the Act. Special and suitably approved forms and publications for the use and guidance of the co-operative movement are being made available at cost price to the Societies.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister something about the insurance of fishing boats, and what the Government Department is doing about it generally. I have also asked a question about the pig-breeding scheme for which there is a vote of \$60,000. I will make a comment with regard to the answer which the Hon. Minister just gave about Co-operative Societies. I would like to say that Government spends a lot of money in fisheries, therefore, it should utilise that department and that section of workers for co-operatives. There is at present a Permanent Secretary who is a brother of the Fishery Officer; but he knows more about co-operatives than the Fishery Officer, in that he went to Canada; and I feel sure that the Government can make use of such people whom they employ in this respect. A lot of money is spent on the fishermen and you do many things for them; you should therefore encourage them in joining a co-operative movement because it serves an economic purpose.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: With regard to the question of insurance, I would like to tell the hon. junior member for St. Peter that it is at present receiving very active consideration by the Ministry. The whole question about it is to avoid working a hardship on any one individual or any one section of fishermen. We must bear in mind that compulsory insurance really would reduce the premium paid by fishermen; but the question is whether in making it compulsory for fishermen to insure their boats, you will be imposing a burden on those who are not so willing. That question is really what is disturbing our minds at present: the question of whether

it should be a compulsory scheme or voluntary. That is really what is holding us up.
1.15 p.m.

It has all been worked upon; but the final decision as to whether it should be voluntary or otherwise is what is holding us up.

As far as the pig subsidy is concerned, the number of litters is now estimated at 5,000 annually and not 2,000 as had been anticipated. Litters are at present being inspected and the feed is issued as soon as possible after birth. The policy is being reviewed, and the whole question is whether the feed is more beneficially issued at birth or at a later stage. For the first six weeks of the piglet's life it relies on nourishment from its mother; I am told by experts that after that period the piglet can utilise the concentrated animal feed which the Government is assisting the average pig-breeder in getting. However, the point is whether the feed issued after the first six weeks is more beneficial to the public generally in providing more pork for them. In the final analysis, the whole object of the scheme is to provide more pork and cheaper pork for the population generally, and to see that the population is assisted in securing its pork and also that the cost of living is reduced. Unless the scheme actually puts more pork on the market and the position is not as has been happening, the subsidy is wasted; in other words the feed is issued up to a certain period; I repeat it is a question of whether the feed should be issued at the birth of the piglets or after a period of six weeks when the concentrated feed would be utilised by the piglets themselves. That matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

I must tell hon. members that the service at the various Agricultural Stations has been increased and the scheme is continuing. We will need Inspectors separate and distinct from the other Inspectors to do this sort of work, if the scheme is to be carried out successfully. The question of the appointment of Inspectors will soon be dealt with by Resolution of this House; it is only by appointing special Inspectors for this purpose that any proper saving will be effected. We do not want to have unscrupulous people to make any insinuation which they cannot confirm; we want Inspectors to follow up this scheme regularly, since it is a very urgent and pressing one.

It is already clear that the scheme has been given considerable stimulus and the demand for services has been increased by 75% over the third quarter. The sum of \$60,000 will be required for feed, and that amount may prove to be inadequate. Hon. members are already aware of the present basis on which the feed is issued; and there is hardly any point in reporting on that; but as far as my knowledge goes, I have tried to watch these schemes which are productive schemes, and these are the ones which we need to implement as quickly as possible. I regard this scheme as one of the best which the Government has brought down so far; it is a productive scheme which will provide cheap food and the type of food which will give the necessary type of litters which the great masses of the people need. I am hoping that when I come down here with a supplementary Resolution in respect of \$40,000 [MEMBERS: What!] I mean if it happens that the scheme goes on for another year it might require \$60,000 or \$100,000. This scheme is going from strength to strength; I can estimate that the number of piglets in another year will now be 7,000. A scheme like this which puts a man on a better economic footing should always be upheld, and we should try to make a success of it. Such a scheme will receive my assistance

and any assistance which is given by hon. members will be welcomed.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this House is very grateful to the Minister for the information he has just given; there are however, two questions I would like to ask. The first is, in view of the fact that he warns us to envisage an increase in the money we may have to spend on the scheme what policy has he got to prevent a rise in the price of feed; and secondly, at what point does he think the limit will be reached as far as this subsidy is concerned. Will we stop subsidising when we have made sure that we have got seven or eight thousand litters?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, before the Hon. Minister replies, I must thank him for the full information that he gave; but there is a particular point on which I wish to speak. As the last hon. member has said, you must know what are your intentions. If this is a price supporting scheme it is different from a scheme which is purely for the extension of the pig industry; it is just like the American agricultural policy. The American Government supports a policy which ensures that farmers growing wheat will have a price ceiling; but that is different from encouraging people to grow wheat. The Hon. Minister must say if there is a reluctance on the part of people to go in for pig-breeding and if this scheme is a means of encouraging pig-breeding, and therefore when you have reached a certain stage you will have to review the whole situation or you will be subsidising a glut. There will be no point subsidising something that you cannot find use for.

As regards the question of the insurance of the boats and tractors, it is not only a question of the insurance of fishing boats, but the whole question of the insurance by the Government. An active Minister and an active Ministry do not sleep on certain things because there is no aptitude for dealing with such things; I say that although administrators usually like the easiest way out. If they have been insuring before with private companies the attitude will be to go on as you were going on before. I think that the situation should be reviewed.

The Government is insuring a tractor which is at the sea-side; the only thing they have to insure it against is rust. The risk of damage is small because it is not the sort of thing that can easily get damaged. What I object to is going on in perpetuity doing something that does not make sense. As far as fishermen are concerned, I know that that is greatly a matter of politics; and there will still be the thought that those are the people who can put you back in the House. I know that the Minister has a soft spot for the fishermen, and he will be reluctant to do anything which can be regarded as impolitic. What I want to point out is that we are spending quite a lot of money on the fishing industry; and whenever they come for something, we vote funds for them so that we should not be diffident to ask them to pay, even on a co-operative basis for something that is likely to protect themselves and the industry as a whole. If on examination the Minister is satisfied that the terms would not be too high, (and that is why I say on a co-operative basis) you can do something for the fishing industry to bring it out of the present rut. I believe you will be doing something for the benefit of the whole community.

I was not suggesting that insurance for fishermen at this stage should be made compulsory; because the industry is going through transition stage from the ordinary sailing boat to the powered boat; and it may not be a wise thing for the Government to take out insurance on a few boats. The question that I

asked was based on the whole matter of insurance and whether it is not better for the Government to establish a fund so that it could do its own insurance.

It is very refreshing to find that there is a Minister who is willing to give you information and to reply to you in a reasonable manner without insulting you.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have heard what the Minister had to say. As far as the pig industry is concerned, the Department has already misled the Minister; but I hope they will soon become more accurate and get down to letting us know something about the pig industry in the island. We heard at one time about 2,000 litters, and now we hear about 5,000 litters. The main question is if you did not know what was going on before, how do you know that the money which you are spending on this scheme will add 2,000 or even 7,000 litters? As the scheme goes on the Department may even put the figure at ten thousand.

As far as the distribution of feed is concerned, the Minister said that as a layman he had to be guided by the experts. I think that if the Government can assist more with the feeding of the sows when they are in the gestation stage, or even before it would be an excellent thing. I hope that the Minister does not get the idea that this feed is for the young pigs. In any case the owner of the pig will be assisted, because what he saves in buying feed at one time he can spend at another time. So the distribution of feed should not give the Government any great problem.

For a number of years we have been drawing attention when this department has come up in the Estimates, to Item 64, Propagation and distribution of Ornamental and Useful Plants. Before I get on to that, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that the Government should be careful how they take on a team of Inspectors for this Department. This Department has a bad name for having Inspectors for eradication of love vine, for mosaic disease and other things, and dismissing them after they have given 15 or 20 years service. My humble opinion is that if you already have Peasant Agricultural Inspectors and other type of inspectors, you can use Sanitary Inspectors of the area who will go to the pig pens and get the information that you want. I think that this could be arranged with the Parochial Authorities of Barbados; do not give the Department of Science and Agriculture another team of Inspectors for this pig breeding scheme. Suppose the Government starts a sheep breeding scheme, will you have a pig team of Inspectors and a sheep team of Inspectors? It seems to be an idea that you must give this Department whatever it wants. You should try to get more work out of the Department and stop thinking that the only thing you have to do is to feed it with personnel.

1.35 p.m.

They may need some personnel; but do not tell me that in respect of pigs you must bring in a big team to see whether somebody's pig is having piglets twice or three times a year. Give Sanitary Inspectors a little compensation for doing that job, and let them do it; but do not tell me that the scheme is going to be a success by bringing in a team of Inspectors. As soon as you do not want them and you dismiss them, you are going to get a lot of dissatisfaction. I am not committing myself to the bringing in of a team of pig Inspectors; Sanitary Inspectors are there and they have to see whether sties are clean, and certainly they can tell you when these bodies of sows are having pigs.

With regards to the insurance business, I am a little surprised to hear that the Government is so considerate about fishermen; because when Govern-

ment was bringing in third party insurance, it was made compulsory; Government did not mind which car owner could afford to pay for it or not. After all, if a fisherman owns a fishing boat, at least he and his family go out in it, therefore, he should ensure it; not that I do not mean that he should take out his family and drown them and get compensation for them. Other people help a boat owner to make some money, therefore, insurance of fishing boats should be made compulsory; there should be no question of doing it otherwise. The lives of those people who work for others should be our concern. There is many a motor car owner who has gone in for the third party insurance though he may not hurt anybody.

What I would say is, do not let Government take up fishing boat insurance and give away the insurance of other things. Let the Government try it, and take over all the other insurances themselves, so that what Government loses in the roundabout they will get back on the whole. I hope that side of the matter will receive attention.

I have complained for two years consecutively over people going to the Department of Agriculture and cannot get ornamental plants; this is a complaint which I have got from people who have made applications for those plants. The vote for this Item was formerly \$2,000 and it has been reduced to \$1,800. It is true that in one year they only spent \$624 and in another year a little over \$1,000. Let them spend this money on these very useful things. It is the one department which should help people in this respect; at least let the department be useful to people other than Sugar Cane growers, to whom it cannot be of any use in times of a crisis. In view of what I said about these ornamental plants, make it possible to double up on this vote. With all these people who are rearing pigs nowadays it might be just as well to have some ornamental plants in order to balance things. This is a vote which should not be cut down; and there is a long list of people who cannot get these plants.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I can assure the hon. member who has just sat that I will take up this question with the Director of Agriculture in order to see that a number of ornamental plants are made available to the public. At present 10,036 ornamental trees are distributed annually and in addition 3,500 economic trees. I may add that it is the policy of this Government to increase the number of economic trees in particular. When I say that, I refer to coconut trees and other fruit trees such as the breadfruit which is of economic value to the community, especially to the poor classes. In view of that, the Director of Agriculture has been asked to furnish all the necessary details and particulars; and I have some information so far as coconut trees are concerned, although the Director has not yet submitted the full information as to breadfruit, mango, and other fruit trees which we find in the orchards of the wealthy people of this country and at various great houses.

As far as the population is concerned, we know that they buy a lot of fruit which is imported from St. Lucia and other West Indian colonies and they have to pay a high price which they can ill afford to pay for them. We are going to make more fruit trees available and such ornamental trees such as the mahogany or casuarina, but we feel that trees of a more economic value when made available, would reduce the cost of living. Owing to the dearth of the acreage of land in this country, every square foot should be used for some purpose of productivity to feed this ever increasing population.

With regard to the point raised by my colleague with respect to the question of appointing Sanitary

Inspectors, I would like to say that it is receiving active consideration.

1.45 p.m.

I must say that there will be the question of dual control. Owing to the fact that the Sanitary Inspectors are not under the control of the Department of Science and Agriculture but under the control of the Commissioners of Health, we would not know where we might be. There is also the question of the use of the Cotton Inspectors who are employed for five or six months of the year; it might be that the service of these Inspectors could be utilised for this purpose.

Another point which was raised by the hon. senior member for the City was in connection with the number of pigs. The estimate is arrived at by the number of pigs which are slaughtered at the Public Market. One must bear in mind that no scheme to assist the pig-breeder has ever been evolved, and the impact of the scheme is being felt. Bad propaganda is being broken down; that is to say that if you apply to the Government for this subsidy, the Government will take away your pigs. The scheme is now coming into force and the pig-breeders generally are aware of the fact that this scheme is for their assistance; they are now taking advantage of the scheme. Since the scheme has been started thousands of piglets have been born, and people who have not been interested in pig-keeping have gone in for it and the industry is being extended; it is only natural that the industry will be extended; it is hoped that the scheme will reach its climax so that the subsidy may be applied in another direction; but that point has not yet been reached.

A point was raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter and a similar one was raised by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy; that is, that something should always be given by way of an incentive to induce the average pig-breeder to take an interest in pig-breeding so that the industry can be beneficial to him. We want to have a dual aim; that of assisting the pig-breeder and also the public at large. As I have already said, it is a question of the extension of the scheme.

As regards the question of the price of feed, that really falls under the portfolio of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour. However, we are fully aware of the fact that the bulk of this money which is being spent will be going in the pockets of the foreign exporters of the feed. For that reason we are considering the experiment of a local mixture; we have tried a mixture which has not been as successful as we had hoped, but we are trying a mixture with molasses; and the question of providing a local food instead of the imported one is being examined, and we hope that advantage will be taken of it.

Mr. BARROW: I am very glad to say that on the occasions on which the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries is able to attend debates in this Chamber, he takes some trouble to scrutinise the debate and makes comments affecting his department. That is abundantly clear from the lucid answers which the Hon. Minister has given not merely to queries posed by hon. members to-day, but throughout the period during which he has had the good fortune to hold the office which he now holds. I well remember that when some other Minister was deputising for the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, I pointed out that I was entirely in agreement with the idea of subsidising pig-breeders in this country; as a matter of fact the Hon. Minister when he was a back-bencher and myself had asked questions about removing the subsidy off imported pork and spending the money on the local industry. I remember stating that

the scheme as it existed, was more a subsidy of the importers of feed rather than a subsidy of the pig-breeders themselves. I do not want to refer to the reasons which I then advanced, but I think the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is sufficiently seized of my argument in this connection. For the benefit of the Hon. Minister himself I will say that I pointed out that the propensity of pigs to reproduce their species did not depend so much on the amount of balance feed which you give the sows after the litters have been born, but on the normal working of nature.

1.55 p.m.

I also pointed out at that time that I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister, the fact that up to now you have no guarantee that the subsidisation of pig-breeders in this manner will necessarily bring about an increase in the pig population in the island. A statement has been issued to the effect that the scheme is a success; if they mean that people are taking advantage of the magnanimity of the Government in providing them with free feed, feed which they would have had to pay for, in other words they mean that people have not boycotted the scheme but are taking advantage of the freeness so generously provided, the scheme may be said to be a success. But if the purpose of the scheme is to produce a larger number of pigs in the island over say, a five year period, I really find it very difficult to understand how they can say that the scheme is a success when (a) they do not know how many pigs were born in the island after it started; and they do not even know the relative turnover, the number born, the number slaughtered etc.

How can you say that the scheme is a success because people take advantage of something which is given away freely, when the whole object of the scheme is to increase the number of pigs born in the island year after year over a given period, and especially when the Government is not in a position to know the figure of the pig population when the scheme started. Suppose, Mr. Chairman, that 20,000 more pig-breeders get balanced feed free this year; all that it means is that the Government is being called upon to spend another \$90,000. Because more people take advantage of free balanced feed it does not necessarily mean that the number of pigs born will increase; pigs do not wait to see that feed is available before feeling the natural biological urges. If you do not know how many sows there are, you cannot predict how many piglets there will be.

We feel that a more thorough investigation should be made; and a more honest one (I use the word honest in an inoffensive way) made to assess what is the net average increase of pigs in this island, in order to say that over a period of five years there has been such and such an increase in the pig population. Only then can you say that the scheme is or is not a success; because in that way the information on which the failure or success of the scheme can be gauged, would be available both to the members who want to know and to the Department itself.

The Minister is unable to say definitely what is the average net output of pigs per annum from the pig industry of this island, so the only method which he can use now is to make sure that that balanced feed is given to people with the idea of increasing the output of pigs with some vague stipulation as to the period within which an owner can sell a breeding sow. I know that what I am saying can be distorted by people on electioneering platforms, but that is a matter of complete indifference to me. I do not suggest the confiscation of sows, but an owner should be able to give an undertaking if he wants balanced feed

from the Government (not an undertaking by any sanction of law or under any penalty) but an undertaking that breeding sows will be kept for a minimum period before they are slaughtered or until they have produced at least two litters.

I know that in the event it will be difficult to enforce such stipulations vigorously, because pigs are regarded by the peasants of this country and by many other people as a method of saving money. When sickness or any other emergency occurs in a family, people often slaughter their pigs or sell them in order to raise money to meet the emergency that occurred. But during the war time, we had a similar provision and no one made that then the occasion of indulging in any electioneering stunt.

If people are willing to accept free balanced feed from the Government I do not think it would be too much to ask them to keep sows (we are not concerned about the barrows) until they produce a minimum of two litters. Government would not be concerned with the barrows anyhow. [Laughter].

If the Hon. Minister examines what I am saying, he will see the nonsense of saying that the scheme is a success because people are accepting free balanced feed. It would seem to me the same as if you were giving away snow balls for the purpose of (it is difficult to find an apt illustration) but let us say for the purpose of throwing at the Ministers, and 10,000 school children came to get those snow balls. Would it necessarily mean that the snow balls would be used for the purpose of being thrown at the Ministers. And if next year more school children applied for snow balls, (say 20,000 school children applied), would you say that it is a hundred per cent increase in the incidence of snow ball throwing? There is a link missing somewhere. You have distributed snow balls, but unfortunately they may not have been used in the right direction. That is what has really happened with the pig breeding scheme.

By giving away balanced feed you are not necessarily increasing the number of pigs in the island. The greater part of the money is going overseas because the only part of the cost of the feed which inures to the people of this island is the portorage and any taxation that there may be.

2.05 p.m.

Here it is, this Government is exporting money of the country with the intention of increasing the wealth of the people who distribute balanced feed. I am not saying that the idea is not a laudible one, but before you embark on experiments of this kind, you should have all your facts collected and then you should have all your facts collated and then one can see reasonable prospects. If there cannot be 100% certainty, you should see that there is reasonable prospects of your scheme coming to a success.

There is another point on which I would like to make some comment. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would agree to make a statement on the Central Milk Depot Scheme, because we have not heard anything about it for a long time; and certainly we would like to get a clear statement as to its establishment and the decisions reached so far by this Government, if they are not in the realm of official secrets. We would like to know the reason why Government has not been able to embark on this scheme by now. I believe C.D. & W. has agreed to give us subventions towards the cost of setting up of that scheme. I would be glad therefore, if the Hon. Minister would make some kind of statement on it; I would like to know what actually are the possibilities of any kind of development in this country, and the Minister would know of my reason for saying so.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.
Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that.

ADJOURNMENT

The question was put and agreed to.
Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

PRIVILEGE

Re Advocate Newspaper

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has just reported to me that the Committee has reported progress and asked for leave to sit again; but before I formally report I have to make the following pronouncement. I have looked up the necessary colonial precedents for such authority for the execution of the summons to send for the Editor of the *Barbados Advocate*.

I would like to say that I have had consultation with the highest official authority on the matter, and I have been made to understand that this House of Assembly is not possessed with the power to execute that summons.

On a former occasion in the neighbouring Colony of Dominica, the Legislature of that Colony tried to enforce such a summons but they found themselves deprived of such power and were liable to damages of £170.

I may tell the House this: if it intends to enforce the execution of such a motion, they do so with the clear understanding that the Speaker and members of the House may be liable for any damages which may be incurred.

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

2.20 p.m.

On re-assembling,

ESTIMATES—Continued

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment the House was in Committee on the Estimates for the financial year 1955-56.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Since the last occasion when we discussed this pig-breeding scheme, I have had the opportunity of having referred to two or three Reports on the Public Market, and I think that on reading them carefully the Government might have been able to see that the figures of 10,000 pigs slaughtered in the Market was given as representing a small proportion of the number of pigs which were killed in the island because of the fact that they gave the number of butchers operating in the market; and from that total the Government should have been aware of what was happening. I have had these figures drawn to my attention and I think it is only right that the record should have that in it.

Mr. BARROW: I remember asking the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries some time ago when the Government's Experimental Boat "Investigator" would weigh anchor and do some investigating. The facts are that for a considerable part of last year the "Investigator" was tied up against Cavan's Lane and no reason was given for its long period of inactivity quite apart from the

hurricane season and matters of that kind. The "Investigator" did go out towards the later part of last year in the month of December and probably in the early parts of this year; I now understand that the "Investigator" is tied up again. I pointed out to the Hon. Minister at that time that if the boat could be tied up for such long periods, it would pay the Government far better to sign on the crew for particular voyages and not keep them employed as permanent Civil Servants. We have to pay the master of the boat, an engineer and at least two or three hands on the "Investigator." I have had some disheartening reports and I do not know if the Fishery Officer is responsible; but I understand from my fishermen friends that when the "Investigator" is out seine fishing and the fishing boats go anywhere in the vicinity, the "Investigator" immediately pulls in its nets and gives the impression that it is only looking around. I understand that the crew of the "Investigator" were given instructions that they were not to disclose to the fishermen the areas in which it was most likely that they would be able to get good catches. If that is so, then it is a very serious state of affairs; because it would be a complete lack of understanding of the function of the "Investigator." The "Investigator" is to assist the fishing industry and not mislead the fishermen in this island. Any honourable member who takes an interest in the fishing industry of this island would know what I am saying is true. One of the severest critics of this department was the Hon. Minister of Agriculture himself when he was a back bencher; and I feel that he has an interest as to the proper running of this department.

The other matter with regard to the *Investigator* which I want to bring to the Hon. Minister's attention is the fact that this boat does not go around to the fishing villages on the windward side of the island in order to assist the fishermen over there. My suggestion two years ago was that the *Investigator* should spend two or three weeks in each fishing village and take out the fishermen to the particular district in turns, and give them a share of whatever catches they may get. The inner basin is not a fishing port; it is true that in bad weather some fishing boats will go in there; but the *Investigator* is to be of such advantages generally to the island, it would be performing a far more useful function if it were not tied up in Cavan's Lane for a greater part of the year; it should make systematic visits to the several fishing ports of the island and spend some time; the Fishery Officer himself and his staff could spend some time living among the fishing community and getting to know their problems. However, some people regard the *Investigator* as a fishing launch which should only go out when certain officials in the island want to eat fish. The other point which I want to bring to the attention of the Hon. Minister is the question of the "Calvert" fishing boats: I would like to know how many of these boats have been paid for. However, I would not like to make a statement on that question at this stage.

The next question I would like to raise is the question of insurance. Some fishermen have complained to me that whenever they suffer a loss which is covered by insurance, they have been informed that if they claim under the insurance policy the Insurance Company will not be liable for any further claims that might arise during the period covered by the insurance policy. I would like the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries to investigate these complaints; because they are the sort of complaints which are likely to create a

sense of frustration amongst the fishing community of the island and so frustrate the very efforts of the Hon. Minister himself to see that this department functions successfully. I know that the Hon. Minister will not take any enquiries I have made in the wrong spirit because of his professed attitude with regard to the fishing industry of this island. I am glad to see that the *Investigator* was going to have a transmitter and a receiver installed; but I am afraid at the same time of supporting such an innovation for the fishing industry of this island especially now we are getting more powered boats. I really do not understand the Note set out here in respect of Item 108.

3.10 p.m.

If you look at the Notes, you will see that Notes 107 and 108 are transposed. Now what I would like the Minister to explain is what sort of radio sets will be installed at the five agricultural stations; are they for the installation of the Rediffusion Service, or will it be similar to the system which the Police now operate on their 999 circuit? If the first is correct it seems to me an unnecessary luxury. If the second is correct, would it not be cheaper if the Government installed telephones which are more certain in their operations, rather than installing wireless transmitters which have to link up the main department with the five agricultural stations? I do not think that we had any warning that we would get 999 system in the agricultural department; the next thing we will know is that the Mental Hospital will want one, the Department of Highways and Transport, the Public Works Department and every other Government Department will feel that it is essential to have a system of wireless communications connected with its mobile vehicles to the central department.

I do not see any useful purpose in providing wireless communications between one agricultural station and another. We have the telephone as a far more efficient and economic method of achieving the same objective.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I will endeavour to answer the numerous questions raised by the honourable senior member for St. George. In the first place, I agree when he says that the impact of the scheme is not yet felt and that the scheme cannot yet be said to be a success in the sense that benefits are being derived. It can be said to be a success only in the sense that applications to take advantage of the scheme by big-breeders and prospective pig-breeders are being made, and that more feed is being subsidised for a greater number of applicants. Fuller advantage is being taken of the scheme and more applications are being received.

I have taken notes of the points made and the advice given as to how the feed should be distributed. The honourable member raised a point in connection with the central milk depot; I will say that this matter is at present receiving very active consideration but if honourable members will bear with me, I will tell them what is the true situation. The Government is willing to assist the scheme financially. After a prolonged discussion with the Stockbreeders Association and studying their application, we went into the matter very thoroughly since the 4th of September last year. In short we told them that we were willing to put up say 60 percent. if they were willing to put up the other 40 percent. of the money for the Central Milk Depot; I am giving average percentages. After some time a reply came back telling us that the Government should put up the entire amount. If the Stockbreeders Association who are the people that will have to make the depot

a success had any confidence in it themselves, I think the Government would be quite willing to assist and co-operate; but their contention is that the Government must put up the entire amount of the capital expenditure.

The Government however is willing to assist them as a temporary measure by taking over their surplus milk and supplying it to the various institutions and schools. I will read this for the benefit of the House: "The Government is not prepared to undertake the subsidisation of animal feed on a big scale. It would be of a restricted benefit to the livestock industry and the cost would be prohibitive. The Government is prepared to assist the industry in discovering a cheap system of feeding and will give financial help to this end provided that the cost would not be prohibitive."

It goes on to say that Government will not find the full capital resources, but is willing to find 60 per cent if the Association would find the remainder, and in the meanwhile as a temporary measure the Government is willing to purchase any of the surplus for schools.

The position is that the Stockbreeders Association only recently replied and submitted another long memorandum on the benefits of a livestock industry to this community, (which we are already aware of) of having meat available in case of emergency, pen manure, employment, milk and things of that sort.

3.20 p.m.

We are fully aware of the benefits of a Central Milk Depot; and the Government is quite willing to establish it, which in reality is the only answer. We hope that all owners of livestock realise that Government is quite willing to assist, but surely they should have faith in the Government. If you need assistance, you must have confidence in your own application.

Let me also say that a meeting of the stockbreeders took place in September and after many letters from our Ministry, a reply only came to the Ministry in January this year. Again I wish to say that the question of the establishment of a Central Milk Depot has not been forgotten; we all realise that in an agricultural community (especially ours which has a one-crop economy) that the two industries, the livestock and the sugar industry, should go hand in hand. Although I am not an expert, in my view, if the livestock industry were still on a proper footing, in all probability, the mealy bug pest would not be in such great proportions island wide.

I can assure the honourable member that this matter will receive very active consideration, and all concessions will be granted to the Stockbreeders Association. There is a means whereby a savings would be effected from bulk purchase and it would be made available to assist this scheme. Let me tell honourable members that there are numerous schemes which this socialist Government would like to see implemented, but the whole question is that of financing them. Let me repeat that a saving has been effected from bulk purchasing and although it is a secret, it is the intention of this Government to utilise some of that funds to assist in putting this milk scheme on a proper footing; so I can say with assurance that there is hope for the establishment of that scheme.

As far as inter-communication is concerned between the Agricultural Stations, the Government has in mind a rediffusion system because the getting of a regular telephone service has been much more expensive. For the efficient working of these agricul-

tural stations, it is considered that they should be in constant communication with headquarters and it is for that purpose that this vote is asked. The cost of getting a regular telephone was gone into thoroughly; and it was estimated to cost \$1,700 for each telephone to be installed, whereas the estimate for the inter-communication equipment between the six stations is \$3,300.

It can be seen that the proposed method will be more economic than the connection by the regular telephone; the capital cost of installing one telephone being estimated at \$1,700.

With regard to the *Investigator*, I would like to say that the hon. senior member for St. George raised that point on a former occasion; and I must say I really did promise him a statement on the running of it. I have some information here. I would like to say at the outset that the *Investigator* has been in service for six years already and breakdowns are becoming more frequent as well as the running expenses have risen. As regards the point raised as to employing two for the trips, I may say that although that may sound alright in theory, it is not alright in actual practice. Let me say that the crew of the *Investigator* are semi-skilled and when the *Investigator* is tied up, they are either making new nets or working otherwise, even if they are preparing for the other trip. I would also like to say that the *Investigator* would very shortly be carrying out greater research, and therefore would be of great assistance to the fishing industry. At present it is doing a lot of research work at points where the fishing banks are; and as a result, fishermen stand a greater chance at succeeding in their days' work.

I would also like to say that at present there is no direct contact between the *Investigator* and the Fishery Officer. For these communications to take place, they must pass through the Harbour & Shipping Master's office. It is felt with the increased duties of the Fishery Officer and the staff which is far from being large, and especially since they have this new powered boat scheme to look after, that they should have this receiving set at the station of the Fishery Department as it would facilitate things, and the Fishery Officer would be in a better position to guide the movements and to get reports of the *Investigator* while it is at sea; and so that the *Investigator* would be connected directly with the Fishery Department and not by this roundabout way at present, where the information must first pass through the Harbour & Shipping Master's department.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is regrettable that I happened to be late today. However, I believe the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would appreciate what I would like to know. I am dealing with the milk scheme and the Hon. Minister is aware of that. From the remarks made by the Hon. Minister, I hesitate to think that it is a lack of strength on the side of his Ministry that the Government is not willing to start and operate this new scheme. I believe that everybody in the island is aware of the importance of this scheme to the community. What is unfortunate is that for the three or four years that the Government has been playing with the Stock Breeders' Association, I shared a vote of \$200,000 with regard to this scheme; and every once in a while there is the question of meetings and the whole affair is dissolved. Today the Minister has read some letters in this connection, and for that reason I am here on my feet. The Government of Jamaica which is aware of the potentialities of the scheme, made a similar effort in connection with it. Jamaica is ordering four hundred tons of powdered milk and the self-

same idea occurred; and after a period of years they had a sort of shiddy-shaddy, and the position was as the Hon. Minister had said today. However Nestles Ltd., have established a plant in Jamaica and the position is so rigid that the stock-breeders cannot dare to handle pasteurised milk. Jamaica is now producing one hundred and fifty tons in excess of the colony's requirements of 400 tons of powdered milk. There are several schemes which cannot be handled by contractors but the Government seems to be afraid of this scheme. Road Construction. Water Supply and things like that are things which must be handled by the Government, not by private concern. [An Aside]. Is the Hon. Premier now heckling the debate?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The hon. Member mentioned something about water; and I wanted to know if he wanted to apply water to the milk and so adulterate it. [Laughter].

Mr. MILLER: I do not believe that the Hon. Premier has ever had milk, free from water. [Laughter]. As regards the circumstances prevailing in the island at the moment, we have the Klim dairy now in the City which sells the bulk of the milk to the school children. The Government has got to grabble the stock breeders by the horns and start the scheme otherwise nothing will happen. A lot of powdered milk is sold in the country and at a loss to the country; but there is no point in arguing. In another five years the Hon. Minister will be still in the House saying and mooting that the Government is offering 80% of the money instead of 60% which is now being offered, and it is doubtful to believe that the stock breeders will agree to that figure. It is as clear as possible what the position is, and what has been prevailing for the last five years. The stock breeders are hesitant to start this scheme because the Government's only request is that it should function as a co-operative, which will assist the small peasants. I know the Hon. Premier will feel that he will get the scheme working during his term of office. It is not just a question of entering the debate after the Hon. Minister had spoken on two or three occasions; but I think he will founder on the rocks on every occasion in respect of the stock breeders. I should like to say that any scheme will succeed if you can put the know-how and finance in it; I go further and say that any idea or scheme which is hatched in the breast of man will stand development and expansion if you pump sufficient money into it. Milk like matches is something which you must buy; and man is still the only animal that drinks milk because of its nutritional value. It is for this reason that the Government should get to grips with the scheme and arrange their regulations which will pin down the stock breeders to a form of co-operative; they will have to come in line. If you offer 60% of the money they will come back in another five years, and they will tell you that they need money for additional transportation.

I am not asking the Hon. Minister for any reply now; I am simply asking him to hold on to this scheme. I feel that the Government should start this scheme on the original idea and bring it about; I am sure that pasteurised milk would add to the life span of the Hon. Premier.

3.40 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would counsel the Government to go slowly on this pasteurisation plan. For a long time dairy owners have been trying to get the Government to spend money in this direction. I would say that before the Government spends £60,000, (which I am told this scheme will cost) the stock breeders and the dairy owners should show an interest in the setting up of such a plant.

This colony is different from Jamaica where you get a large amount of waste land where cattle are left to develop themselves in large numbers, and where such a production of milk would necessitate the establishment of a pasteurisation plant. In Barbados we see every day few and fewer heads of cattle; and we cannot make use of such a plant without having the necessary milk. To-day only five per cent. of the population know how fresh cows milk taste; we are forced to import processed milk from overseas. Cows' milk in this island is not produced in large enough quantities, and people cannot get it to put into their tea on mornings. There is therefore no necessity to establish a plant of that magnitude.

I am therefore appealing to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture not to press the Government to spend money in this direction. There are only about half dozen dairies in this island that are of any recognised standard, and I am sure that if you set up a plant at the cost of £60,000 you will not find enough dairies to supply it with milk.

There is another point I will like to stress, a point which was raised by the hon. senior member for St. George; I am referring to wireless communications between the agricultural stations. I heard the Minister say that these items are to be used where there is no telephone service. I also noticed that the Telephone Company is now extending their service to areas which want that service. While the hon. member says that the installation of one telephone at one of these stations would cost \$10,000, he must consider the recurrent expenditure which would be involved in maintaining this wireless equipment annually. Even if we paid to instal the telephone service, its use would be greater than any wireless communication system which the Department might set up; because with one of these devices you can only communicate with headquarters, while if you had a telephone service you will be in contact with the whole island. This wireless communication equipment will be definitely useless; if it were something which the Government intended to have in case of a hurricane it would be more reasonable.

It would be better for the Government to wait until the telephone service passes these areas. This wireless equipment is definitely useless; and I believe it is due to some competition which now exists between heads of departments; that is, that when one department gets something another feels that his department is no less a department of Government, and therefore he should be given something too. I will counsel the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to go further into this matter. As a matter of fact, an item such as this deserves to be taken out of the Estimates altogether.

There is another thing I want to stress, and I do not think I can repeat it too often; it is about the pig-breeding scheme. The feed that you are issuing at present does help pig-breeders and they are sorry that it is not more; but you are not going to get the ultimate result which you hope you will get. As I suggested when the scheme first came down, if your aim is to produce more pigs this scheme is not doing that at all, because it does not go further than assisting the existing pig-breeders to continue keeping pigs. If you imported pigs from England and raised them and distributed the piglets to the peasants, I feel that that method would be of greater benefit than the present scheme. You would increase the number of pig-breeders; whereas under the present scheme, you will continue and continue and the amount of pork will not be increased. By

the other method you will encourage more people to keep pigs and more people will become interested in the rearing of pigs, and automatically you will get an increase in pork.

There is a Note here to Item 104 Agricultural Development Schemes, \$6,000. This is nothing new inasmuch as it is only proposed to continue the investigation of the sugar cane root borer. Now the Government seems to think that as long as they pay attention to the sugar industry they are doing all that they can to increase the agricultural development of the colony; and I dare say, the Minister must have read or heard that in other colonies great consideration is being given to making such colonies as self supporting as possible. I will continue to criticise the lack of a proper programme of agricultural development in this colony as long as when I read the Customs reports, I notice that thousands of pounds are spent on imported fruit and vegetables which I am sure this island can produce. While you may think from casual observation that the country is intensively cultivated already, I would like to let the Government know that there are thousands of acres of arable land and rab and gullies which if brought into use, could produce much of the fruit which is imported from St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia and other colonies in the area. In view of that fact that the Government is subsidising the re-forestation scheme by paying so much per tree planted and by exemption from taxation of the areas where these trees are planted, the Government could also subsidise so that they can bring these gullies and this rab land into use.

3.50 p.m.

Some of them have even gone as far as utilising the waterways for the production of sugar. Those gullies I am sure can produce all the limes, citrus fruits, coconuts, mangoes and pears which the population have to buy at a high price, owing to those things being imported from other countries. I hope the Hon. Minister of Agriculture realises that only last year the colony of Trinidad spent two and a half million dollars on intensifying a scheme of food production; and if you want to cut down the high cost of food, the only thing you can do is to make all the land available for planting in fruit trees; and in so doing, you will find employment for a few of the unemployed in this colony. I hope that the Hon. Minister of Lands & Agriculture will consider this suggestion; and I feel that a Committee should be set up by Government comprised of planters and peasants to recommend a proper scheme to Government. It is very necessary; and if you do not consider doing it now, you will have to consider doing it in the future.

I now formerly, Mr. Chairman, move that Item 106 Inter-communication equipment for which the sum of \$3,300 is to be voted be deleted. You will observe that the Note is wrongly numbered.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I will not speak on this question in the tone as the hon. member who has just sat has used, but there is something in what he said. I am wondering if this equipment and batteries would not be a source of serious recurrent expenditure; I think so, and if that is the case, it would be better to wait until the regular telephone service is improved. I do not understand much about it, but I have heard people having to get new batteries and what-not; and sometimes when you want them they are out of supply.

I am not going to second the motion; but I would like to say that I have an amount of sympathy for the point expressed by the hon. member; and I

would really like the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to give this Committee a bit more information on it.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: I too am a bit worried on this Item; but I am not seconding the motion moved by the hon. senior member for St. John. I do hope the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would consider it and make some change; because I think in the parish of St. Philip at the Home Agricultural Station, the regular telephone service would be of vital importance to the staff there in case of trouble; and anybody from the neighbourhood could use it. I do think that the regular telephone service would serve the purpose better. I am in sympathy with the remarks made by the hon. senior member for St. John, and I hope that the Hon. Minister would reconsider this Item and hold it in abeyance for further consideration.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am going to second the motion for the deletion of this Item from the Head. What I think my hon. colleague has in mind is that while communications between the department and headquarters are essential, we may actually kill two birds with one stone by the installation of a proper telephone system. As a matter of fact, it is obvious that to think of such improvements between these stations and the department is sufficiently worthwhile to justify this expenditure because all the officers get travelling allowance; both those at the department and the agricultural station; and the farthest station is still only nine or ten miles from headquarters; so I can conceive of no earthly reason why we should incur this expenditure merely for the sake of communicating between an agricultural station and the central department itself.

The Government might well think of improving communications in the areas generally, and at the same time satisfying its own desire for the departments to be in verbal contact with the management of the stations; and for this reason, sir, I am going to suggest that this scheme be abandoned and the possibility of installing a proper telephone service be investigated.

I also suggest that the telephones to be installed at the stations should have face locks from the paid telephones at the districts where they are to be installed; and the revenue which I am sure would accrue from persons in the area who use these telephones, would go a long way towards the amelioration of the cost of the installations and monthly rental of those telephones.

4.00 p.m.

The nearest telephone is about two miles away and there are telephones which are easily available to the public. You have one at Four Square, one at the Almshouse and at the Crane Hotel; three telephones are accessible to the public in the area. People can apply to Bullens, Sayes Court or Adams; and a recent telephone has been installed at Silver Sands. I know of none which is near to Jerusalem. If the cost of the installation of a telephone for the Government is prohibitive it is even more prohibitive for the average person in the area; and the Government is under obligation to assist in developing the internal communication of all sorts as far as is practicable. Now there is no justification for paying this additional cost and the cost of maintenance; it is not a Police Department, or Hospital, or Health Centre; and nothing could arise of such immediate urgency as between the Department of Science and Agriculture and the agricultural stations as to justify this expenditure. I am therefore completely opposed to the idea contained in the Estimates, and I suggest that the matter should be further re-considered.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before the question is put, I shall endeavour to satisfy hon. members as to this Item. In the first place hon. members may set their minds at rest in so far as the rural amenities are concerned. There is the question of the provision of a telephone for the public at large suggested by the hon. senior member for St. John and other hon. members.

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of explanation. I did not mix this matter of the provision of a telephone at the agricultural station with the necessity of having communal telephones. Communal telephones are necessary; but I feel that you are throwing away money as far as the agricultural stations are concerned.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In answer to the suggestion of money being thrown away at the agricultural station I remind the hon. member that this matter has been carefully investigated. I have quoted the figure of \$1,700. It is not a question of our not knowing how much it would cost; the installation of one telephone at the Home Agricultural Station and probably one more at some other station is \$1,700. There are six agricultural stations and the question is whether we should instal these telephones at some of these stations, or whether we should wait until the telephone installation is cheaper. It is only a question of equipping these stations for the protection of the animals and putting the stations on a high level.

If hon. members argue that we are installing these units for the benefit of these Instructors, I will say that that is not so; this is something to improve the situation and make some extension to the scheme. For that reason I feel that hon. members should support an item which is designed to assist in improving not only the agricultural stations, but to assist the Agricultural Instructors in carrying out their work properly. I am counselling hon. members if they feel that this item is a luxury item, by all means I would not be a party to any such item; but if they feel in their discretion that the installation of this inter-communication between the district agricultural stations and headquarters would be a means whereby better service would be provided and a keener interest taken by the Agricultural Instructors, and that the livestock would be better protected, if hon. members feel that way—How often do you think the Director or the Deputy Director of Agriculture would go to Haggatts to see about any details? Whereas if he has this service, he can keep a weekly record of what is being done.

4.10 p.m.

If we adopted the suggestion of the hon. senior member for St. John, we would have to spend over \$10,000 and then the argument raised would be that we are trying to accommodate Agricultural Instructors with telephones. In this connection we are trying to improve the agricultural extension system. The recurrent cost has been gone into and is not likely to exceed \$300 a year for all the stations. The recurrent cost for the regular telephone service apart from the cost of installation would be \$864, and the capital outlay in the first place would be \$10,000 odd as compared with \$3,300 for the wireless equipment merely providing a service which will accommodate private people who want to ring their friends to talk.

The idea is to improve the service. All the stations will be connected up at the recurrent cost of \$300. I hope hon. members will see the wisdom of allowing this Item to pass. In addition I will say that telephones in country districts will soon be available under the rural amenities scheme.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, if what the Minister has just said is true, can he not see the

stupidity of continuing with this Item? If we are soon to have telephones under the rural amenity scheme, what is the need for this equipment? If the installation of telephones was a remote possibility or unlikely to take place at any time in the near future, there might be some justification for undertaking this expense. If you are going to have telephones installed pretty soon, why worry with this? Apparently the Minister is thinking of television and not telephones; because he seems to think that the Director of Agriculture can remain at Queen's Park and see what is going on at the agricultural stations after this wireless equipment is installed. What can a man in charge of one of these stations tell the Director? That there was two inches of rain last night and that he planted 2,000 cane holes in the morning; and that he is sending him some manure this afternoon? There can be nothing of immediate urgency between a station and the Department to justify the installation of this equipment; and the Minister's admission that we hope in the near future to instal telephones really makes it even more unnecessary to involve ourselves either in the capital cost or the maintenance cost.

With regard to the comparative cost which he gave for this system and the telephone system, is it not better to spend \$10,000 for installation costs with a recurrent cost of \$864 than to spend \$3,000 with the recurrent cost of \$300 merely to allow the Department of Agriculture to talk with the stations when the normal telephone system would enable the entire district to be linked with the entire island? There is a possibility that you will get back some of your investment by making these telephones pay telephones. The Minister seems to think that \$3,000 is nothing; it is \$7,000 less than the real thing would cost. Why pay for something ersatz when you can get the real Mc. Coy?

If we are getting this inter-departmental communication system and we are spending \$3,000 on wireless equipment, it is not much further to go to spend \$10,000. This same Government will be responsible for making rural amenities available. In some districts it will be necessary for the Government to establish public telephones; why not kill two birds with one stone? It is amazing how we can find money to embark on almost unnecessary things; we can find \$200,000 for new Ministerial buildings in Bay Street, and we cannot find \$7,000 for telephones at widely scattered points at which these stations are situated, at the same time making an important thing like a telephone available to the area that it will serve. 4.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that from experience in a rural area, you know what it means in that isolated place to have a telephone which is easily accessible to you; for a long time you have been urging for the installation of a telephone in the Bath sheba area. It would be something to the people who live around Haggatts, Sayes Court, Jerusalem and The Home to have a telephone at those stations where they can go and use if even they are paying for the service. I am sure you will appreciate it; and the Government must realise that while on the one hand they owe it to our agricultural development to bring the agricultural stations up to the highest possible level at the same time they owe it to the people to give them all the amenities possible.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, there is another point which I want to bring to your notice: this equipment will only be used from 8 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the evening. The headquarters of the agricultural department closes at 4 o'clock; therefore you will find that this equipment will become useless, perhaps at a time when

you might prefer to be able to get immediate communications with a particular station. Most important, you should not look at the installation of the regular telephone service in a matter of dollars and cents; you must look at the question of convenience which the public would have, and what the people who are running those agricultural stations would get.

As regards the recurrent expenditure, that will be more by this radio-telephone system. No one knows when this service is in operation what it will really cost to keep it going. You must also take into consideration that the experimental traffic lights at the corner of Roebuck and Palmetto Streets only operate on a two-weeks basis and then they are taken away for repairs; money is spent on them for replacement of batteries and recharging. I am sure that Government will appreciate if we give them the opportunity of at least taking out this Item from the Head so that they can give consideration to a proper telephone system. This is not meant to be an adverse motion on the Ministry or for any embarrassment at all; but we feel it is unnecessary inasmuch as the regular telephone service would be more accommodating and the staff at the stations could telephone whoever they like. I believe that the staff at these agricultural stations are isolated, and the installation of a proper telephone system would give them outside contact to which they are entitled if they want to telephone for a doctor. I hope the Hon. Minister would see the logic in that argument. Certainly, a regular telephone system cannot improve conditions at an agricultural station because an agricultural station has something to do with the production of a better bred calf or the growing of a larger potato or cabbage head. The fact that they have done all of that without communications for so long shows that they can wait until they can get a better service than what is set down here. The Director of Agriculture cannot make checks because he has a tele-communication system; to put in a service for that purpose would be opening the way for the agricultural stations to be run worse than they are now.

Mr. LEWIS: I was hoping to see a reduction in the vote for the travelling allowance for these people; but I see no such thing although a reduction in travelling is possible with a telephone being installed at the agricultural stations. I think that the installation of this service is going to cause the Manager or Superintendent of these stations to sit by the telephone all the time to be ready to answer the Director of Agriculture; whereas, he would be a better agricultural superintendent if he walked around and looked after the station. If I know this travelling allowance as it is, no matter what communications you may install, around the 26th of the month that service will be shut down and they will be running around the stations and claiming that the communications set was of no use because they had to pay personal attention to such and such a thing.

Sir, I have not gone 100 per cent. against the installation of this service, but at present I do not know what to do. The cost of the initial outlay of a regular telephone service is really a great deal in comparison with the radio telephone service you propose to install, as well as the recurrent cost; but the installation of the regular service might be of greater use to the staff at these stations and to more persons in the districts around them, and you will not be able to calculate that benefit in pounds, shillings and pence.

I am wondering whether the Hon. Minister would be willing at this stage to accept a deletion in the wording of the Item and put it down as a token amount towards the installation of a proper telephone

system at these stations, and make another investigation in view of the fact that members of the House have intimated their willingness to have a telephone service which the people around the stations would be able to use; and to say, if this is your view, I will again come back for a further \$7,000 to install that service. Use the \$3,000 which you now have here under this Head for the installation of the service at two stations, and come back for the balance to install a service at the others. Let me repeat, you may develop the sort of agricultural superintendent who will say "I am going to sit down and wait until he calls; I am not going out to look after anything. The last time he wanted me, I was not here." I feel that the Agricultural Superintendent should be a man who has to go around and inspect and advise. He may have occasion to go and look at somebody else's land. That is my idea. In doing so, he may pick up a lot of new ideas from the planters. Sir, I feel that this Committee will be willing to instal a proper telephone service. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: Before the Hon. Minister replies, I would like to add my quota. I entirely agree with the suggestions raised by hon. members; and in view of the co-operative spirit of the Minister concerned, I would not like to vote for the deletion of the Item. What the Committee is suggesting is something not for the embarrassment of the Minister; this Committee wants to go further than the Minister has gone. I want to make my position quite clear. I am advising the Hon. Minister to take the suggestion which was tendered and not to act as some of his colleagues.

As I said in this particular instance nobody is censuring the Hon. Minister of Agriculture; and it would be most unfortunate if the motion of the hon. senior member for St. John were put to the vote. From what I can gather from the feeling of the Committee at present, the hon. member would withdraw his motion if the Hon. Minister would accept this amount as a token vote. A word to the wise is always good; we entirely support the Minister of Agriculture in this matter. [Cheers].

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Nobody who happens to know me in the past would expect that I would be the individual to insist on something which is lesser than the greater. By that I mean that the telephone service is an ideal service but it is only the question of the cost. We felt that instead of doing nothing at all we should do something to assist these employees in their work. Not only the Agricultural Instructors but the people in the vicinity would have the use of the telephones. I will bear in mind what has been suggested by the hon. junior member for the City and I will give an undertaking to all members that if this matter will be accepted, money will be spent and a Resolution will be brought down for an additional amount. If it is the feeling of this Committee that these telephones are necessary I will feel so likewise.

Mr. TUDOR: I am sure that hon. members feel satisfied about what the Hon. Minister has said, but I can also say that they feel somewhat disquieted about some of the things which he has said. One of the five Ministers in this House is in charge of Agriculture and it has been represented to him that there is a strong feeling among our members. All the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has to do is to ask his fellow Ministers if they will accept a suggestion. If a Minister cannot give an assurance here and now as to the Department under his control, that is a very sorry state of affairs indeed. The Premier should look up from his sleep and say "Yes, you can do so and so". I think it must be very embarrassing to the Minister; it is unfortunate that he

cannot make a declaration of Government policy with his colleagues surrounding him; he cannot say "I will do this or I will do that."

The question that the item supposed to be deleted stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. N. G. MAPP, Mrs. BOURNE, Messrs. HOLDER, BRYAN, BARROW, LEWIS, MILLER, F. L. WALCOTT, BRANCKER and VAUGHAN.—14.

Noes: Messrs. CRAWFORD, J. C. MOTTLEY, TUDOR, ALDER, HAYNES, E. K. WALCOTT and GODDARD.—(7).

Mr. LEWIS: I hope the re-numbering of these numbers will take place and that they will correspond with the Items.

The question that the sum of \$564,964 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

4.40 p.m.

Head XXII—Public Library

Head XXII—Public Library was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$6,914 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am referring to Item 17, "Upkeep of Reading and Lecture Room." I will again remind the Government of the necessity for opening the Reading Room at night at least until 10 o'clock. As a matter of fact if my memory serves me, a promise to that effect was made last year. I do not have a copy of the *Official Gazette* before me, but I am fairly certain that when we were discussing this Head last year a promise was made that this matter would be given effect to. The public is clamouring for it. It will assist to a small extent with unemployment because you will have to take on additional Library Staff; and there can be no doubt that the whole community will benefit from the opportunity afforded to go to the Library at night to improve their minds at least six nights a week every week. I would ask, Mr. Chairman—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On a point of Order, Mr. Chairman, I cannot hear what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. BRANCKER: Well Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the fault is in my throat, or in the acoustic properties of this Chamber, or if the Hon. Minister was listening to something that is of far less interest than what I am saying. He should have known, if his memory is as good as it usually is, what I am speaking on. I am speaking about opening the Library six nights a week. I was told last year that the matter was receiving favourable and sympathetic consideration; a year has elapsed and people are still not having that opportunity to improve their minds and enlightening themselves in the Reading Room after working hours.

Even if you leave out the night that this House meets, the other nights of the week are nights when people want to improve their minds. I would be glad if the Hon. Minister will give the Committee a statement of policy on the matter. Having given us a promise last year that the matter would have had favourable consideration, I am asking him now to say that from the beginning of next month the Library Staff will be enlarged so that you can provide this additional benefit to the community.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister might like to answer more than one question at a time. I am thinking of a bigger problem. I would

like to know if in the near future there is any idea of enlarging the entire building of the Library. I cannot remember how long ago it was that I was shown a Plan for putting another storey on that building; and if it is what I think it was, it is a very necessary thing. Perhaps that is one thing that the Government would get money for. I do not know if the Carnegie Institute is still so generous as it used to be, but if an effort is made in this direction I think that we might attract a substantial gift. It is, as I said, a very necessary thing and I hope that it is not because there is a building there already that it has escaped the Government's attention.

The Plan that I was shown was one which was made in the hope that something would be done; but I do not see anything about such a matter in the Capital Estimates. I am therefore asking if there is any plan to get assistance with it. We may not necessarily get assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare Organization, but there may be other educational funds available or some institute may be willing to make the capital available for improving the Carnegie Library in Barbados.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want my remarks to be construed as a possible censure on the administration of the Library; the present Librarian is quite an admirable man, and the Library has been substantially improved since he was there. But I do think that there are a certain number of American publications that the Library should have; publications that are foremost in the world, and I would like to draw that to the attention of the Library Committee. I would not like to know that any false sense of patriotism or adherence to English customs is preventing the acquisition of recent and important American literature. That is all I desire to say, and I would repeat that the Library has been substantially improved.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Hon. Minister of Social Services would consider the opportunity which now arises, (in view of the past tradition of delay in answering questions) that this is a good opportunity to make some statement relating to the establishment of a Branch Library in St. George. It is probably the most literate parish in the whole island, and from there you will find most of the artisans of Barbados who are very keen on advancing themselves educationally. But several of my constituents have spoken to me on the matter, and so have several school teachers. I am wondering whether the Government has any policy on the question of enlarging Library facilities throughout the island. To the best of my knowledge I do not think that the second largest town in the island, which is Speightstown and which has a Branch Library, is as large as the district of Ellerton and the surrounding districts alone and there is not such a large concentration of the population in Speightstown. I therefore see no reason why on the simple basis of the days of the Bristol Rum Trade which made Speightstown our second largest town, we should not face the realities of the moment and realise that other places have become more important as centre of populations since the days of the sailing ship.

I would therefore urge upon the Hon. Minister for Social Services the active consideration of this matter. I am sure that he will find that my faith in his success will be justified by the response with which it will meet from these parishioners.

4.50 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to say that the public generally are in favour of branch libraries and the people are making good

use of them; and the faith of the Government is justified by establishing them. I will add that as time goes on we will establish more.

With respect to the point raised by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy about night reading—[A VOICE: Annually.] It is a very good point. I would say it is under active consideration and it has not been disposed of yet. The question with which we are concerned is that of staff; you will require more staff as well as additional space for a reference section and for a reading room. That will also mean additional lights and additional books. We have just heard the honourable junior member for the City raise the question of extending the Public Library; that really has not been actively considered. Now that he has brought it to light, I will promise him that we will consider it and see how and where it can be expanded with a view to providing space for night reading as has been so often referred to by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy.

The honourable senior member for St. George has asked me some questions. First of all, those questions are on the Order Paper and cannot be discussed until we have received the answers. As regards night reading, what has happened in the country districts is that country libraries open later than the Public Library in town; and therefore they go on until later in the evenings. The Public Library is opened for 43½ hours per week; those in the country are not opened so long.

The question that the sum of \$16,914 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII—Medical (1) Director of Medical Services

Head XXIII—Medical (1) Director of Medical Services—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$59,895 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I see here Item 43, B.C.G. Control Programme, that a sum of \$14,000 is to be voted. I am sorry that this is the manner in which this programme is brought to the attention of the public and that something is about to be started in connection with it. As I have said on many occasions, it is something too important to be tucked away in the Estimates; I say that because we have heard that many things were to happen before this department was willing to start the campaign here. I feel that this is something which should have been given much more publicity instead of putting it in the Estimates like this. So far as the public is concerned, the public expect other things to happen before this can be done. For instance, the Health Centre has something to do with this. However, this programme will be looked after by the Department of Medical Services and anything which has to be looked after by that department always seems to suffer a bad fate. We have had Yellow Fever Mosquito Eradication Programme in progress and I cannot think of anything which could have been bungled more by professional people later amounted to an untruth in the statement that everything was told about this programme, I cannot repeat it too often that even the Head of the Administration was under misapprehension about it; because there was something in his speech which amounted to an untruth in the statement that came to this House. He made the pronouncement that this scheme for the Eradication of the Yellow

Fever-carrying mosquito was well on the way, and yet a little later we were told that it was one of grave dissatisfaction.

I do hope that this B.C.G. Control Programme will be better directed and will be beneficial to the people of Barbados. I am really wondering why some propaganda has not been put out about it yet. I do not think it really needs any vote from this House other than perhaps a total amount to start it so that the public would know when Government is about to start it. I feel that it is a very serious thing that this matter should be tucked away in the Estimates like this.

I am wondering whether the Hon. Minister in charge can tell us now whether they have revised the method relative to the Medical Officers at "Enmore." That is one thing which I would like to know. I would also like to apply himself to a particular matter concerning the General Hospital and the Officers at that institution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The very next Head deals with the General Hospital and the honourable member will have the opportunity then to raise the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: However, Sir, I hope the Hon. Minister will give us some indication as to how soon this B.C.G. Control Programme will be started. I am interested in how soon it will start; and why nothing has been known about it until now that we see this Note tucked away in the Estimates.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The honourable junior member for the City spoke about publicity in connection with this B.C.G. Control Programme. Well sir, the position is that when the scheme is ready to be started, publicity will be given to it then. We have tried to get a local doctor or any local doctor interested, to undertake this campaign so that we could send him away for training, but nobody locally was interested; and we are now making efforts overseas which I believe will be successful. I believe it was just a matter of the figures which we will have to pay in order to get the doctor who is carrying on a similar campaign in the neighbouring colonies to come here. Of course he will have to be seconded; that is the position as it stands now.

We believe that we will be successful and it is only a question of figures before we can agree. However, I will promise the hon. member and the Committee generally that when it is all settled and the campaign is about to begin, I will see that the full publicity is given to it.

5.00 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: I did not notice from the Item above that one has been increased by \$10,000. Are we getting back some of this money? I am not saying that it is too much to get rid of the Yellow Fever Mosquito; last year we had \$1,200 in the Estimates and now the amount has gone up to nearly \$12,000. I got the impression that a part of this campaign would have been assisted from the same source, but it seems to me as if the staff will be increased. I did not see any note saying that this is a part of the expenditure which will be recovered; this campaign has now got into full swing and I expected that we would have been getting back some of this money. It seems to me that this campaign assumed proportions which the Director of Medical Services did not anticipate. A great number of difficulties have arisen and they want us to compel people to do all sorts of things, whereas if the people were properly educated that this campaign was going to start—my colleague has already drawn attention to the fact that a certain amount of work would have to be done before the

campaign was started. I want to say that in spite of some things we are getting free, this is still a large amount of money.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: In the beginning this spraying was done by vehicle; it was done by a light machine and it did not entail so much labour as this residual spraying where a bigger and heavier machine was used; therefore this calls for more assistance. The biggest amount is in respect of transport, subsistence allowance and so on. It is a part of the Agreement that from time to time their experts will pay periodical visits so that they will see how the work is going on. When they do come here we have to pay their subsistence allowance and transportation within the island. We are responsible when these experts are here for their subsistence allowance plus their transport as I have already stated. That forms the major part of this amount we have today. The hon. member says that he hopes we will be getting back something, but I do not think we will be getting back anything.

Mr. GODDARD: Under this Item 42 I think that if proper value is to be derived from this scheme, work would have to be carried out in more than one district at a time. We have spent money on this scheme and I do not know that it will be completed within two years since there is still a large portion of the country to be covered. When this scheme started in the beginning, if they had used more than one crew and had had greater staff trained, we would have eradicated this mosquito more successfully than what is being done now. I do hope that when the scheme is started there will be much more preparation in the beginning than we had in the campaign for the eradication of the Yellow Fever Mosquito.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: One of the reasons why this scheme is not being conducted any faster is because of the objection raised by some people. We have had objections recently from people in the Christ Church area who wanted to now if when their property was damaged who will pay for it; and the kind of sprayers used and so on. Every now and then that happens; people say they want an answer and Inspectors have to go to other houses and come back; that accounts for the slow progress of the campaign. We have had to get the expression of the people in the neighbouring island who had this residual spraying done and had to find out if there is any likelihood of any articles being damaged. There are three kinds of fluid used and they vary with the type of wash on walls and so on. We had to get the experience of other people before we could convince our people that no harm will be done to their furniture. It all depends on what confidence people have in the things that are told.

When the hon. member talks about slow progress it is in the Christ Church area especially that this effort is being made.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: A matter like this makes me remember reading a book by Harold J. Laski. The Government is allowing people supposedly in authority to make them gear their policy to suit those people. If these people in Christ Church were ordinary poor people living in 8 x 10 houses you would spray the insecticide in their coal pots and all about; but because they are big people and their furniture and walls are getting soiled, the campaign is going slow. It is going slow because some people are afraid to tell these people that the furniture and walls do not mean more than the health of the community as a whole.

The Government has medical officers; make them do some work; make them explain this campaign so that the people will understand it and realise that

even if their furniture is soiled, health come before furniture. I have heard lectures by Dr. Byer who is most excellent man. I do not know how long the Government will keep him because he is a human being, as the honourable senior member for the City would say. He is the man who can sell Public Health ideas to the people. I am sure that after the lecture which he gave to the workers, no worker would be against having his house sprayed even if it means a slight damage to his furniture. He should direct your campaign throughout the island assisted by Visual Aids etc., and explain the campaign to the people. People have been hearing about mosquitoes for so long that they feel they need not worry about mosquitoes now; that is the attitude of the innocent and the ignorant.

Of course I think that the best way of demonstrating to those people who do not want their furniture soiled is to get a couple of these Yellow Fever mosquitoes and drop on them. The Government should give the campaign a good start. Before the Malaria epidemic, every one said there was no malaria. If someone big gets the Yellow Fever and dies then you will hear the cry; you will hear, "Have you heard that Mr. So and So. has died of Yellow Fever? The plague is upon us!" If the Government carries a campaign through Christ Church I am sure the hon. senior member for Christ Church would assist with it just as he assisted with the cane fire campaign. That campaign has produced good results because you did not have as many fires last year, or up to now in this year, as you had the previous years. Talk to the people and you will be doing something.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The Government is not afraid of big people or of any people. Last week or the week before, Regulations which would cover these things were laid before the Legislature. We had to tighten up on the Regulations in order to carry this campaign through. We have brought the Regulations to the attention of the House and members will see that the Government is taking this campaign seriously. It would be surprising to know that these hindrances to the campaign do not come from small people, but from people who ought to know better. There is one very well known and popular doctor in this island who raised a protest against the spraying of his house; you would not think that a man of his profession would raise the objection as to what was going to happen to his carpets. So we had to tighten up on the Regulations and they will give us authority to carry this campaign through. We will try to coax people first and to show them when they are wrong; but in the last resort, if we have to invoke the Regulation we will do it.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, no coaxing has been done. The Director of Medical Services has not stepped out of his office. As a matter of fact, he left the island on leave very soon after the campaign started although we hear that a Civil Servant is to be a slave and is not even entitled to draw his salary. Immediately after the campaign started the Director went on leave. Perhaps it might have been difficult for him to postpone his leave for sometime; but I do not think that that is so. The framing of Regulations threatening people with jail is taking the line of least resistance. You just make it so that you can send the police for someone; but you do not move out of your office seat. Regulations are being brought down as the result of the experience of Trinidad and British Guiana; they had the campaign going long before we did. The method of educating people that this campaign is good for them has never been followed here.

Every now and again the Government imports some big doctor and gives a name like Director,

Superintendent etc., and they sit in their offices and refuse to come out and do anything. The hon. member has referred to the cane fire campaigns in which members of the House participated. We have to educate the people. Tell them that spraying their water barrels does not kill them. No educational campaign was ever started. The Director of Medical Services left for England and when he was on the boat Yellow Fever broke out in Trinidad. If it breaks out while he is here he can pick himself up and leave for somewhere else.
5.20 p.m.

He would not even go and look around the Seawell Airport until he was told so by me. That is the place he should go. It is the first place where they might land. However, I am glad to say before that month was out he had a big campaign going on around Seawell area. I know what I would have suffered if my children, my family and myself had caught the disease. I know he is not going to catch it; he will run away quickly or at least he will send his family out while he stays.

Long before we knew that anything had broken out in Trinidad it turned out that we had Yellow Fever next door to us. The people in British Guiana were saying that the Yellow Fever Mosquito was being brought there every time a schooner left this colony for that country. There is a lukewarmness and complacency in his attitude. I suppose he would arrest somebody himself and take the person to gaol for breaking these Regulations. All that was laid before them. I say, get the campaign started; let the people know something about it. I believe that my colleague and the Chairman of the St. Michael's Sanitary Inspectors were responsible for getting the first officer that came here about it to tell the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Michael something of what was going to be done. I would like to see this campaign carried on without any break. I claim that the people are reasonable and are willing to assist you.

Mr. BARROW: I am not at all surprised that the person whom we have in charge of that department which we are discussing has run it in this manner; because when the present holder of that office was appointed, he was not appointed so much for his scholastic achievements and the qualifications he had for doing the job, as much as for the fact that he was more socially desirable than the present holder of a similar office in the neighbouring colony of Trinidad. If you start off with a false premise like that, it must stand to reason that the whole medical profession in this colony must break down and be carried on in the manner in which we are unfortunately experiencing. If members of the public in Barbados know that, I think they will be prepared to forgive the Hon. Minister of Social Services for a lot of the criticisms which is so unfairly levelled at his head. Having heard that point, the Hon. Minister of Social Services should know that as soon as you are coming for \$14,000 to support the B.C.G. Control Programme with specific allocations for a chauffeur to drive the Medical Officer around, if he can get down to all those fine details, surely he could have got down to the detail of the preliminary campaign to educate members of the public as to the functioning of the B.C.G. Control Programme and the value of such a campaign to the community.

Apart from the Hon. Minister of Social Services, I do not think one of his colleagues knows anything of the term B.C.G.; and yet they are the people who are supposed to lay down the policy of the Government and to have collective responsibility. If they knew, I am sure the Hon. Minister of Communications would have been shouting it out before because that is his nature and disposition. Not one of them knows the meaning of the term B.C.G.; and if that is so, how much less would some poor benighted subject

of Boscobel know. With all due deference to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew (I am not using the definition as a term of approbrium; I could have used Sugar Hill instead). Mr. Chairman, how does anybody know that the term B.C.G. has anything to do with Tuberculosis. I doubt whether any hon. member can tell off hand what is the incidence of that disease; because there is no machinery for the collation of statistics on that from the other important diseases in this colony; and therefore, your initial vote should have been for your propaganda campaign so as to let people know what is the whole object of the B.C.G. Control Programme.

I entirely agree with the observations of the hon. junior member for the City on that score. What he has said about the Yellow Fever mosquito being carried from here to British Guiana is quite correct, and if the Director of Medical Services wants to perform a useful function, he can stop at his office at the Wharf and make sure that every schooner leaving the island is treated with insecticide for the Eradication of *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito before it leaves these shores. They should control the schooners which come into the island and leave by spraying them with the insecticide to eradicate this mosquito.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it is only last year when this House was discussing Regulations that the responsibility of cleaning the Wharf, at least that part of the Wharf which is constructed by masonry, came up for consideration, and it will surprise you to know that for the first time the Commissioner of Health was given something like \$425 by the Central Government for cleaning wharves. Before that time nobody knew whose job it was to clean that part of the Wharf to get rid of all the muck which you see down there. That cleaning is now in the hands of the Medical Department. Social desirability has nothing to do with public health; and as soon as the Director of Medical Services realises that it will be better for the public of Barbados.

The situation up to that time was that the wharves were in a deplorable state, and the wharves in Barbados are very important in the same way as the Airport is important; and that is a point for the spreading of any kind of disease in the island. Under Item 39 I hope that provision will be made not only for people who have suffered with operations for cataract but also for persons in the community who need glasses; and those who are unable to purchase them for themselves would be able to get them without unnecessarily having to wait until their eyesight deteriorates to such a position that they need an operation. We all know that prevention is better than cure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chairman, subject to the right of the Hon. Minister of Social Services, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the committee to sit again.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: At this stage, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

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

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

WAGES COUNCILS BILL RETURNED

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Other Place returning the Bill intituled an Act to

provide for the establishment of Wages Councils with amendments which are written on the Bill.

Mr. LEWIS: I am wondering if Your Honour would accept a suggestion from me. When a Bill is returned from the Other Place hon. members do not see it; and some indication should be given as to the extent of the amendments so as to determine if these amendments should be printed and circulated. If there are numerous amendments [Mr. SPEAKER: They are numerous.] they should be printed and circulated.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Unless the Government asks to deal with these amendments forthwith they are printed and circulated.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not know if any hon. member of this House knows what the amendments are; if hon. members know what the amendments are, or if there is only one amendment we could proceed with it now.

Mr. BARROW: Further to what the hon. junior member for the City had said, all he is asking is that Your Honour should give some indication as to the number of amendments which has been sent back here. There is a very good reason for this as Your Honour is aware, and we should now appoint some future day for these amendments to be dealt with unless the House indicates that it will deal with them forthwith. It is a rule that a time should be appointed for the House to deal with a Bill that is amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Bill contains several amendments and new paragraphs are being suggested. The usual practice is to have the Bill printed and circulated with the amendments; it would not be convenient to deal with these amendments to-day.

ESTIMATES RESUMED

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment, the House was in Committee on the Estimates.

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

Head XXIII—(1) Continued

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee Head XXIII (1) was being considered.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Quite a lot has been said on Item 42 and I believe that the Government has taken heed of some of the observations which have been made; but I do not think much harm can be done if I were to reiterate or strengthen the arguments of my colleague in respect of the eradication of the Yellow Fever Mosquito. Last year when we were dealing with the Estimates, because of my position, I was able to draw the attention of the Government to the loop hole which existed in carrying out the scheme. As I said, the Hon. Minister of Social Services did offer a measure of co-operation in the matter and made personal investigation. I think it is safe to say now that the position has got somewhat better, but I am bound to agree with the previous speakers; and I regret very much the half-hearted way in which this matter is being done. It is not good enough. It is unfortunate that you have people who because they are qualified in a particular line become so pig-headed that they do not want to listen to advice. It is not good enough for anybody to sit in a wheel-chair when dealing with this matter of Public Health. When I suggested that lectures should be given I was told that World Health Organisation was dealing with this matter. As my colleague has pointed out we are spending a lot more money in this scheme; we have to pay the expenses of the W.H.O. and I will say that money which is spent on the eradication of mosquitoes or doing anything in the interest of Public Health, is money which is well spent; but for a department to sit down and do very little or nothing at all to try and assist in this matter is not good enough. This

mosquito is the type of mosquito which lives inside the house; I quite agree that you should not allow just a few people to say that they will not co-operate in the eradication of this mosquito by allowing Inspectors to go into their houses and so on; I am surprised that one or two people should say so. 6.20 p.m.

I think that something should be done to prevent the people who are in charge of Public Health from sitting in their offices all day and doing nothing. With the greatest respect, that refers even to the Minister of Social Services. When I suggested it to him, he did come out in the field and see what was happening and I think he gave a talk. The Director of Medical Services is not the Director of Medical Services of St. Michael, but of Barbados.

If you are eradicating the mosquito what is the point of starting to eradicate it in one section and when you run it from one section, it goes to another? Let the Director of Medical Services carry out a real campaign. What is the good of sitting down and saying that someone has refused to allow to spray his house and that you are getting no co-operation? How can you get co-operation if you do not get it as a result of instructions from those persons who are learned in Public Health? Are we to vote this money to get a labourer to walk up to someone's house and say, "My lady, it is alright. Nothing will go wrong." I think it is pure laziness; I think it is shocking to have to spend all of this money and still to find that the people do not know what it is all about. At one time we asked that the Education Department assist with films; nothing has been done.

I think it is time that the Minister of Social Services say to the Director of Medical Services or to the Chief Health Officer or whoever it is that it is not good enough to just sit down in their offices and say to send Regulations to the House. It is not good enough to pass Regulations to prosecute people because they will not allow you to spray their houses, when you have not educated them as to the meaning of the campaign. If you are seeking co-operation in this big health programme, the first thing you should do is to take every possible means of disseminating knowledge to people and to let them know something of what you are doing. This campaign started a year ago, and I said then that there was no co-operation offered by the Government, and when the W.H.O. Medical Officer came here in that connection, although he did not actually say so, you could see how he felt when he observed that Barbados was the only place to which he had gone and got such a reception. It was nothing to the Press that the Director of Medical Services was out of the island.

When a layman makes a suggestion doctors usually sneer.

I speak with some authority when I say that more has been done for Public Health by laymen than by all the doctors in the world. They may smile and they may laugh, but I say that if you were to educate the people along these lines you would eliminate a lot of this expenditure. All that they are really using is concentrated D.D.T. and kerosene oil. Let the Minister deny that. In addition to that there are people who would be willing to carry out their own spraying. Years ago, Mr. John Beckles started Health Week. When he started Health Week in this island some doctors sneered and laughed; they said every week should be a Health Week. Mr. Beckles was a layman; he was not a University man, but today they are doing the same thing that he did by asking people to get rid of old pots and pans and coconut shells that can hold stagnant water. No one will laugh at that because it is the World Health

Organisation carrying out a campaign to eradicate the Yellow Fever mosquito.

I do not look at the Director of Medical Services as the beginning and end of all things; he will go but Barbados will remain. It is the Government's duty to see that things are done. If they are not done let the Director go. As I have said there are people who are willing to spray their own houses with this concentrated D.D.T. and kerosene oil. Start the campaign with certain sections of the community who are willing to do it. It is no use having a fancy name and a big staff and doing nothing.

Last year when I mentioned certain things the Government got interested and they changed their programme somewhat by adopting some of the suggestions made by those outside the phase of Government, by getting labouring staff and going ahead and getting some work done. It was rather amusing to see at the beginning of this campaign the Government vigorously opposing the idea of having labouring staff, and later on to see them sending back asking for labouring staff, when, just out of sheer wickedness and ignorance they refused to do it at first.

The Government must take responsibility for everything that its departments do. I have already discussed these things with the Minister of Health and he did press upon the Government the necessity for a labouring staff. So much for Item 42.

I now come to Item 43. If there is one thing that is engaging the attention of people in this island to-day it is the rampant spread of Tuberculosis or Consumption. We see in these Estimates, Item 43, B.C.G. Control Programme. Ask some of the members of the Government what that means and they do not know; they think you are talking about hot-dogs. I am not just saying that because I can say it. I hope that the B.C.G. Control Programme will not be carried on in the same manner as the Yellow Fever campaign. We are to spend \$14,000 on the B.C.G. Campaign. As far as I am concerned that could be \$140,000. What is the Director of Medical Services, his assistant or any of the Government officers, with the exception of Dr. Byer doing? Are we going to vote this money and then be told that everyone should know what it means? This question of T.B. is a big question. No one wants to advertise that in Barbados T.B. is rampant; but everyone of us owes a duty to his family to protect them. If we have an officer in our midst who puts up a blind scheme or a scheme which shows that he is not actually interested in our welfare, it is time to remove him. The Minister of Health so far has shown great interest, and has made an effort to co-operate with the local authorities in this campaign.

6.30 p.m.

Quite recently it has been drawn to the Minister's attention that the very Medical Superintendent which you now have, was brought here to relieve the Hospital. This is commonsense, Mr. Chairman; you do not need to have any knowledge of Tuberculosis to know this. Not only are they in a ward in the General Hospital but they are being scattered among the other people who are sick at the Hospital. Is that not a shame? [VOICES: Shame! Shame!] Let us say that is correct and it is fair; would either one of the Ministers like to have his sister, daughter or mother in Hospital lying next to somebody suffering with Tuberculosis? I would not like it; therefore, I would not like it for somebody else. Of course, the Government is really trying to do something. I told the Minister of Health of the two views expressed by medical practitioners. The Government took the advice of the Director of Medical Services in that one of the means of assisting persons suffering with Tuberculosis (which is not in accordance with the view

of the humble layman from the commonsense point of view of Barbados) would be the outdoor treatment. The man who recommends outdoor treatment for Tuberculosis patients in Barbados is absolutely a murderer; and members of the Government who agree with it are also murderers. Certainly you can isolate your children, but outdoor treatment in a 12 x 8 house should not be done. The man that recommended that is a murderer; and the members of the Government who back him up with that are also murderers. It should not be allowed for persons who are suffering with Tuberculosis to lie in beds side by side with people who are sick otherwise. Tuberculosis is a wind borne disease; it is a disease which you inhale. I am saying that due to the economic conditions of the people in this country where the standard of living is so low, (and if you look up your statistics you will see that these cases are drawn from the poor classes, where 99.9% of the cases cannot be properly isolated, that is fathers from children, children from mothers and mothers from the children) outdoor treatment should not be recommended.

You have a campaign of lecturing to the people; you are having lantern slides showing the danger of overcrowded homes; but you are coming in here for \$14,000 which I consider is a wicked waste of money to start this programme; and people who are in authority and should know better are telling people that Tuberculosis is not the only disease which kills people. What else are you but a murderer? You are the same murderer as one charged before the Chief Justice for murder, when you get up publicly and say Tuberculosis is not the only disease which is killing them. Mr. Chairman, I am sometimes amused at this type of person whom you are keeping in your midst.

You must agree that the idea of an expensive type of Sanatorium is out of the question. And why? Because scientific research has shown that you have gone so far with drugs within the last ten years as to make a large Sanatorium for the treatment of this disease out of date. You are now using different drugs for the control of this disease; they are not a complete cure, but those of us who are really interested in the people of Barbados are asking you to make provision for the isolation of those found suffering from T.B. and who live in a 12 X 8 house.

Mr. Chairman, how can you save a man's children if when he is suffering, you treat him and tell him to go back home, and he lives in a 12 X 8 house with his children. You are bound to find that every morning a child and the mother will be affected. You should send him to some place where he could be isolated from his family. I have had this experience already; I have found where a medical man failed to come out of his house and to convince him that by so doing he would save his family from that affliction. I say again, when you get a man telling you that this is not the only disease which is killing you he is a murderer; and if you are going along with him you are assisting in murdering the people. What can be more pathetic than to find a man afflicted with T.B., you treat him outside, he lives in a house 12 X 8 with eight people in the house and you keep him in the Hospital for six months and then send him home. Everybody in that house was free of that disease when you tested him six months ago, but as soon as you send him home two of his children are affected. What is more, one of those children is drinking milk at Bay Street School along with the other children. What are you but murderers when you do that. I say again, I would not like that for my children; therefore, I would not like it for the children of the man in the street. The Director of Medical

Services has the temerity to say that a man should be treated as an out patient.
6.40 p.m.

Put up your building for God's sake; build some where to isolate them too. I realise that this tremendous idea of the erecting a Sanatorium is out of the question today. The treatment is so revolutionised today that you do not want to have an expensive Sanatorium. What I am asking for is a place of proper isolation which is not a Sanatorium. You have not got accommodation for isolation at the General Hospital and you are asking other people to take these cases. When I argued that it was not fair to carry these people in the Hospital, you said that it was all right to put them in the ward there; but is it fair to put them in the same ward with a woman who has just had a baby? [Laughter]. Don't mind that laughing hyena over there; some people by the grace of God have moved away from the position in which they once were. I will say that to those over there on a platform or anywhere else, because I have always had the courage to work for my living. However in these Estimates you have a sum of \$14,000 for the control of Tuberculosis; it is a serious thing; but you must first educate people as to why you are doing it. Ask some of them over there what this money is for and they do not know. I have sympathy for the Hon. Minister of Social Services in this matter because he has been practising too long in this country; but if you want moral courage and moral support to tell the Director of Medical Services what you want to tell him, you have it in here. Do you know people have expressed the fact of hearing that a man was living in Barbados for over a year—if you are interested in conditions, will you talk about treating Tuberculosis patients considering that we have a strong cure, and send them back home in a 12 x 8 house with several people living in it? I do hope that under this Item for \$14,000 we will hear that every doctor, every health visitor, and every Parochial Medical Officer is pressed into service; and there is no reason why private practitioners should not be pressed into service too. Some people believe in some doctors and therefore you should press every doctor in this island to tell people what this whole campaign is about, but not for people to be sent back home in the same house with eight and nine people living in the house. I say that you are assisting in murdering people when you send a person back there. After all, when you have people in the Hospital for operation, their condition is down and they will be infected with this disease. This amount of \$14,000 is not enough; how do you think other people will feel? You are erecting palatial buildings but for God's sake get some place where these people can be isolated. I have said that they are 54 cases in St. Michael's Infirmary; and there is also the question of the homes from which they came. This disease can be spread quite easily because there is no isolation. I am asking that instead of erecting these palatial buildings, build a place for the isolation of these cases. Instead of spending \$24,000 in erecting a doctor's house I would rather you spend this money on this matter of isolating people. I have made a special study of this matter; it is a pet subject of mine; it is one of those things which long before I came here I have been studying, and the Hon. Minister of Social Services has always given me support; and now that he is a Minister he will support us in the matter. I feel that this matter is of paramount importance, a matter in which the Government should act and act quickly.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Apparently the Hon. Minister has no intention of replying to this matter. With

regard this \$14,000 in connection with this B.C.G. Campaign I am waiting to hear exactly what it entails. I can remember that for two or three years I pressed on the Government to start this Campaign here, and on each occasion I was told by the Hon. Minister of Social Services that under the conditions under which the W.H.O. is operating we could not have this campaign started unless we had a Sanatorium; therefore I am at a loss to hear that we are spending this \$14,000 without having a Sanatorium and that every cent of this \$14,000 would be spent on purely administrative work; according to the explanatory note this money will be spent in this manner.

6.50 p.m.

We see in the Note \$10,224 for provision for Medical Staff, Office Staff and Chauffeur; \$1,200 for subsistence to W.H.O. adviser; \$825 for Maintenance of Vehicle, \$750 for Office Rent, etc. The money we are voting is to cover the cost of the administration of the programme. One can assume of course that the entire cost of the programme itself in so far as actual medical examination and treatment is concerned is to be borne by the W.H.O., but in any case we are anxious to know how it has become possible to have this programme at all when we have nothing like a T.B. Sanatorium which we were told at first was indispensable if W.H.O. were to start such a campaign.

The burden of the complaint of the honourable senior member for the City is that the Medical Superintendent is to blame for the conditions affecting T.B. The honourable member has forgotten that today we have Ministerial Status, and that any policy carried out by any department including the Medical Department must have the full and absolute sanction of the Minister in charge. The other day there was a case in Trinidad where the Medical Superintendent of the Leper Hospital permitted patients from the Hospital to roam the streets of Trinidad during the Christmas holidays; we all know the immediate reaction on the part of Trinidad's Minister of Health, and how the Medical Superintendent was suspended from duty. We also know that final action was taken to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Dr. Cocos was recalled. I wonder if it will ever be possible to see anything like that in Barbados; if any Minister under the present Government would have either had the courage or ability to say to the Medical Superintendent that what he is doing is endangering the health of the community, especially if the officer is an Englishman. He could have allowed lepers to roam the entire island of Barbados and infect every other person.

Therefore, when the honourable senior member for the City persists in singing the same theme song that the Medical Superintendent is a murderer, he must bear in mind that the Government which permits him to maintain that policy is even more a murderer than the officer himself. They have sat there for the last three to five years saying that we do not have the money to put up a T.B. Sanatorium, but they could waste a lot of money on frivolous Coronation celebrations. Which is more important, a T.B. Sanatorium or Ministerial Buildings?

I am really anxious to discover how comes it that W.H.O. can permit such a fundamental change in their general policy, by permitting a programme of B.C.G. to be operated in the colony which up to now has not got the slightest beginning of a T.B. Sanatorium and which up to the present shows no signs of intending to have one. I am waiting to see what type of programme we will get here; and

whether it will be the same effective type of programme that Trinidad, Jamaica and other British West Indian colonies had, or whether we will get some sort of make-shift programme in the absence of a Sanatorium, a programme that will be of very little use to the island.

It is high time that we had a programme in view of the increasing incidence of T.B.; but certainly if it is felt on the one hand that the time has come to start a B.C.G. Control Programme, how can it be felt on the other hand that the time is not yet ripe, with such a large number of T.B. sufferers, to start some sort of Hospital or Sanatorium where they can be isolated from the rest of the community and receive the treatment to which they are entitled? Only a very few can afford to go to Jamaica where there is a well-known Sanatorium, or to Trinidad where there is another. Only those few can expect to get the treatment necessary. A colony which can afford to do so many things which are nothing but a waste of the surplus money in the Treasury should be able to vote a sum for the reduction of this disease and for the treatment of people who suffer from it in this colony.

7.00 p.m.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: As regards the campaign for the eradication of the Yellow Fever mosquito, much has been said, not only that they should have an organised campaign but that it should be conducted along similar lines to the malaria campaign which we had many years ago. It is not much use having a piece-meal campaign to eradicate mosquitoes. The first person to tell us that should be the Minister of Social Services himself; because he would be only driving the mosquitoes from place to place, and they will just go and come back. I would be glad if the Minister would tell us how a piece-meal programme dealing with parish after parish and district after district could possibly eradicate anything except money.

The honourable member knows full well that we have tackled malaria and were one of the few places that got rid of it after we got it. What we did was to concentrate week after week on the parochial authorities of the various parishes along with their supervisors, and saw to it that the spraying was done well. The campaign was carried out in every quarter, in every house, and in every place and over the same period; otherwise there would have been absolutely no hope. What you are doing now is driving them from the Mental Hospital up to Bank Hall. I am almost certain that where they have sprayed already that the mosquitoes are there again. Where is your organisation for carrying out this campaign? You cannot have enthusiasm if you have only a small organisation dealing with it, and without the propaganda to put over to the people that they should work at the same time to eradicate the evil which may strike down anyone of us. Not that I am afraid of an outbreak of Yellow Fever here, because I have been given to understand by a person in Trinidad that what took place there was largely a scare. That was mere propaganda to get the people enthused to get rid of the mosquito that caused Yellow Fever. At any rate, I do not think that we are in much danger of being attacked by the Yellow Fever mosquito although the mosquito is here.

Sir, I know what they are doing to eradicate the Yellow Fever mosquito here now is a waste of good money; and it is of no use to bring in Regulations to say that you must see that you drain pipes particularly when a man knows that you cannot carry him to the magistrate and make him pay for not inspecting them. I say again that Barbados is one of the few places that got rid of malaria after

we got it, and because there was a concerted drive to eradicate the Yellow Fever mosquito; and every body will make a drive to eradicate the Yellow Fever mosquito if he is made to understand that it means disease because disease is no respecter of persons. Sir, get all your parochial authorities together; get all your Sanitary Inspectors around and your supervisors to look after it; even the Minister himself, and see that this campaign is carried out with a concerted drive. After a month or two and you think it is necessary, carry it out again. Do not carry it out halfway. It is no use spending \$10,000 if you know the campaign is going to need \$50,000 or \$60,000. You had better drop it entirely, or really make some attack on it; do not fool with it. If it is his job and he is skilful in doing it and has interest in doing it, and if only he manages to enlist the interest of all persons, (the ones with the more intellect as well as the ones with less intellect) we will succeed in eradicating that mosquito.

Now I have been asking every honourable member around this side of the Table (I did not get as far as over yonder) if he knows anything about this B.C.G. Control Campaign. I hope the Hon. Minister of Social Services would not mind giving us a little more information from his own medical knowledge as to how this B.C.G. Control Campaign works. I see something for it in the Estimates. First of all, I would suggest that it should be put under non-recurrent, though I take it that this part of the programme which will be done with this vote is non-recurrent. It has to do that which the Note to the Item states. It is useless for any Government to come to any place or any Assembly such as this and tell the people that they do not have funds to make an attack on an illness and disease such as this; when at the same time, you see them boasting proudly that they have budgeted for \$13,000,000 and they have and will obtain by the end of this month \$2,245,000 and some odd dollars as surplus which they are going to put half, (that is \$1,125,000 odd) back into the Treasury. I am not saying whether it is wise or not; because when the reaping is good you must put away some, but what a lack of optimism of progress if you are lucky enough to be in the position at the end of the financial year to have a surplus of \$2,245,000 odd dollars and you put away half of that when you need some of it for a pressing social service.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order. I think the hon. member is making a second reading speech. What he is talking about has nothing to do with the particular Item under this Head.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I do not think the Hon. Minister is serious; if he is, he does not know what he is talking about. The fact is, the hon. senior member for the City said that it is not enough to have a campaign such as has been suggested, and that while you might not need a Sanatorium but the equivalent of a Sanatorium that is some place where you can put those persons suffering with T.B. for treatment in some place where you can deal with them, even if you do not go to the extent of having a Sanatorium as was the practice in ancient years. When I was referring to the financial position of the colony I was referring to that. I am saying that if the Government finds itself in a position at the end of the financial year to have a surplus of \$2,245,000 odd dollars as it is expected to have, you can never look an Assembly or anyone else in the face and say that you do not have enough funds to undertake the equivalent of some form of Sanatorium where you can put up and keep people afflicted with T.B. I am doing more than that; I am suggesting to the Hon. Minister of Social

Services that it was in November last when the Executive started to consider the Estimates; he might not have known he was going to have so much surplus although he knew he was going to have a surplus; he may not have known at that time, that he would be in a position to have sufficient money to undertake something further in connection with this scheme; but that does not prevent him now that he knows the true position, from saying when he gets up to reply; now that he knows what it is, he feels he can do so much more. Of course, in this case he has to get the consent both of his Premier and of his Executive Committee as to whether they think or not that there is any reason or any intention to do more after listening to this debate, to try to curtail this disease and to use more efforts towards the alleviation and its cure; and therefore, asking for some of that money to double up on the scheme, or on any methods or ideas which are suggested by other hon. members.

The hon. senior member for the City paid the Hon. Minister of Social Services the compliment in that he was sure that he has his interest and sympathy, and that he would be willing to do all he could do in the matter particularly as it would lie in his line as a medical man. If that is so, there seems to be no reason for laying up stores of money in the Treasury when we are having to admit that we are not providing properly for those who are suffering from a disease, and whose poverty in many cases prevents them either to deal with or to treat it properly. If that is so, there is no reason why they should not make some effort to use some such method as has been suggested.

7.10 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: To answer the hon. member who has just sat down first. When he says that in this campaign we are just throwing money down the drain, I mean this spraying with D.D.T. I should like to say that it was not proved in British Guiana that money was being thrown down the drain.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I did not say that.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The hon. member said the equivalent; the hon. member was referring to the mosquitoes.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: I am sorry.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: To-day British Guiana is free from malaria as a result of this spraying with D.D.T., and I do not know why the position should prove to be different in Barbados. What we are doing at present is to spray houses inside and outside and this spraying will last for some months; if the mosquito or fly alights on that wall after it had been sprayed, it meets its death. As far as the B.C.G. Campaign is concerned, that is a sort of vaccination campaign against Tuberculosis. This vaccination will last for some time and you will not have it as a recurrent annual thing. I am glad to see that the hon. senior member for the City has come back in the Committee. On more than one occasion he told me that if I want any moral support he would assist me; but because I do not blow off like the hon. member, I do not want any moral support. If I am right, I am right; and if I am wrong, I am wrong. Everybody who knows my political history knows that I do not need any moral support. [Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: All of us need it.] [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Do you want physical support?] It may be so. I do not pretend to be an expert on Tuberculosis as the hon. junior member for the City is, and with a certain amount of temerity I may advance some opinion of mine [Laughter]. I know the hon. member will not accept it, but first of all there is quite a division of opinion among

the medical men of this island [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: We know it.] as to whether there is all this high incidence of Tuberculosis. There are some who feel—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: On a point of Order. I am just drawing to the attention of hon. members that I did not say anything about any high incidence of Tuberculosis. I gave the number in certain instances. I said that they were 54 at the St. Michael's Infirmary and over 50 at the Hospital.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I still say that there is a division of opinion among medical men as to there being this large incidence of Tuberculosis in this island. What happens with some people is this: as soon as Tuberculosis is proved to be treatable and people recover from it, there are people who come forward for treatment. When the building at the Almshouse was erected there was hardly anybody in it because the feeling was that you are only going to die. [MEMBERS: That is true.] It is true because people went up there at the last stage. However, the point I am making is that people do not come forward for treatment at an early stage; I have been practising for 36 years and I ought to know something about this matter. People who know about this disease know that it can be treated along modern lines and they have a fairly good chance of recovering; consequently they come forward for treatment.

7.20 p.m.

Such patients used to throw away their money on patent medicines and then find their way to the Almshouse; to-day, that is not the case. My friend, the hon. senior member for the City got up and shouted loudly about murderers; he said that the doctors at the Hospital are murderers, and the hon. senior member for St. Philip said the Minister himself is a murderer. When they talk about sending patients out to be treated at their homes, I learned many years ago that T.B. has several stages. There is the incipient or first stage which is now being discovered by means of X-ray. A person may have a little fever and a cough, because that is how the disease is often spread—by coughing. In all countries these peoples are treated at their homes. They are given assistance by way of improved diet and other modern treatment, and they are given the chance to stay in their homes and be treated.

When the hon. member talks about the danger of these people who are receiving home treatment, it depends on the stage of development of the disease when it is discovered. I sir, in my practice, up to now have a few people who come to my office for injections and other modern treatment; they are at their homes with their families. Those are people who are in the early stage of the disease. That is the closed time.

What I am coming to is that the Government is making provision for the B.C.G. Campaign. We cannot get a local doctor interested enough to go abroad for training and we have had to approach an officer in a neighbouring island who has had training; we hope that we can get the services of this officer and get the campaign going. The hon. member has read the report of the Hospital Planning Committee and he has also heard me say that at the Hospital there is provision for keeping 50 cases of T.B., and that we also will institute treatment of T.B. in a few weeks at "Enmore". It all depends on if it is an open case or a closed case. If it is an open case the patient is isolated.

The hon. senior member for St. Philip, (I want to be as charitable as possible) said that I stated here that the W.H.O. would not assist with this campaign unless we had a Sanatorium. I never said that. I said that they could not assist unless we made provision for treating cases of T.B., and we have made

that provision in our planning for those 50 beds at the Hospital. To say that I said that we would not get assistance unless we had a Sanatorium is not true.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The mere idea of a Sanatorium is a place for treatment. Whether a Sanatorium is built or these people are treated at the Hospital is a distinction without a difference.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: There is a lot of difference only he does not know. It is sometimes amusing how people pay lip-service to the interest of these poor sick people, and when they have an opportunity useful to them they do not use that opportunity. There are some people— [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Give instances.] Am I speaking or the hon. senior member for the City? I was saying that there are some people who supply milk to the Hospitals and they put water in it to make the sick people who drink it worse. That is the sort of thing that happens. Some people only pay lip-service to the cause of the sick.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Supplying milk to institutions is one of those things I will never go in for; I am a Real Estate Broker. If I started to sell to the Government I would sell legitimately. I would never undertake to run a bakery or a dairy.

I am going to say here and now that I will challenge the Minister of Health against all the other doctors in the island. I will challenge him and the Director of Medical Services against all the others. He seems to think that when he uses the words "incipient stage" I would not know what he was talking about. I am not going to fold up what I am going to say. Everyone knows about the incipient stage of a disease. I ask him to say, are there or are there not 50 cases of T.B. in the Hospital. He made some remarks about my being an authority. I am not one, nor do I pretend to be one. I, because of my position in St. Michael, have consulted nearly every doctor in the island. When I want to know about T.B. I am not going to ask a shoe-maker; I have consulted doctors on this; I could call their names. I challenge the Minister of Health against all the other doctors. If the Minister says that the incidence of T.B. is not what people think, that is not what the others are saying.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I said there is a difference of opinion.

7.30 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: As soon as you get a difference of opinion, people start to die. What happens as soon as doctors are divided in their opinion? All that happens is that people die. You have a division on this question but Mr. Chairman, you know what the division is like. All on one side are saying that these people suffering from T.B. should be isolated but the Hon. Minister of Health and Dr. O'Mahony are the only two on the other side who are saying another thing. I have had the pleasure of meeting a gathering of doctors and I raised this question, and of course they have enlightened me on it. They spoke of the stage of the disease which the Hon. Minister of Social Services spoke on; and he knows it is only in 99.9 per cent cases in Barbados when people find themselves in that stage that they then go to a doctor. It is a well known fact that when these people suffering with this disease go to a doctor they have already passed the incipient stage. Only persons of a high sense of duty and high standards will go to a doctor in time; but even in well-to-do families in this island when people catch a little cold they go to a pharmacy and get a little cough mixture which they take for a few weeks. The Hon. Minister of Social Services knows that what I am saying is true. Even when some of them

go to a doctor they would only draw his attention to certain facts. I know all of that because I was born here and lived here for practically all my life: and I hope not to leave here to go anywhere else to die. I would emphasise that there is no question of treating people here in the incipient stage because nobody afflicted sees a doctor at that stage. I do not want to be offensive; but I will say, that doctors in this country who are graduates thirty years ago unless they are prepared to read modern scientific developments in medicine and treatment of diseases, are as far back as any layman in their knowledge.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the particular item.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Sir, I really cannot believe that the Hon. Minister of Social Services who has practised medicine in this country will publicly let the *Advocate* publish that he states that there is not this incidence of the disease. [A VOICE: He said there is a division of opinion.] Apparently, in defence of the Government's policy he is on the side of Dr. O'Mahony. All the other doctors are on the other side and agree with the views I have expressed. If the Hon. Minister can dispute this statement that with the exception of the Director of Medical Services all the other doctors are on the other side, I will come in here and resign my seat. All the other doctors in this country say that you cannot successfully treat persons in this country suffering with Tuberculosis as out patients owing to conditions in this country. The cases which you get in hospitals are the cases which when the great majority go to a doctor, they have passed the incipient stage. Those are the cases of which I speak and which concern hon. members for the protection of the health of the community. As I have said, the majority of the doctors with the exception of this division, which two on one side and all the others on the other side, say that provision should be made for proper isolation. I am not claiming to be an expert on the matter; I am not suggesting that because I looked up some textbook and saw what modern medicine is doing for the cure of this disease that I know how to administer it; I am not telling him how to administer it. I may say that there is a tremendous lot in what the Hon. Minister said. Of course, the Hon. Minister is right in what he said, because many of us have been asked to respect confidences and thus do not blare anything out. Of course, we had cases here (not one or two) in which an expert in Trinidad said that the people here did not know what to do after sending the patients back home. Of course, the expert in Trinidad said they did not know what they were doing and that they were diagnosing a case to be that of Tuberculosis when it was only a case of heart disease. Of course, doctors make mistakes.

I am surprised that the Hon. Minister has taken umbrage at the fact that I suggested moral support; I think moral support is something which every human being in this country needs; I take it as something worthy of saying, when I referred to the fact that he is not an expert. Everybody knows that the Hon. Minister of Social Services who is a doctor is not an expert on T.B. As a matter of fact, everybody knows that there is not any real expert on that subject in this island. Do you think that in my position as a Guardian in the parish of St. Michael I was going to summon a nincompoop to tell me something about this disease? I went to the people who claimed to be the specialists in it in Barbados; and they have told me that they do not agree with the view expressed by Dr. O'Mahony. I wonder if the

Director of Medical Services had not expressed that view, what would be the view of the Government on it. I hope that the *Advocate* publishes the fact that there is a division of opinion in the medical profession of Barbados on how T.B. should be treated. 7.40 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I must interrupt the hon. member. I have never said anything on how T.B. is to be treated.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not think the hon. member has any difficulty about the statistics; he has agreed about that. One of the reasons why you are finding so many people in these wards in these institutions is because they do not contribute to any local treating. Years ago a man would decide after much coercion and talk by the Sanitary Authorities, Health Nurses and Doctors; it was only then that he would decide to leave his family and go for treatment. My contention is that today people appreciate health standards, and because of a modern drug which seems to arrest the spreading of the disease, that enables people to live on for many years.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am addressing the Chair. It is always a pleasure to look at you, Sir. [Laughter]. I was saying that statistics show that you have more cases than you can carry. I have heard that in this country a highly-trained man made a recommendation that a T.B. Sanatorium or Ward should be placed in Bay Street. Discussing the matter with his brother one day he said, "As far as I am concerned, I should like to take his word when it comes to medicine, but I would not like to think of being in a place with people spitting down on it." I would like to ask what would be your own position if that applied to your own family?

The other point I am making is that you have these numbers in an institution like St. Michael's Infirmary; and I say it is not designed to take any more now. What we are concerned about is this: how are you to prevent the spread of this disease? They have agreed to the policy of operating this campaign, and I quite agree with this statement that we should go carefully into this matter. A lot of people have read about what happened with this vaccine in the United States of America and in Germany; I do not want to say anything that will interfere with the smooth running of this campaign; but it will take a lot of publicity to put over this campaign. I wish it good luck; but that is one side of it. But what about controlling the spread of it? How are you going to control that? Is it a fact that the institution in St. Michael is over-crowded? The answer is "yes". If these are facts, the next question is, "How are you going to deal with the control of the spread of this disease?" You get this answer, "I am not providing any more room at the Hospital but we are going to let people come for out-door treatment." As soon as doctors in this country hear that, they will say, "We know Barbadians, and if you have this out-door treatment it means that the disease will spread". The Hon. Minister had said that the Government is only treating incipient cases outside, but how are you going to prevent the other cases from spreading? I have discussed this question with the Manager of the Housing Scheme. There is no point in using any sarcasm about any experts; I have always refrained from saying things which I think would be offensive; but if you are doing something from your heart, if you are trying to reason out things, then members of the Government should not use any sarcasm. I am not an expert either in Public Health or Tuberculosis, but I have read about Public Health. When I do not see jour-

nals on Public Health I talk with doctors, and I say that I differ from the view expressed by the Director of Medical Services and I agree with the doctors of this colony who are of the opinion that you cannot treat these cases outside.

When I used to get Medical Journals I used to read and study them. I differ from the view taken up by the Director of Medical Services and the Minister of Health; and I share the view with the majority of doctors in Barbados that you cannot treat outcases of T.B. in this country and hope to control the spread of the disease. If the Minister or the Director of Medical Services hold a contrary view, they are all murderers. I make no apology for saying that.

7.50 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Apparently, to get the B.C.G. campaign going successfully all that is necessary is the provision of a few beds in the Hospital, and not necessarily the erection of a Sanatorium or even an isolation hospital. If that is the case, it certainly is a shame that this campaign was not started before. If it is a fact that what I have referred to is all that is necessary, then it is merely a question of neglect or indifference that the campaign was not started before.

The Hon. Minister of Social Services in an attempt at sarcasm, said that people only paid lip-service to the question of assistance to people; he also mentioned people supplying adulterated milk to the Hospital. I am not sure to whom the reference was intended, but I merely want to make it perfectly clear that I have never even for a day of my life had any contract to supply milk to the Hospital. So therefore, the remarks could have absolutely no reference to me.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Did I make any reference to the hon. member? I said some contractors.

Mr. CRAWFORD: He did not say that. He said there were some people who only paid lip-service to the plight of the poor and sick, when he went on to talk about supplying milk to the Hospital. I am telling him for his information, among other things, that he needs to be told that in so far as I am concerned, I have never even for a half day contracted for supplying milk to the Hospital, or for any public institution for that matter. The hon. member needs to be very careful about what he says on the floor of the House. He should be aware of his facts. It is not my fault if he cannot understand or if they cannot even read a newspaper report correctly. What I am sure about is that no Government official with whom I have had contact, has ever had to make the disparaging remarks about me that have been made about him.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order. I tried to make a few remarks about the Hospital just now and I was stopped.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister did not reply to me on the point that I made about publicity. I am satisfied on this question of the B.C.G. campaign, but it is very necessary for the Government to conduct a publicity campaign similar to what Trinidad has done. We should get medical men to lecture through the districts so that the people can become more aware of what is to be done. I want to repeat what I said before: we have an excellent man in Dr. Byer; he is an officer that deserves the best consideration from this Government. He is doing an excellent job working at the Health Centre, and I do feel that if this campaign is to be successful it should be publicised, as has been done in other parts. Although the organization to which I am connected does not get duty free equip-

ment, we have a 16 millimeter projector which we can lend to the Government to assist in the publicity programme. They can show the public these films and lecture to them.

You cannot successfully treat cases of T.B. and send the patients back to their old dilapidated houses. You may send them back home if they are going to a good home and with a good salary; you cannot send them back to live on five or six dollars a week to eat salt-fish and biscuits and expect them to recover from T.B. successfully.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Item 39, Glasses for Poor Persons Operated on for Cataract. That Item has remained static for several years. I am wondering if there are no other cases in which glasses are necessary and with which poor people are supplied. I do suggest that there must be several ailments from which poor persons are suffering and are unable to purchase glasses; cases which would be most deserving cases.

I would like some information from the Hon. Minister in respect of last year: how many persons were supplied with glasses, and were there any other diseases for which glasses would be recommended, and in which poor persons would not be able to benefit under this Item? I am referring to poor persons who would be unable to purchase glasses for themselves.

8.00 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I have not got the figures, but what I can tell you is that as you have seen, this is only for poor persons who are not in a position to buy glasses for themselves after being operated on. If the hon. member wants the figures as to how many people have benefited as a result I will get them for him; I will say that they are given these glasses on the advice of the Ophthalmist.

While I am on my feet, I would like to tell the hon. junior member for the City (and I am not making any apology I am just stating facts), that when this Yellow Fever Campaign started, the Ministry was only a few days old and was not responsible technically for the campaign; although I did make some effort to do something about it. I pay the honourable senior member for the City some tribute for having drawn my attention to that. In this case I will see to it that all the publicity necessary will be given. I was also asked what was my observation on T.B. by the honourable junior member for St. James. The honourable member may not have been in here when I said if a man were provided with good nourishing food and modern treatment such as Streptomycin and other modern drugs, he has a fairly good chance of recovery.

Mr. E. K. WALCOTT: What I would like the Hon. Minister to give me is the incidence of T.B. if he knows it, not merely vital statistics of death; and to say whether or not the disease is going up or down or keeping steady, and whether the people are more cognisant of the effects and are coming forward for treatment?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I would like to say that the death rate has gone down tremendously.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, in connection with Item 39, glasses for poor persons operated on for cataract, I would just like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that the Vestry of St. Michael was spending around \$720 which is three times as much as what the Government has here to be spent on persons who were operated on for cataract, and were told that they would have to get glasses. Nearly every old age pensioner is supplied with glasses free of cost from the St. Michael's Vestry. We realise that most of those people would like to get glasses so as to be able to

read the Bible, to go to church and to follow the service from their books; and we feel to deny them of that would be denying them of a privilege. This Government is providing \$240 for this purpose but the St. Michael's Vestry spends \$720 on that; and most of the time the people whom they spend this money on are those who are sent from the Hospital by the ophthalmist and who has told them that they must get glasses.

The question that the sum of \$59,895 be voted under this Head, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed 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.

8.10 p.m.

ESTIMATES RESUMED

On Resumption:

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 XXIII—(2)—General Hospital

Head XXIII —(2)— General Hospital — was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: In connection with this Sub-Head I should like to say that as a result of the Fever Block at the General Hospital being finished, it is necessary at this stage to make provision for an increase of staff. The additional staff required will be: 1 Clerk, 1 Assistant Dispenser, 15 Student Nurses, 1 Assistant Seamstress, 1 Kitchen Maid 1 Washer, and 1 Scrubber. As regards Item 23 "Clerks" there is to be an Additional Clerk, \$600; Item 27 one Assistant Dispenser \$1,344; Item 38 A (New) Student Nurses, they are in classes "A", "B", "C", and "D", and we are asking for 15 Class "D" Nurses at a cost of \$4,680; Item 40 Living-out Allowances to Nurses we are asking for an additional \$24,544; Item 41 Ration Allowance to Nurses and Wardens, \$12,657; Item 60 Assistant Seamstresses \$528, Item 71 Kitchen Maids, \$360; Item 74 Washers \$360; Item 75 Scrubbers, \$360 and Item 84 Cost of Living Allowance \$52,063, making a total of \$13,517. Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to make these amendments under this Head "General Hospital."

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Is the honourable member really serious in coming here in this manner? I thought he was reading something for the benefit of the honourable junior member for the City; but you cannot expect honourable members to come into this Chamber and do business like this. How could the honourable Minister expect to come here and deal with these amendments in this manner? I want something put before me that I can read. This is Sub-Head (2) of this Head XXIII with which we are dealing; we have other Sub-Heads to deal with and I

think the Hon. Minister should go on with the other Sub-Heads and give honourable members an opportunity to go through these figures. I want to know what is being passed. After all we have just made provision for another secretary and honourable members should not be treated in this manner. I repeat that there are other Sub-Heads with which the Hon. Minister can deal.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: If the honourable member is insisting on that I would ask leave to postpone the consideration of this Sub-Head.

There being no objection, leave was granted the Hon. Minister to postpone the consideration of this Sub-Head.

Head XXIII—(3) Mental Hospital

Head XXIII—(3) Mental Hospital—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$281,611 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. TUDOR: I have to ask something about the administration of the Mental Hospital; but before I put the question I should like to tell this Committee certain facts which have been given to me and authenticated. It appears that the administration of the institution is not as thorough as it should be, particularly with respect to the food and diet served not only to the patients but to the members of the staff who are entitled to receive rations at the institution. The facts are that provision has not been made or has never been made in that institution for a dietician and that might really be the cause of the matter; or on the other hand it might mean that investigation into these matters is not as thorough as it should be, and as a result a lot of suffering and frustration is caused. Here is the diet of pauper patients at the Mental Hospital; I may say before hand that broadly speaking four meals are served to the inmates of the Mental Hospital; there are two middle meals and two at the end so to speak. A morning tea and an evening tea.

3.10 p.m.

Evening tea is really a misnomer as it is not really tea at all, but is ginger tea served without milk. Every Sunday morning the breakfast is biscuits and pilchards, when pilchards are available. If they are not available it is salt fish. On Sunday evening it is split peas and rice and salt fish. On Monday mornings breakfast is plain rice and salt fish. On Monday evening there is a variation, in that soup is served; and in that soup there are potatoes, dumplings, and rib bones either of the fresh or salted variety. Tuesday morning breakfast is an eight-ounce piece of bread baked in the present iron stove of the Mental Hospital, half ounce of butter and a cup of porridge. On Tuesday evening dinner is Cou-cou, potatoes and beef. Wednesday morning's breakfast is biscuits and salt fish and pilchards again if available. Wednesday evening is plain rice and pilchards or some other tinned fish. Thursday morning breakfast is biscuits and salt fish; and Thursday evening is as on Monday evening; and that is I have said already is soup with potatoes, dumplings and rib bones. On Friday morning breakfast is the same as on Monday morning, plain rice and salt fish; Friday evening is as on Monday and Thursday evenings. Saturday morning breakfast is the same as on Tuesday morning, that is a piece of bread, half ounce of butter and a cup of porridge. Saturday evening is as on Tuesday evening, Cou-cou, potatoes and beef.

You will notice Mr. Chairman, that in the range of meals the best meal which appears to be served in the evening is Cou-cou. The second best I think is the soup; the third best, if there is a third best is the bread and butter and porridge.

Let us leave that for a moment; I will come back to it later. Let me inform the House that as far as I have been able to gather cheese has not been served in that institution for seven or eight years. I should also inform the Committee that they get fish, fresh fish, no more than three or possibly four times a year.

Let me turn aside for a moment and deal with food as it affects the staff. Now, there is in that institution a diet sheet in existence both for the patients and for the staff. We are not concerned with the patients' diet sheet, because whatever it has been, there is from the information I have given the Committee a very wide divergence from it. The printed menu for the staff insists that they should be given chicken, fresh meat, green vegetables and fruits in addition to foods such as rice potatoes and yams. Now, the staff is given the following: Monday mornings it is tea and four biscuits to each man; then for breakfast there is plain rice, tinned salmon, tea and bread. Dinner there is soup, with of course potatoes and dumplings and again tea and bread. I should say that it appears that at each meal the staff is given tea and bread. On Tuesday for breakfast they are given bread and sardines; dinner there is rice and beef or some sort of meat but normally it is beef. On Wednesday (I know that the honourable junior member for St. Peter will cock an ear here) breakfast is sop biscuits or Cou-cou served either with salt fish or tinned salmon. For dinner there is rice and peas and beef, and pork when available. On Thursday breakfast is Bakes or fish-cakes. On Thursday evening there is peas and rice and beef. On Friday for breakfast there is rice and salt fish; and dinner on Friday is as on Monday evenings in which case it is soup with potatoes and dumplings.

Mr. LEWIS: Can we postpone this Head and get this Menu?

Mr. TUDOR: I am reading almost from memory. [Laughter] Saturday is as Tuesday, that is, bread and sardines with a cup of porridge; and the evening meal is of course rice and beef. Sunday is as Wednesday, that is sop biscuits or Cou-cou with salt fish or tinned salmon. Dinner is rice and beef.

I should say Mr. Chairman, that this diet on which the staff exists is almost the same diet as that given to the paying patients except as regards the taste. The paying patients have (it appears) a better cook and they enjoy their meals with greater relish. There is a disadvantage under which the staff labours even in eating. It appears that there is a shortage of eating utensils in that institution; I do not think that it is quite as bad as at St. Andrew's Almshouse; but frequently some members of the staff have to wait until others are finished and there are frequent delays in serving meals. Due to the fact that persons have to wait until utensils are actually washed, in many cases meals like Cou-cou are insipid and unpalatable. I am coming back now to the patients.

9.20 p.m.

They are as you know nearly 800 patients there, the majority of them being paupers. From the information which has been given me, it appears that the patients themselves suffer not only from lack of food but also from the lack of clothing. I am also informed that the clothing is taken off the patients every morning at 6.30 a.m. when they go to bathe and they are required to take the soiled ones into the laundry. In case there is a shortage of clothing the patients are required to wait around nude until they can get clothing from the laundry. There is a case in which a new ward was established within the last two years, and it was not properly equipped with clothing; and half of the needs in one ward

was taken over to that ward. You can well see the ludicrous situations in which there were two wards each having one-half of the nightshirts, pillow-cases and blankets.

You also have another matter. It appears that patients at that institution suffer a great hardship in getting cool water to drink. Only the first twenty or thirty can get a glass of iced water after they finished their meals. After that, the can of iced water is exhausted and no more is made available.

I will also draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services that this institution has a farm attached to it and I notice from this year's Estimates that \$24,000 will be spent on this farm. I have ascertained from my investigations that there are roughly 32 acres of farm land, and the average yield is anything between 300 and 360 pints of milk daily from the whole herd. So far as I have been able to ascertain, milk is not as a rule given to the patients with the evening tea.

I wonder whether the Hon. Minister will tell us why the usual tea is not given; that is, they do not give tea, coffee or cocoa; they give ginger tea. I wonder whether the ingredients of that tea has anything different from the other beverages.

Let us go back Mr. Chairman, to this question of the food and diet. We spend something like \$144,000 on provisions. That is a lot of money and it is only for provisions; and I take it that that has nothing to do with what the farm produces, such as milk, green vegetables and the like. I am told that even the commodity of coconut water is a very difficult thing to get there even when it is ordered for a patient; because for some reason or another although there are plenty trees bearing coconuts, they do not reach out of the ground before they are used for drinking purposes. I think the Hon. Minister will do well to investigate the whole question as regards the farm in order to discover where the milk goes. I have been reliably informed that often when milk is ordered for patients it is not given them, and simply because it is not there; and after some protest you may get some in a very higgly-piggly manner. If you have an institution with more than 800 people to feed, \$144,000 worth of provisions annually cannot be taken as really an enormous sum. It works out at 47c. per head of the population at the institution. In a case like that, obviously you should not have the feeling that these patients at the Mental Hospital are getting the best treatment because you are putting that amount in the Estimates for provisions. Let me say that you are working a serious hardship not to say an extreme cruelty on those mental patients who are not in a position to protest. It may be said that in a Mental Hospital you do not need a diet of a high standard; I do not know; but it does seem to me almost impossible for any person to get well at that institution when the diet given is not conducive to the maintenance of good health. I think the diet at that institution is something which will have to be looked into very carefully.

I notice in the Estimates that you propose to spend \$10,000 on clothing and bedding. Though that sum seems to me an enormous amount, yet it may not be too much. I am willing to concede that there may be some patients who owing to their state of health, cannot be trusted with bedding and bed clothes; but I do not remember ever hearing it said that any patient at our Mental Asylum committed suicide. I do not think they have any proportion of suicidal cases there; therefore the majority of patients in our Mental Hospital can appreciate bed clothes and bed linen. If that is the case, one hopes that this amount of \$10,000 which is allocated for bedding and clothing will be spent and will stave off what

must be a terrific hardship on those patients, that is, to be walking about or waiting about nude while clothes are being laundered.

I have said enough so far as patients are concerned, I will now draw the attention of this Committee to the staff and some of their complaints. First of all, the impression one gets is that the administration at that hospital is one of bad feeling and which causes frustration. I am not in a position to state how many times, but I know that there are many occasions on which I have told this House of incidents among the people at that institution. That shows that this institution must have been run badly in such incidents as I have brought to the notice of the House have occurred there. One of the complaints of which members of the staff complained, is that in disciplinary matters when they are taken up to the Medical Superintendent, instead of that officer hearing the charge against the person stated in the presence of the person charged as is the modern, decent and democratic procedure, they meet on the contrary a sort of *fait accompli*; that is when they reach the Medical Superintendent after the charge has been laid, they are not allowed to say anything on their behalf. In short, they are told then what is going to be the outcome of the matter without the person charged given the opportunity of saying anything on his own behalf.

9.30 p.m.

Clearly, Sir, that is of course the very last possible way in which you should administer an institution; that is one of the grievances on the personal side. One of the other grievances is that they do not have enough tunics in order to make them appear clean and tidy as they are required to do. It appears that they are given three or four tunics a year, one is a khaki tunic and the other a white tunic; and I understand that whenever they are required to take patients to the wards for treatment they are required to put on white tunics and when they are required to appear on the streets on duty, they are also required to appear in white. The nature of the work at the Hospital is such that by turning about by patients, the white does not prove as serviceable as it is usually; they are therefore concerned over the fact that no laundry allowance is allowed them as in the past. Apparently the matter was taken up by the Whitley Council and that body advised them to drop it; I am told that when they wrote in (they wrote in November) querying the delay, they were told that the Whitley Council had informed them not to press the matter.

The other ground of complaint is this: whenever they are given time off for personal business, it is extracted from them by a sort of inroad into their off-duty time. I do not think there is too great a sense of grievance in this matter, but it appears to them to be a little unfair; however while they do not resent the back period time, they do resent the favouritism which seems to go with it in that some people are asked to pay back the time at a stage which is convenient for them, whereas others are asked to pay it back at most inconvenient moments.

It may be that some of the grievances of the staff might be remedied if more staff were added. The Government says in one of the Notes that the staff is established on the basis of one for every ten patients, and under the present administration in wards of over fifty patients. That not only leads to overwork but to a dangerous situation. It is within the knowledge of the Hon. Minister that one attendant was badly mauled and cut, and the position was saved by one who had to rush to his aid. That sort of incident can take place if attendants are left

singly in charge of fifty patients. Among other things which attendants are asked to do is to supervise the repairs to the doctors' car and also preside over or carrying on what is called Occupational Therapy treatment. This treatment seems almost entirely to be confined to the pauper patients; apparently the paying patients are not advised to do this Occupational Therapy. At the present time there are several members of the staff at the Hospital who have never done night duty; there are 47 or 48 patients who are under the subordinate staff and some of them do not do any night duty. Therefore, on fairly sound reasons, there could be the feeling that there is partiality being shown; one feels that he is being subjected to tyranny.

The staff also claims that while it is true that they eat in the recreation room, they have not got a properly organised recreation room. They pay for the radio themselves, and they are wondering whether newspapers and magazines could be made available to them. That is a reasonable request.

9.40 p.m.

I am sure that the Minister would agree with me. Obviously, he must know more about these things than members of the House. I think that if you were called upon to work as nurses in the Mental Hospital, you will agree that the strain is so terrific that no reasonable comfort should be denied the members of the staff. Therefore, if the privilege of reading newspapers and magazines in a recreation room can be given, I see no reason why it should not be given.

Let us get back to the question of diet for the patients. I do not feel satisfied that such a diet, even if there are good reasons for it, is the best diet that human beings should have; least of all sick human beings. There is a farm at the Mental Hospital on which milk is produced; it is true that you cannot give each patient a pint of milk from the farm, but I am sure that members of this House would feel satisfied if they were told that more of the milk actually produced on a farm was being made available to the patients.

I think it is a well-known fact that a lot of the produce of the farm of that institution does not find its way into the meals of the patients or of the staff but outside the institution. There is an enormous racket going on which it will be well to investigate. It may be that if the quality of the diet is as poor as my information leads me to believe it is, it is perhaps not even the fault of the Government except by way of the lack of an investigation. But information leads me to believe that the lack of administration is so great that the patients must inevitably suffer. When you reflect that patients do not receive milk with the evening beverage it is a serious thing. When you reflect that pauper patients get their last meal at 5 o'clock, if the last one is not a substantial and nourishing meal, you are asking patients to remain between 5 o'clock in the evening and 6 or 7 o'clock next morning not only hungry but completely undernourished which is a terrible state of affairs and which will take some remedying.

I feel that as far as both patients and staff are concerned it is time for an investigation into the affairs of that institution.

It is our duty to see that patients who are mentally unbalanced are not only well nourished but well cared for in every respect. I have mentioned this on the floor of the House. I do not intend to make a political issue out of it. It has gone beyond politics. This is a public institution and if the diet is not what it should be the Minister and the whole

Government must agree that it is not so. If the Minister says that the diet cannot be made better and to revote more money to feed the inmates of the Hospital, I for one would be glad to do so. There are many people in a helpless condition relying upon you; and you cannot let them down by haggling over a penny more that you may have to spend on them.

Seven hundred people in an institution is a high number. Whatever cures for mental diseases are being administered, let it not be said that such cures are retarded merely because the inmates cannot get an abundant and nourishing diet.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has touched on so many things that it is impossible for me to remember them all. I will deal with the two that he began with. As regards the question of diet, the diet sheet from which he quoted is an old one which existed before Ministerial Government; it does not exist today. Soon after Ministerial Government began I paid a visit to the Mental Hospital. I was dissatisfied with the diet issued to the non-paying patients and I asked the house-keeper and the dietician at the Hospital to prepare a new diet sheet for patients. The diet sheet that I hold in my hand gives a diet that is now served to patients at the Mental Hospital, and which was being served since about April or May last year.

Honourable members will remember that just about two or three weeks ago we were asked to vote an additional \$13,000 as Supplementary Estimates for provision for the Mental Hospital; that was as a result of improved diet.

It is true as honourable members said that they had not seen fresh fish, flying fish, for about ten or fifteen years at the Mental Hospital. That was disclosed when I investigated. But if the information which the honourable member received was correct information, he would have been told that last year during the last flying fish season they got fish at least twice a week; the male patients one evening and the female another. They had no frying pans to cook flying fish, and a part of that \$13,000 was to supply the necessary equipment. It is not true to say that the diet sheet from which the honourable member quoted is the one that exists now.

I will quote now from the new diet sheet. With early tea they got a half ounce loaf, two ounces of milk, one ounce of sugar, one ounce of biscuits or a whole "tennis". I insisted that they should have greens and fruit every day. They have an orange with breakfast; that is on Sunday. One orange, quaker oats, two ounces of milk, one and a half ounces of sugar, one egg, three ounces of sausages, half ounce of lettuce and three ounces of bread. For dinner, six ounces of meat and three ounces of rice, one ounce of split peas or a substitute, six ounces of sweet potatoes, three ounces of greens, potatoes or lettuce.

Mr. TUDOR: Do I understand the Minister to say that what he is telling us is what they are actually getting?
9.50 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: They are getting it now, and if honourable members want to visit the institution at meal time, they can do so.

The honourable senior member for St. John talks about the inmates being given ginger tea; that may be so; but I know they get one pint of chocolate, 1 ounce of sugar and two ounces of sweet bread for supper on Sundays. On Mondays they get early tea and at breakfast they get an orange, one pint of cereal, two ounces of salmon, a leaf of lettuce and half loaf of bread.

I do not know if honourable members want to hear what it is for every day of the week. If honourable members are interested, I can submit a diet sheet for them to see for themselves. As I have said, on an occasion I visited that institution and I was dissatisfied with the meals as I saw it, and I instructed the Matron to get in touch with Mrs. Clarke at the General Hospital who is a qualified dietician and as a result, this new diet sheet has been introduced and implemented; therefore, it is not true to say what has been said by the honourable senior member for St. John about what the inmates are getting to-day.

The honourable senior member for St. John also made mention of the farm. Well Sir, there was a supplementary estimate debated sometime ago for items under this same Head and something of the farm was mentioned. I promised the honourable member who mentioned it to have the information read when these estimates were debated and it is as follows:— (I may say that this information is up to the 1st March this year.)

(a) Areas under cultivation —			
(1) fodder	....	....	13.9 acres
(2) kitchen garden produce	....	....	.5 "
(3) other production	....	....	11.1 "

With reference (3) the acreage includes 10 acres sour grass pasture and 1.1 acres swamp lands. One acre of this was planted in casuarinas most of which have been cut down for firewood. There are a few coconut trees from which about 30 dozen coconuts are obtained annually.

It is proposed as soon as the irrigation system has been completed to divide the acreage as follows:—

(1) fodder	....	....	.12 acres
(2) kitchen garden provisions	....	....	4.5 "
(3) shallow soil for sour grass	....	....	8.8 "
(4) casuarinas	....	....	.1 acre
(b) The quantity and value requested are:—			
(1) 67,798½ pints milk	....	....	\$8,818.27
(2) Cost of fodder	....	....	\$5,157.12
(3) 1161 lbs. Cabbage		\$248.18	
12297 hds Lettuce		368.91	
2487 Okras		22.89	
585½ lbs. Beets		157.28	
1330½ lbs. Beans		246.22	
41¼ lbs. Thyme		27.40	
13 lbs. Pumpkin		1.04	
2668 Limes		26.68	
334 lbs. Egg Plant		59.69	
10½ lbs. Squash		3.69	
11262 Bananas		68.75	
1896¼ lbs. Carrots		360.63	
608 Coconuts		41.28	
355¼ lbs. Cucumbers		58.47	
89 lbs. Spinach		3.56	
55½ lbs. Tomatoes		24.58	
10¼ lbs. Cauliflower		3.28	
163 lbs. Breadfruit		3.26	
399 Peppers		3.32	
		\$1,729.11	\$1,729.11

(4) 44 lbs. Liver	\$	16.62	
4762 lbs. Pork		2,285.76	
1246 lbs. Beef		598.08	
108 lbs. Veal		56.14	
		\$2,956.60	\$2,956.60

8 pigs sold	\$ 159.44	
2 calves sold	60.00	
111 Boar Service	13.20	
Cow Offal	13.20	
	<u>\$ 245.84</u>	<u>\$245.84</u>
		<u>\$18,906.94</u>

I think these figures are commendable. They show that the farm is self-sufficient in milk and not only that, it is intended to produce enough green vegetables there so that we will be able to supply other institutions.

There are other charges made by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy. Some of them are in connection with the administration. Let me tell the honourable member that the staff at the Mental Hospital are members of the Civil Service Association and they have their delegates and their representatives from the Whitley Council; therefore any complaints which they want to make to Government through their association will receive due consideration.

10.00 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I must thank the Hon. Minister of Social Services for having given the numbers which he presented here to-night on the working of the Farm at the Mental Hospital; I think I was the honourable member who raised the question when a supplementary Estimate was being considered. I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that the cost of provisions at the Farm down there seems to have gone up considerably according to the figures he has read out. The honourable member has claimed that the Farm has been self-supporting where milk is concerned, but while production has been speeded up the cost of provision has increased. Last year the cost of provision was \$130,000 and in these Estimates they propose to spend \$144,000 on that item. If the institution produces many of the things which it needs, there should be a decrease in the amount required not an increase of the amount. Even if a better quality food is being provided there should not be an increase of \$14,000. Whereas they used to feed people exclusively in the past with salt fish, now they are producing vegetables like carrots and beets.

Mr. TUDOR: I am very grateful for the report which the Hon. Minister of Social Services gave to this House as to the actual conditions obtaining at the Mental Hospital. The position is as bad as I have described it this afternoon. There is a diet chart for the patients but they do not get what they should get, and there is a diet sheet as to what they do have. I did not say that they have not had fresh fish for a number of years; I am glad to see that provision is made to give them fish more often. I said that no cheese has been served in that institution for a number of years. These people ought to have a proper diet. I have not got the wrong diet sheet as the Minister claims; I have given an account of what meals are served nowadays. I do not think we should be led away by what is actually written; this is what the Government like to offer. However, the Minister is too old not to know. If you wish to know the food that is served go to the Mental Hospital anytime between 9.00 o'clock and 9.30 o'clock in the morning and between 4.30 o'clock and 5.00 o'clock in the afternoon; if you go there between those hours you will see what is happening.

As regards the Farm, honourable members will realise that that is producing more than it has produced hitherto; but can you afford to sell so many

hundreds of pounds of vegetables? What is sold is a surplus.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I said the eddoes produced are revalued.

10.10 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: There is a difference between what is sold and what is consumed in the institution. I must agree with the honourable senior member for St. John; these commodities should bear some influence on the actual cost of food.

Milk itself is an expensive item in terms of money every year. Then we come to pigs. Should pigs be sold? I would have thought that they should be slaughtered and either consumed immediately in the institution, or even corned, if people still like corned pork. I have been told, (I have not seen this) that quite frequently when a pig is killed the two legs, not shoulders, frequently find their way into the Superintendent's kitchen or office. I am not blaming him for that; I do not think that there is anything particularly reprehensible about it, but it does seem to me to be a bit awkward.

Supposing it to be true: when a pig is killed and divided so disproportionately, that two of its legs can find their way to one side; there is very little left of the rest for the inmates. Someone else may lay claim to a shoulder. The Head Nurse and Head Attendant may divide between themselves the head and belly and at the actual end of the division, there may be enough to provide the two or three ounces allocated to each inmate; because most of the pig will have been divided up and eaten long before it reaches the inmates.

I would like to say in this respect that if pigs from that institution are going to be sold, I feel that they should not be sold to a single person. It is within the memory of this House that my colleague did ask a question relative to the disposal and the sale of animals from the Government's Agricultural Stations. I think the burden of his question was that such animals should be sold at auction. I think that that is something which the Government would do well to remember.

Now, sir, the Hon. Minister of Social Services and I are certainly not quarrelling; what I have read out is what I am assured that the patients do actually get; what he has read out is what he would like them to get. Fish is still a doubtful problem and so is cheese. The question of milk, to which we have received no satisfactory answer, is still a problem. Most of the milk seems to be going out in ways that are somewhat mysterious. I am told that suppose it happened that on a particular day a cook is ill or off duty, her rations still go to her by a sort of underground highway, (not exactly a tunnel) but with such subtlety and skill, that had the Germans understood it in the recent war they would have inflicted far more damage on their enemies. It is an underground highway through which both the products of the farm and the food-stuffs that are actually bought disappear. The Government should look and see where the leak is and close it. Unless the leak is closed, we shall be asked to vote more and more money which we will be willing to do as long as it is for food for the inmates, but without the guarantee that they are actually getting it.

It is a problem with which the House must be concerned. I suppose that all of us look forward to hearing that there is an improvement in the diet at that institution. I for one, although I know that what I have said here is based on accurate information, have not got the sort of vanity that would object to being proved wrong; but I know that what I have said is what they actually get. Even so, Mr. Chairman, suppose that the diet sheet as read out by the Minister of Health is what they are actual-

ly eating, I will still say that it is not adequate enough in either quantity or quality and therefore there would still be room for improvement.

In this matter of feeding the inmates of our public institutions we cannot afford to stint, and we certainly cannot give the impression that we do not care how they eat and how they fare.
10.20 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister of Social Services to know this. Although I got it on second-hand information I believe it came from a fairly reliable source: when we discussed on the last occasion a supplementary estimate for this institution, the Minister gave us the general impression that the diet had improved as far as milk and vegetables are concerned, and I know that that information was taken as a huge joke at that institution; they wondered where those things were. I have had it told me privately that it was regarded as a joke. I really got that second-hand, but it was good second-hand information so far as I can say. It is difficult to say where you got these things from. I got it on good second-hand information that the information which the Minister gave us was regarded at the institution as something which appears in the joke columns of the newspaper.

I was perturbed. I cannot question the people who told me because they were getting information direct.

To say that people in an institution in Barbados (800 people) can get an orange a day, that seems to me a very tall order in Barbados. It is also a tall order to expect that sufficient fish can be given; because that is seasonal unless you can get a cold storage plant. While efforts are made to give these patients at the Mental Hospital better diet, I am letting the Hon. Minister of Social Services know that there is something in what he has heard. I know that people at the institution feel that an effort is made on their behalf by the Hon. Minister of Social Services, but it is on record as I have told you, that I have heard from very good authority that the people there are not getting what they should and they regard this public statement which is based on a paper menu as a joke. I will tell the Hon. Minister that in addition to his own efforts there is still a Visiting Committee to that institution, although like most Committees of that sort, the members take their duty more like something from the point of view of social standing; and I do not know if the members of that Committee send their Visiting Cards to the institution to let the people there know when they are coming. I feel that Committee should pay surprise visits and assist the Ministry in the proper running of this institution. If that Committee is still in existence, certainly its members should render some assistance to keep down the criticism which is made of that institution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: The honourable member said that there was a good second hand joke.

Mr. LEWIS: I did not say so. I said that the information to the effect that the patients were not getting what he said came to me second hand, but others have regarded it as a joke which can be put in the joke column of the newspapers. They claim it was not true; though it was his intention that they should get the diet according to that sheet. They were not getting it.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: I thought you had got it from the Roebuck Street Auction Mart! I invite any member of the staff who feels that any of the inmates are not getting diet as per this list, to communicate with me and I will have the matter investigated.

Mr. ALLDER: He would be fired if he gives that information. You know you cannot get that information. I will suggest to the Hon. Minister that the diet sheet be stuck up in the various corridors so that the patients can see what diet they should get.

There is another point which I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services. I have heard that animals are sold from that institution. Now there are 800 to 900 people at that institution and I cannot see any reason why you should sell pigs from there. One hog a day would be less than sufficient to serve all the patients there. What is more, sometime back that farm used to produce the best kind of animals, but I was told that they were stripped from that farm and taken to the Pine Livestock Station when high-salaried officials were paid to improve the stock at the Central Livestock Stations; they went down at the farm of the Mental Hospital and took the best stock away and therefore left that farm stranded. I do not think those things should continue to go on. If the Mental Hospital is spending \$144,000 for provisions alone per year and the Lazaretto is spending \$15,500—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow the honourable member that latitude.

Mr. ALLDER: And the General Hospital \$255,000 I consider that is a lot of money to be spent on provision. I would suggest to Government that the irrigation scheme which it has at the Pine Plantation be used exclusively for the purpose of producing provisions for use at the various institutions of Government.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: If the honourable member would allow me to correct him. When the item Provisions is set down, it does not mean only Yams, Potatoes and things of that sort; it means Oxo, rice, flour and all that sort of thing. We do not produce flour or rice in Barbados.

Mr. ALLDER: I know that we do not produce flour or rice in Barbados; but I know that a large percentage of the provisions used at this institution is produced locally; and I also know that much of the salted and fresh meat which is used at these institutions is imported into this colony; and there is no reason why the Pine Plantation instead of being used for the production of sugar cane cannot be used for the production of commodities to save us from having to pay so much for them in the outside market. I think it is a good idea either to use the Pine Plantation or the Government Industrial School for that purpose; because you will find that a pound of carrots costs more than a pound of sugar cane and it may cost less to cultivate carrots than sugar cane.

[A VOICE: Who told you so?] I know that a pound of cabbage head brings you more than a pound of canes, and you produce it in a couple of weeks. That is an idea which Government would do well to consider. If Government is willing to give the people at these institutions the kind of diet they deserve, and it wants to cut down the expenditure on provisions as we see here, Government would do well to consider the idea which I have just put to them.

The question that the sum of \$281,611 be voted under the Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII Medical (4) Lazaretto

Head XXIII Medical (4) Lazaretto was called.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Head XXIII Medical (4) Lazaretto stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Hon. Minister when he proposes to go back to Head XXIII Medical (2) General Hospital.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: When we finish dealing with the other Sub-Heads.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to tell me how many patients are there at the Lazaretto. I ask this question because I think the Government should take a serious survey of the expenses necessary to run this institution. I feel the time has come when Government should make a serious review of the running of its institutions. It has been drawn to the attention of the Hon. Minister in connection with another institution, that there was a lot of land attached which was not under cultivation. A similar matter exists at this institution; there is a lot of waste land there and a lot of expense in connection with the running of the institution for only a few people.

10.30 p.m.

The matter should be seriously viewed. I do not think the Government should be spending too much money having regard to the number of patients they have there; when you take the average cost of the patients there let him consider what it would cost to treat a leper in any part of the world, and he will see that it is a very high cost to treat lepers in Barbados. We are a poor colony but we can still have this luxury all the time; the cost of treating a leper here is too high.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The number of lepers is 27; and I think in another week or two four of them will leave the institution. Then hon. member will know that there is a basic staff in any institution below which you cannot go, if the institution is to be kept up. I would be glad if any hon. member would make a suggestion as to what we should do in the matter of these buildings; but we are quite conscious of the fact that there are a lot of buildings down there.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It is costing us too much to keep people there; and we have to consider this matter in the light of reducing the cost. We are now considering the question of Federation of the British West Indies; we are now building a police training school which will cost this island some money and we have to meet the cost of it. When we are sharing something with other West Indian colonies like the Police Training School and the Teachers Training College, if you have a bigger colony which can take our number of lepers we must face that as an economic problem. We cannot spend \$2,000 per annum for keeping people in an institution such as this; if we can do that then we are a rich colony. Hon. members can see how much we are paying in this direction; it is the responsibility of the Government to initiate something in this matter and it is my duty to point out that something should be done about it.

Mr. ALLDER: We should consider placing some of our cases at Trinidad for instance. It would be much better if we had the services shared in this regard.

The question that the sum of \$31,272 be voted under Head XXIII—Sub-head (4) was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII—(5) Board of Health

Head XXIII—(5) Board of Health was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move

that the sum of \$17,245 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$17,245 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII—(6) Bacteriologist and Pathologist

Head XXIII—(6) Bacteriologist and Pathologist was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$9,150 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$9,150 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII—(7) Health Centres

Head XXIII—(7) Health Centres was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In connection with this Sub-Head, I am asking leave to include two Items. In dealing with these Health Centres special rational allowances were included and we are asking permission to insert them. There is Item 27 (a) \$1,188 and Item 35 (a) there is the same amount. These Items will now read "laundry and ration allowances."

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

Hon. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$33,532 be voted under this Head.

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

10.40 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister of Social Services can tell us what progress has been made in acquiring a medical staff for the running of the St. Michael's Health Centre. I know they have tried to get someone and they have told us that they did not succeed. I would like to know if the Minister thinks there is any chance of getting someone soon to run this Health Centre. The expenditure for it is put here; although it is true that you have to put it. What is holding up securing the services of such an officer? Is it a question of salary? You have an officer in St. Peter doing excellent work; cannot a transfer be considered? He has done good work in St. Peter and perhaps you could move him up to St. Michael. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say on that.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: The honourable member has struck the nail on the head. It is a question of staff; especially senior staff. We must have a Medical Officer of Health. The post has been advertised for in the West Indies and no one applied. We advertised in England and no one applied. It is said that we would have to increase the salary in order to get someone. That is the position, and as you know, as soon as you increase the salary of one it will mean that you will have to increase other salaries; so we are still floating around trying to see what we can do. We have not yet given up hope.

The question that the sum of \$33,532 be voted under Head XXIII (7) was put and agreed to.

Head XXIII—Medical (8) Maternity Hospital

Head XXIII—Medical (8) Maternity Hospital—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$33,072 be voted under this Head.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

Head XXIII—Medical (2) General Hospital Recommitted

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS asked for and was granted leave to recommit Head XXIII Medical (2) General Hospital.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the figures which I read out have been supplied. Unfortunately, there are not enough to give each member a copy; the Cyclo-styling machine has broken down. There is nothing to add to what I have said already. I beg to move that the sum of \$792,631 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Items 36 to 38 which have a note with a bracket. The Notes says: "Schedule of Non-Established Offices 85 Nurses undergoing training. The numbers in these grades fluctuate as training progresses. Provided with quarters or living-out allowance, board, uniform, text books, and laundry allowance. Owing to the large number of vacancies in the established posts of Charge and Staff Nurse, additional Student Nurses are undergoing training in Classes C & D but are being paid from the salaries of the vacant established posts." Is that right? They are shifting one to another and admitting it in this Note. I do not think that that shift can be right. You are obviously taking money under one head and paying it out under another.

I wonder if the Minister can tell me why this large number of vacancies exists in the posts of Charge and Staff Nurses. Are they refusing to promote trained nurses to these posts, or is it because they have a few out of the island? They do not say what number of vacancies is, but they are admitting it here. They did not have it last time. What is holding the promotion of Nurses to the posts of Staff Nurses and Charge Nurses? I think the Minister should make a statement on that so that we should know exactly what is causing this. The nurses at the Hospital would also know the cause and probably a public statement will help them put matters right. I understand that they are refusing to promote nurses to these posts although they are well fortified. If that is true it is a bad thing.

What is the point of training nurses and then refusing to give them employment in the institution and sending outside to get nurses to work as temporary Staff Nurses? There is something wrong with their training if they are incapable of serving that institution and are not being given full employment in all the grades. Nurses that are trained there go outside of Barbados and do very well. As far as I know they give satisfaction.

There is another matter which I want to draw to the Minister's attention. I have heard that a promise was made to send someone for training in hospital administration. If the Hospital is to be enlarged, I think it would be a good thing to get someone trained so that they will be ready to take over and render their assistance in running an enlarged Hospital, if it is an added ability in having had some experience abroad and some real training in Hospital administration. What has happened about that? I think I heard the Minister himself say that they had that idea in mind.

Since we had the last debate about finding accommodation for medical staff, I have passed and seen one of the houses for doctors next to the Eye Department closed and apparently unoccupied. I understand that there are other quarters for another of the medical staff that are also shut up. You expect

this doctor and his family will soon be arriving in this island, and you plan to pay for hotel accommodation for him; would it not be better for the Hospital (and cheaper for the Government) to allow this doctor to live at this house until the house at "Enmore" is finished and his family arrives? I do not know when that house was closed. It is difficult to tell if it is occupied or not especially when the occupant is someone who is on duty at the Hospital, and may be taking a rest when he is off-duty. If no one is occupying the house, does not the Government think that it is a place that the Medical Officer could occupy?

10.50 p.m.

I think it is but right that you should accommodate your staff at the Lazaretto as near as possible to their counterparts at the General Hospital who get living out allowance and other kind of things. I hope the Hon. Minister will make some statement about that, and I suppose other honourable members will have other questions to ask. I do not want to ask him all at once. I have other questions to ask but I will hold them back until later. What is the difficulty in not permitting a charge or staff nurse the same accommodation as a nursing-sister? [A VOICE: The matron does not want them.] If the matron does not want them you had better get rid of her; if you do not, you will have a lot of dissatisfaction.

There is room for promotion there. People want employment and you refuse to employ them. You take some on and let them act for a long time and pretend that they are not qualified for the position you put them in. That will breed dissatisfaction. On a previous occasion I told the Hon. Minister that a number of places for Charge and Staff nurses were vacant; they have admitted that in the Note. They say owing to the large number of vacancies in the established posts of Charge and Staff Nurse, additional Student Nurses are undergoing training in classes C and D but are being paid for the salaries of the vacant established posts. That means that you did not want to pay out the whole amount, therefore you get in some other people. These people do not even have the right to pensions and after having been trained for between three to five years, you are still saying that they must serve two years probationship before they are entitled to anything; and although you have trained those people you are telling them that there is no room for employment, and you send outside and bring in people who make a statement like this. There is something wrong about that because I know that our nurses trained here go outside of Barbados and really make a good name for themselves.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I must thank the Hon. Minister for supplying the information which he gave; it will enable honourable members to deal more intelligently with the proposals he had put forward. There is one thing which I would like to ask him on this Note: you are agreeing to a Civil Establishment Order without producing it, and I really do not like this new method by Government of dealing with this Order. The original idea that sprung from old bills of the Civil Establishment Order was, the House should give approval to these Orders before you include them in the Estimates. In other words, you should only put in the Estimates what you have approved in principle; but now you are proposing to change that principle by inserting in the Estimate something which has not been approved of by a Civil Establishment Order.

Sir, if we did not have this Note before us what could be the position? I would not know if you are

having one officer to every forty beds at the fever block. I may say this information has been given us only just now by the Hon. Minister; it is not in the Note. You can therefore clearly see the purpose of a Civil Establishment Order. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if this proposal means that you should have an officer for every forty beds. I would like to know if every time you increase the Hospital's accommodation by forty beds you increase the staff. I am not objecting to this; but I want to get it clear in my mind if this additional staff for the Hospital is proposed because of increased accommodation or is on the ratio of forty beds. I feel it would be a very unsatisfactory and unscientific way of doing things if every time you increase the Hospital's accommodation you have to increase the staff automatically.

With regard to the point raised by the honourable junior member for the City with respect to student nurses filling places of Charge and Staff Nurses, I think that it is a point which should be considered. My view is that it is in the best interests of the community to have Student Nurses being absorbed in the Hospital. Finally I would ask the Hon. Minister if he can give me any information today as to what proposals (if any are made) with respect to people visiting relatives and friends in the General Wards of the General Hospital. The Hon. Minister would remember that recently I commented on the very unsatisfactory system for visiting which prevails at present; and I asked that people who visit their families and friends who are in the General Wards should be given better accommodation. I would like to know what progress has been made in that respect.

Mr. BRYAN: There is one bit of information which I would like from the Hon. Minister of Social Services. If the information is not at his disposal I would like to be given the assurance that he will look into the question. The Item is 41: Ration Allowance to Nurses and Wardens and also Item 53 Ration Allowance to Assistant to Radiologist. I would like to question the omission of Ration Allowance for the Orderlies, Seamstresses and Washers at the General Hospital. It does seem peculiar to me that people at the Mental Hospital and the Lazaretto are supplied with ration allowance and that people holding similar posts at the General Hospital are denied similar treatment. I would refer the Hon. Minister to paragraphs 41 and 43 of the Dos Santos Report which deal with Ration Allowance. We find in that Report that it is specifically mentioned that requests for rations or allowance in lieu thereof have been received from the Orderlies, Seamstresses and Washers of the General Hospital who claimed that they should be treated in the same manner as their counterparts at the Mental Hospital. This is Sir Errol Dos Santos' reply; "I support the requests on (1) and (2) i.e. requests mentioned above as similar employees are fed at the hospitals in Trinidad. 11.00 p.m.

I would like to know what is the hold up; what has caused this delay, from 1952 until now, in implementing the recommendations as have been made in connection with same.

Mr. TUDOR: I really wanted to ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services this question: I want to know if the Government habitually employs officers who are medically unfit.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I would like the honourable member to be a little more specific.

Mr. TUDOR: Some time ago this House was very much concerned about being asked to provide money to build bungalows for the medical staff. One of these bungalows was supposed to be a four-bed-

room building and when pressed about this, the honourable member said that he could not find it possible to tell the House —

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I did not use those words.

Mr. TUDOR: From what the Minister of Social Services said, the reason could not be given on the floor of this House. The honourable senior member for the City was so affected by it that he changed his attitude and did not press the question.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am appealing to the honourable member and other honourable members in respect of this matter. We have in the person of the present Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital an able and qualified man, a man who is energetic and who is willing to assist us in reviewing everything that is wrong at the Hospital. Already he has given us unqualified co-operation in this respect; and we are asking honourable members to cease making remarks which would irritate this officer. I think the honourable senior member for St. John on the question of the building of the house made some remarks which to this officer and to me as well were somewhat offensive. It is not so easy to get staff as people may think; they are not around the corner just waiting to come to Barbados. This officer is a man who has a high reputation and we would like to keep him; I am therefore asking honourable members to desist from making remarks which tend to be offensive; if they want to see the Hospital as it should be. I am appealing to them to desist from making such remarks.

Mr. TUDOR: Lest it be said that the honourable member is not willing to assist in the appeal made by the Hon. Minister of Social Services, if I understand the Hon. Minister correctly, anything which is said about a certain person who is employed by this Government, because he is a temperamental individual and because he does not like criticism coming from this House —

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I did not say that; I said that remarks are very often offensive.

Mr. TUDOR: I think I will set the Minister's mind at rest; I can be forceful without being offensive. I am a sufficiently responsible person to say what I have to say, bearing in mind any appeal which the Hon. Minister has made. All I was trying to ascertain was what the Hon. Minister knows about this particular case; because he feels that this particular case comes under a general policy. I do not want to make anybody feel uncomfortable, but we would like to know whether this case represents one aspect of the Government's policy.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I thought I had made it quite clear on that occasion that it is not the general policy of the Government to build houses of that type.

Mr. BRANCKER: I should just like to say we have Medical Officers attending the General Hospital and when one is in the Casualty, it seems as if there is some arrangement with the nurse that she must not call the doctor. If a Medical Officer is on duty in the Casualty he should be there, and people should not have to put up with a nurse when a Medical Officer is paid to be on duty. One has to use very strong words so as to get a doctor to treat the average patient. In some cases people want to see a doctor and they will not be satisfied with the presence of the nurse. I think the Hon. Minister should let the doctors know that if they are on duty they should be there. The fact that they are provided with quarters focuses attention to their availability when cases are taken to the Hospital.

11.10 p.m.

There must be some proper arrangements made. I submit that if a doctor is in charge of the Casualty he should be there on the spot. It is not good enough, in my opinion, for a doctor who is on duty in the Casualty to be having a bridge party in his quarters or entertaining friends to cocktails and telling the nurse not to call him unless it is a very bad case; the doctor should be there to see every patient during the time that he is on duty. If the hours fixed are too long that is a matter that can be re-arranged. People who are rushed to the Casualty are among the poorest of Her Majesty's subjects in this island, and they cannot afford to go to private clinics or attempt to rouse up any of the private Practitioners. You know what difficulty there is today to get a private Practitioner at night; they stop work at the same time that the fowls go to roost.

I know that the private Practitioners will always come to the aid of suffering humanity when that suffering humanity has a good purse; and they can always be disturbed after sun-down in those cases. In order to deal with the type of cases that go to the Casualty regular attendance of a doctor on duty should be enforced. I hope that the Hon. Minister of Health does not believe that in these cases because we assume that right is done, it is actually done.

Mr. BARROW : Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services whether he is in charge of the hospital services or whether the Steward of the Hospital is in charge. High matters of policy are often frustrated in the office of that worthy gentleman, and complaints have been made by members of the Hospital staff that they have sent recommendations to the Hospital authorities and those recommendations have been unduly delayed or dealt with in a drastic manner by the Steward of the Barbados General Hospital.

I think that the Minister must make up his mind as to where the authority for policy primarily lies. I am sure that both the members of the Hospital staff and the public will be glad to know the results of the battle which goes on between the Medical Directors at the Hospital (and which must be going on with the Minister of Social Services if he is doing his work properly) and the gentleman whose name I have not called but whose office I have designated.

I understand that on one occasion when the House voted money for certain purposes at the Hospital, and preparations were made to install telephone points in the various wards, the Steward said that if you had telephones in those places the nurses would telephone their friends. If the Minister doubts me, he can check up and find out that it is right. If the House votes money for a particular purpose it means that we have confidence in the Director of Public Works and the Minister of Social Services as regards the carrying out of those purposes. No officer of the Government should arrogate to himself the role of changing anything passed by this House.

The Minister has made reference to officers taking umbrage at remarks made in the House. The Director of Medical Services can take umbrage and the Steward can leave Barbados, and this will be a happier place. I remember that Mr. Foster, the Organization and Methods Officer in the Scottish Department of the Home Office, took umbrage when he was given an allowance of \$2,000 whereas in Scotland he was only getting about \$435 a month. And he took umbrage at the fact that I pointed out that he was drawing that salary from the Home Office, and we were giving him an allowance of \$2,000 to live in a manner to which he is not accustomed and to make him miserable for the rest of his life. The Government thinks so little of the Report that they have only followed one or two piece-meal recommendations like expensive Adding Machines; but his Report has

not even been discussed in this House. If they take offence because someone points out that they are getting an allowance which is four times their salary, and if people like the Steward at the Hospital can take it upon themselves to decide that in a modern hospital there should not be telephones at strategic points, let them go.

11.20 p.m.

If the administration decides to make a major departure in policy, I hope they make it applicable to West Indians who find themselves in similar situations as the people from overseas. That is all I have to say on this point; and the Hon. Minister of Social Services would know exactly what I mean. We do not really question the administration; we are questioning the appointments. It is a well known fact throughout the West Indies that when Dr. Peat was Director-designate for this colony it was stated that he was socially undesirable because he was a West Indian, and as a result the present affliction was forced upon us. Let us be consistent in our policy; do not have one law for the masses and another for the British; or one for the Saxons and one for the Angles; it must be a common law.

What I really rose to speak on was Item 41 Ration Allowance to Nurses and Wardens and Item 53, Ration Allowance to the Assistant to the Radiologist. The honourable junior member for St. Michael pointed out that representations were made to Sir Errol Dos Santos to the effect that persons in the lower branch of the service at the General Hospital, such as Scrubbers and Orderlies did not get Ration Allowance, while their counter-parts in Trinidad and at the Mental Hospital in Barbados were given it. Well, Sir Errol Dos Santos approved of it not on the grounds that different conditions obtained for similar officers in the employ of the Government of Barbados, but on the grounds that dissimilar conditions were given to their counterparts in the island of Trinidad. We do not have to go as far as Trinidad, because at the Hospital you will find that all the employees in the same salary brackets as gate-keepers and orderlies are getting Ration Allowance. What excuse therefore has the Hon. Minister of Social Services for neglecting these most important workers at the General Hospital? I know there is a feeling because they are comprised for the most part of ex-servicemen that they must be kept in their places; they should not be paid more gratuities than other persons in the service. I will only say that if you discriminate between employees and employees in the same category, you are only going to foster and encourage suspicions of that kind. I am not saying that those suspicions have any foundation, but I am saying what any honourable member who takes any interest in the less fortunate of the Civil Servants would know that they suffer from a feeling of frustration as well. I do not see how any person could say that they should not be given this allowance, because arising out of the present conditions prevailing at the General Hospital those officers have to put on "Denims" and act as scavengers as well. I do not think people who have to handle patients should do scavenging work. I hope the Hon. Minister of Social Services will have some satisfactory explanation to give members of this House on that particular score.

One other matter I would like to bring to the notice of the Committee before I sit. I hope that it is no longer found necessary to discriminate between the Sisters at the General Hospital who come from overseas and the ones who were trained locally, and who went overseas and have come back with similar or better qualifications as those of the importees. At the time of the last Estimates it was drawn to the attention of the present Minister that there was discrimination, not perhaps carried out as a deliberate

policy of the Director of Medical Services, but continued to be upheld by him; in that in the places for undressing, the Nursing Sisters objected to having a local Nursing Sister undressing in their common room and therefore the local Nursing Sister had to suffer the ignominy of having to go in some part of the place reserved for Charge Nurses to undress and to leave their clothes there. That is not good enough; you must bear in mind that you got up on a public platform and said you are going to stamp out discrimination. If that is so you should stamp it out of the Government Service first. This state of affairs should have been known by Government members because it was in existence for three or four years now; up to now nothing has been done about it. Within the last six months I have heard of a police sergeant chasing doctors out of the precincts of one of the most important parts of the General Hospital. How long are we going to put up with this? Are you coming to the House to vote money for these people, and that we cannot say anything because it may cause them to get frightened and run away or feel insulted and run away? The sooner people like that run away I am sure the happier people like us and other men of goodwill will be. It seems to me that members of the Government like to have these sort of people around them because they feel they are far removed from the rest of the population; and because since the past conduct of the Government is one of non-disclosure of fact, members of the public feel that if these people were West Indian officers, they would have the interest of the community at heart and pass on any information or knowledge they may get. Sir, I am only issuing a word of warning to the Government. Members of the community should be able to express their view both in the press and before this Committee on matters of public import, and although I do not admire any Government officer being the subject of unwarranted vilification by any member of the House, members should not be given the impression that there should be no criticism of imported Civil Servants in contradistinction to local officers. It is a sort of resolution which I am urging on members of the Government, they have to be very careful how they choose their language in expressing their decision on matters such as those raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. They may destroy a good case because they are helping a man who has come from overseas.

11.30 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: I have been informed by the Hon. Minister of Social Services that some official got annoyed because of some statements I made. I think the Hon. Minister of Social Services, when we last handled the Resolution in connection with the General Hospital, was too secretive in his presentation of that Resolution. Because honourable members—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What Item is the honourable member speaking on?

Mr. ALLDER: I am just trying to clear up something which seemed to have confused the Hon. Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On a point of Order. I do not understand what the honourable member means by saying that I was too secretive in presenting that Resolution. I gave the House all the figures I possibly could in connection with the Resolution; therefore where does secrecy come in?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to hear anything more about that Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister cannot say he was not secretive because at the time when we discussed the Resolution—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not entertaining anything which was done by this Committee before; the previous Resolution has been passed.

Mr. ALLDER: If you allow the honourable member to make that statement Mr. Chairman, you will also allow me to clear it up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member did not say what it was, but I am not entertaining anything about that.

Mr. ALLDER: I am dealing with the \$12,000 for ration allowance. That is a reasonable provision but I do not think it compares as it should with the ration allowance at another institution. If the Hon. Minister of Social Services had made things clear on a previous occasion when he made provision for an officer of that department—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No Resolution is before us.

Mr. ALLDER: I feel that if the Hon. Minister had made things clear, he would not have made the statement which he is making now. Nobody expected that the official for whom provision is being made would have been appointed; if one knew that he was making a statement against a definite official he would not have been so willing to do so. That is unkind and very blameable as far as the Minister of Social Services is concerned; I think he fooled this Committee—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the honourable member not to go back to what has already been passed.

Mr. ALLDER: The Hon. Minister misled the Committee—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In what way did I mislead the Committee?

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, you have allowed the Hon. Minister of Social Services to make a charge against me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot refer to any Resolution which has been passed by this Committee; if the honourable member continues to do that I will have to call the Speaker.

Mr. ALLDER: The Hon. Minister is unkind even to his office. He does not give facts and you make speeches with the idea that you are speaking in general and not against any officer, when the honourable member knows that the officer has been appointed already. The Hon. Minister thereby puts honourable members in an invidious position.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I did not mislead the House by making believe that this officer was not appointed when he was appointed.

Mr. ALLDER: That would leave any honourable member—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the honourable member not to refer to that Resolution.

11.50 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: I must defend myself against the charges which the honourable member has made. I do not know when the officer was appointed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am again appealing to the honourable member. We are not dealing with the appointment of the officer under this Head.

Mr. ALLDER: I do not intend to make a speech on this institution; I feel that sufficient is said. But the Chair should bear with a member if a statement is made against him. A Minister must be fair and just in presenting the facts of a case as they arise. Certainly Sir, it is only two days ago when I knew that the office was already filled.

Mr. TUDOR: Ironically enough, I did not even know when I asked my question that anything should have been asked with respect to the Superintendent at the Hospital. I actually asked a question in relation to another case and was faced with the appeal from the Minister of Health not to press the one

that I had in mind. I did not even know that there were two such cases; I thought there was only one.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there is one point that I want made clear. The Minister said that he would not like honourable members to do anything that would prevent the administration from being able to recruit people, and that members should refrain from making offensive remarks. This is a matter of opinion. I do not know that the honourable member should ask the House to withhold anything in the public interest because it is likely to complicate a situation for certain people. If that is so, we will cease to be parliamentarians; we will not be able to function properly. The impression is being given too much on the other hand, that members of this House are to be subjected to offensive remarks from people in the administration and from persons outside for statements they make in this Assembly. I do not see why it should be a matter of offence if a Minister is asked for information concerning something which comes under his portfolio.

The impression I am getting is that information is good for some people, but when it comes to members of the House some sort of Gestapo organization must be put into force; and because you have these vulgar remarks made about members of the Chamber, it is felt that it is not a body worthy of the knowledge which the administration has. I do not want the Minister to get the idea that members do not have the inalienable right to discuss something in Parliament which may be delicate information concerning the conduct of servants of the Government.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Certainly members of this House have the inalienable right to say what they feel like saying; they also have a responsibility to the community to see that public institutions are run by capable and competent persons. In order that such institutions may be so properly run, members of the House should refrain from offensive remarks which may be a little harsh about situations which, to use the word of the honourable junior member for St. Peter, may be "delicate". Personal and private matters are things which, in my opinion, should not be publicly debated.

As regards the question of Orderlies, they were reported on in the Dos Santos Report. The Dos Santos Report, like any Report which concerns the Civil Service, was reviewed and commented on by the Whitley Council which is the executive body of the Civil Service Association; and the Government has by and large agreed to the recommendations of the Whitley Council. If these people were not so considered by Government it may be because the Whitley Council did not uphold the recommendations of the Commissioner in that respect. I cannot remember everything, but I will investigate it and present the information to the House.

The honourable junior member for St. Lucy began by talking about the Government employing persons who are unfit. What I want to say is that all officers who come to this country on contract or permanent employment are examined, if they are coming from the U.K. they are examined by doctors appointed by the Colonial Office; and they are reported on in that way. When the honourable member used the word "unfit," I do not know if he meant physically or intellectually. If he meant physically I must point out that these officers are examined before being appointed.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter raised a point about putting these posts in the Estimates before the Civil Establishment Orders come down.

12:00 midnight.

All that he says is correct; but it is also correct to say that you put them in the Estimates be-

fore you come down with the Order and the honourable member knows it because it has happened before. When you are coming down with the Estimates you decide on certain posts and for convenience sake, you put them in the Estimates and then the Order follows immediately because you cannot appoint before the Order is executed. That is only done for the sake of convenience and to facilitate and to show a true picture of the Estimates when they are presented to the House. The honourable member knows that when you create a post and put it in here that the Civil Establishment Order follows it immediately and before an appointment is made.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter also made reference just now and on a former occasion to the accommodation of family, relatives and friends of patients of the General Hospital on visiting days. As I have said earlier, the new Medical Superintendent is going into a lot of things and is making recommendations. That is one of the things which he is considering; but he has not quite finished with his recommendations.

The honourable senior member for St. Lucy also raised the question about doctors on duty; that is a perennial complaint. As I have said before, there is a new Medical Superintendent and he is putting up a new rota of duty for doctors; and he is also putting up suggestions for improving the accommodation in the Casualty to stop the confusion and the crowding there. We feel sure if he is allowed to spend three years with us he will do a lot to re-organise the existing conditions at the Hospital. The Medical Superintendent spent most of his life in a hospital looking after administration and otherwise.

I think it was the honourable junior member for the City who made reference to training in administration. The position with which we were faced is that we did not know we would have got a Medical Superintendent to take over the full administration, and it was decided that if we did not get that type of doctor, we would have to divide the administration into parts. We would have got a doctor so far as the professional staff is concerned and then a layman to do the necessary duties of running the ground staff and looking after stores and so on; and that is the person whom we would send away for training. However, with the appointment of the present Medical Superintendent I think that position has receded a bit. Perhaps, when it comes near to the time of his expiration, it may be good to send a layman out to be trained.

With regard to the Charge Nurses it is quite obvious that there are vacancies though somebody has been put in their place; but I am not acquainted with every detail in this matter and I will promise the honourable member to get the necessary information and at the next meeting of this House give it to him.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Hon. Minister to pay some attention to this matter which has been brought to my attention. There are housemaids whom I think are paid from the Treasury that are attached to the Matron and Assistant Matron and some or all of the Nursing Sisters, and as I understand it, they are not entitled to all of the ordinary facilities of the other employees; for example, they are not entitled to sick leave or any holiday. These two little things are withheld from them and are given to others. However, I must say that I might be mistaken; but I would like a little information about it.

Mr. BARROW: I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to answer a question about the Steward at the General Hospital because I think it is a very serious matter. I do not want him to make any admission on his part that the Steward over-

rules everybody. I have been made to understand that the Steward of the Hospital can over-rule anybody apparently including the Hon. Minister of Social Services himself. I understand that as soon as the Hon. Minister of Social Services goes out of the General Hospital you will find a different policy carried out. I do not think the Hon. Minister should be contented with that kind of thing. It is a fact that I have heard reports of the actions of this Steward from several people.

Another thing which I would like the Hon. Minister to answer is about the discrimination between the overseas Nursing Sisters and those who are local. I would like to know whether the overseas Nursing Sisters object to the local Sisters and as a result they do not share common facilities. If that is so, it is a disgraceful state of affairs. Finally I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister stated as a fact that the Whitley Council refused to put up the recommendation of ration allowance for the orderlies.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I do not know; I have not inquired. I cannot say anything on that off hand. 12.10 a.m.

Mr. BARROW: I would really like to know the truth in this thing. Has the Whitley Council refused to put up the recommendation? There can be only two positions, if the Whitley Council refused to put it up then the Civil Servants will know how the Whitley Council behaves, and if they did put it up, then an explanation must come from the Government. Despite all of that, the Whitley Council can only make recommendations.

You got Sir Errol Dos Santos to come out here and make recommendations; then there is Dr. Hallinan's report; and on top of that you are even paying allowances to similar employees in other departments; how is it Mr. Chairman, that you have allowed the Whitley Council to whittle down the rights of Government employees rather than to give them better conditions? That shows a paradoxical situation. The very board which is to safeguard the rights of Government employees, you find flying in the face of the Dos Santos report and stultifying the effects of the recommendations in that report.

Even if they did so I would say that it is the duty of the Minister of Social Services when reports come before them, to call attention to the fact that they had either purposely or negligently put forward proposals for ration allowance for the Orderlies at the General Hospital. I think the honourable junior member for St. Michael has asked questions on this matter and I suppose when these questions are answered we will get a full explanation. That question has been more or less partly answered; and I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to explain about the Sisters at the General Hospital. The public will shortly be looking forward to some statement as to this matter.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Can the honourable member give me one or two instances?

Mr. LEWIS: The Government had the Dos Santos Report, and I know the excuse is that it was not recommended by the Government; but the Government had the Dos Santos Report.

The question that the sum of \$792,631 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. GODDARD: 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.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Apparently that motion is not acceptable from some remarks I heard from the other side. This House has been sitting for 12 hours and

we have had our employees working consistently for that time; the Reporters and the Clerks are entitled to some consideration. [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: And visitors.] If we are talking about visitors we may have to clear them out. I think that the honourable junior member for Christ Church has made a very reasonable request. [A MEMBER: The Premier went out and had refreshment.] [ANOTHER MEMBER: And a sleep too!] I do not suppose honourable members would refuse to come again. The Hon. Premier is going away on a certain occasion and the administration has to get through with its work; but do not let us hurry through the Estimates every year in order to suit somebody. I am willing at all times to be indulgent but this is nothing to have a marathon about. What justification has the honourable member got for not acceding to this request?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not mind the attitude of certain people; I am asking how long does the Premier propose to go on. As far as I am concerned I can sit up longer than any of them; they can go to sleep again; what I want to know is: how long do you propose to go on? [A MEMBER: A little longer.] A little longer may be 2 o'clock and honourable members have to work. I saw an honourable member driving about in a shirt and pants when I was in my office; but I do not walk around and criticise people. What I really want to know is how long does the Premier propose to go on; let us know at what Head you are stopping. We are not of the type whom you can accuse of coming in here and not knowing what we are talking about. I repeat I would like to know what the intention of the Hon. Leader of the House is. This is nothing to be smart about; we have been in here for 12 hours. 12.20 a.m.

Mr. BARROW: I would like to get this position clear. The Estimates, year after year, are introduced at a time—[Asides] I will deal with the honourable member for St. Thomas in a minute.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member will confine himself to the motion.

Mr. BARROW: I am speaking on the motion and on anything arising therefrom. I know, Mr. Chairman, that you will never do anything to try to stifle debate. The Estimates are introduced at a time when they have to be stampeded through; anything that comes thereafter is in the nature of Supplementary Estimates. For some reason or another debate on a second reading of these Estimates was curtailed. Most of the members of the House did not have an opportunity of making second reading speeches. I think we should get the position clear once and for all.

The honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that it will be a great tragedy for Barbados if he does not get to Trinidad in time. Let him go and perform his wonders in Trinidad; I am not concerned about that.

Are we to tell the public of Barbados that since the inception of Ministerial Status the presence of the Minister of Finance who has not taken part in this discussion at all, is necessary?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member will stick to the question.

Mr. BARROW: The Ministers are paid by the taxpayers of Barbados to work. If they stay here 24 hours a day they will still not be working for their salaries properly. Other members of this House are not working for the Government. We have a responsibility to the community, but we also have a responsibility to ourselves and our families. We have to devote exactly the same amount of time to the preparation for the discussion of the Estimates as any Minister. Whereas a Minister needs only deal with his depart-

ment, we have in the short time at our disposal, to go through every Item and pick out the matters which we think are of importance. We do not get any additional remuneration for that. We have been in here exactly 12½ hours without any recess other than the normal adjournment for tea, lunch and dinner.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has told the House that it will be a big tragedy if he does not get to Trinidad in time. He has made a so-called Budget Speech, which he said at one time was not a Budget Speech and which he said at another time was one. If the honourable senior member for St. Michael would stop putting ideas in other people's heads, I think things would be better. I think it is high time that the proper authorities know that parliamentary democracy in Barbados has come to a sorry state. We do not have to deal with a Gestapo, but with an Ogpu. Nothing would please them better than if every member of the House were to leave now with the exception of the Ministers and their sychophantic followers. The Estimates would be passed with unanimity; and they would be able to say to the Colonial Office, "The people of Barbados are so much behind us that there is not even discussion on the Estimates; because our views are acceptable even to the reactionary sugar barons, the planter set etc."

I would be lacking in my public duty if I did not draw that to the attention of the people who say that they have the interest of the colony at heart. What you find going on in the colony today is that the ignorance of the people as to the proper working of parliamentary democracy is exploited by the people who know that the proper authorities do not completely understand what is taking place in this colony today. We are getting a lot of things which would be more in keeping with countries whose practices we are supposed to abhor. I certainly will support the motion that we adjourn for another day.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that I do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. Hon. members in favour will please say "Aye" and those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

On a division being called for, the question was put and resolved in the negative, the Committee dividing as follows:—

AYES: Mr. E. W. BARROW, Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS, Mr. J. C. TUDOR, Mr. O. T. ALLDER and Mr. F. C. GODDARD.—(5).

NOES: Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. T. O. BRYAN and Mr. F. L. WALCOTT.—(8).

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I now declare the "Noes" have it.
12.30 a.m.

Head XXIV — Barbados Regiment

Head XXIV, Barbados Regiment was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXIV stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question with respect to Item 25, Insurance of Motor Transport. Earlier today I asked a question on another Item but I have not received a reply. This Government owns a lot of motor vehicles and what I would like to know is this: does the Government think it wise to go on each year to pay money to insurance companies for the insurance of all these things, when maybe in ten years time all the money you put in the Estimates for these things would be sufficiently large to build up a sub-

stantial fund from which the interest could be of use to replace some of the things you now purchase? Is it the intention of the Government to take care of insurance in a general way?

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the Hon. Premier would stick to the promise he made earlier in this session when he promised to see to it that he did not permit an increase under this Head. I notice there is an increase of \$996 on this Head; and at that time the Premier said he felt as I felt, that inasmuch as the Barbados Regiment was considered to be one of the out-posts of the British Army, he would make an approach to the Home Office and ask them to assist in a more tangible way by granting some of the expense for the running of this department.

Mr. Chairman, what I am trying to point out is, why did we really permit an increase in the medical expenses? The last time I questioned it, it was \$1,440; that was about three weeks ago when we passed an additional \$3,000 to supplement the Item, I think that the cost of medical services to the senior staff of the Barbados Regiment should be reduced particularly when you take into consideration that only a few of the senior officers benefit under the scheme. [A VOICE: That is not true. Everybody benefits].

Mr. Chairman, I was saying that we are passing these Estimates which will come into operation at the beginning of April, next month, and I do not see the necessity if we have already voted \$1,000 by way of a supplementary Resolution to increase this Item. We should still have here \$1,440 as we did last year when we discussed the Estimates. I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services who I am informed is the medical adviser to these people to tell me something about this matter.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, honourable members will remember when we dealt with a supplementary Resolution a couple months ago, an increase was made with respect to bringing the salary of the Staff Officer and Instructor up to the present English rates of pay; another increase not as regards Arms and Ammunition, but as regards medical expenses was made. Although the honourable member mentioned the point, for the benefit of the Committee I will say we have had one or two unfortunate cases which needed medical attention and we have insisted that those persons must go to the General Hospital and get the medical attention from the Government. We are not going to allow a man to go to Dr. Bayley's Hospital for medical attention where he may have some fantastic price to pay, whereas there is free attention at the General Hospital provided by the Government. Whether you are the Colonel of the Regiment or the boy who sweeps the Regimental Corridors, so long as you are on the permanent staff, you get free medical attention.

The question that the sum of \$49,732 be voted under the Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXV — Public Works

Head XXV, Public Works, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, before that Head is passed, I desire to make a slight amendment to it. I would like Item No. 4, Superintendent of Works to be increased by \$264. This has been found necessary owing to the fact that this Officer does similar work to that done by the Assistant Engineer; he is responsible for the construction of various buildings such as the Six Cross Roads School; and he is now building the Police Training School at Seawell and other works. It has been drawn to the attention of the Government that the salary which he now

draws is not in keeping with similar salaries paid for similar work, and therefore it is proposed to increase that amount and bring it up to the incremental scale of \$3,456 per annum as in the case of the Assistant Engineers. With that amendment I beg to move that Head XXV stand part.

12.40 a.m.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister sat down there with all this information all the time and he would not pass it around until we come to deal with this Head. The argument in 1953 was that the Government felt that they could not create a Civil Establishment post for this type of work because it was based on the fact that under the Capital Works which you have to carry out, you will need somebody to superintend these works and therefore you use the officer you have here. You have put his salary up to \$2,880 per annum. When you have finished with this man at this salary, where are you going to put him? You may not be able to retain him in your Public Service; where would you be able to put this gentleman back in your Service? It may be that you want a superintendent having regard to the amount of work that has to be done. I should like to know if all the cement which you are buying is going into these buildings [Hon. M. E. COX: I do not know about that.] You should know about that. I would like to see the Ministers coming in here and giving us a note so that when we come to deal with this matter we would have seen it. As soon as you tamper with the superintendent you will have somebody else coming up to you, and because he is doing a job which can be related to some other job, as night follows day six months will not pass before you get a request on the part of other people. Are you going to tell them then that they have to wait until you find oil? You have changed this post and now you say that you want to put it on a different scale. I believe that the Government is tempted too much to the belief that Mr. So-and-So is going to leave unless you give him such and such a salary. The Hon. Minister is saying that this man should be in the category of an Assistant Engineer; the Minister ought to know that that salary is given to people who hold the equivalent posts of junior engineers.

What it is proposed to do here will give rise to many difficulties; and therefore I do not like the idea of putting forward this matter, because we have not been given sufficient time to consider it. I am sure that neither the Premier nor any member of the Government would agree to this matter if it were proposed to him a Thursday morning at Government House. We want an opportunity to reflect on this matter; we cannot be of any proper assistance to anybody because we cannot even ask anybody in the community about it. We have to ask people certain questions about these things; I have no objection to this proposed increase at all, but I would like to be able to study any increase which is proposed. However, I would still like the Hon. Minister to say whether he is satisfied that the Department has been carrying out its duties in a manner as not to cause any alarm.

12.50 a.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I only want to say one thing. What the honourable member says would be accurate if it were a question of a new principle. What is the position? It is as if A, B, and C are doing the same work in a department and one gets x pounds and the other two x—y pounds and you are asked to give all three the same. In this present case, there are three people doing similar work in different parts of the island and the salaries are not

the same. All that we are saying is to give them the same.

Of course it would be wrong not to give the House a longer time to consider it, if it were a question of a new principle. I would like to say to the honourable junior member for St. Peter that if he knows that cement is going through the shoot, it is his duty to the community to let us know and let us prosecute the guilty party.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister has been a lawyer all his life. Does he think that someone will tell you that cement is going through the shoot unless the informant wants to lock up a certain individual? He knows that there are many people who will come and say, "Mr. Adams, so and so is happening," but when it comes to a question of going to Court they will say, "leave me out of that".

As I said earlier, no one has told me that any of this cement is being lost. I asked a question in a general way as to whether the Minister was satisfied that everything is working well. I have not got any information. I am not one of the fortunate people who get that sort of information, because people may think that I will call names. I am glad that I do not receive that kind of information because I do not have to carry around those things on my chest.

The Hon. Premier has talked about A, B and C doing similar work and all that. But if it had been the intention of the Government in 1953 that the Superintendent should have been upgraded as well as the two assistants, it would have been done. What I believe is happening is that the Premier and the Ministers will be taken for a ride in some of these instances. You go into a department and you find an officer who is doing good work. You will get Mr. Nehaul and Mr. Kellman. Mr. Nehaul is an Assistant Engineer. You create the post of Superintendent, but there are certain duties that you have to ask the officer to perform.

It was never the intention to create a Superintendent post equivalent to the Engineer post, and that is why they attached to it a salary of \$2,850 which may be regarded as giving the officer an opportunity of going to \$3,456. Now you have changed it. If you now find that you need three Assistant Engineers, it is better to say so than to come with this. I believe what has been pressed on the Administration is that Mr. Nehaul is a good officer doing a good job and he is doing work the equivalent of what these other people in his department are doing. Therefore you are asked to give him this.

In the Civil Establishment there are long grade clerks doing the work of senior clerks; it does not mean that you have all senior clerks in an office. I look upon this matter as the Government having asked us to agree to having another Assistant Engineer. I do not see how in the future the Premier will get out of what he has said.

Of course I agree that you cannot get rid of one of these officers if your programme is for the next five to ten years. I just raised that to show that my argument was based on principle, and I said that I was sorry that the matter had not been before me earlier. The Government will soon see the danger in what they are doing.

Mr. LEWIS: I am wondering if it would not be right to give the officer some back pay if you have now discovered that you were under-paying him. I must say that it looks like a dangerous principle to me. It is one that has brought the Government in trouble already. They got a Commissioner to come out to report on salaries being paid to people at the Hospital and the next thing that happened, was that all the Medical Officers of the Government wanted an increase in salary. As far as the increase of salaries was concerned, the

then Head of the Administration said we could afford to pay salaries equal to those being paid by British Guiana. He himself has gone there and got more money. He was supposed to be a financial genius; he knew the relative values of money and he said we could pay salaries equal to those paid in British Guiana. He could not have meant for that time only. When B.G. increases their salaries I do not see how the Government of Barbados can get out of increasing local salaries.

Now I do not think that the honourable junior member for St. Peter would have asked the Minister to be sure that everything was all right if he did not think it would be a good thing to have that assurance. Of course the Government has adopted the policy of taking money voted under one head and spending it under another; so we need not be surprised if, when you have a provision for cement under one head of Capital Estimates and it is not used, it is used under another Head. You have several projects going on at one time and if you send in a voucher under a particular Head, as long as all the money is not spent, who is to tell the purpose for which the cement is used?

We have a heavy programme and we give blank votes; but I think the old system of having a Resolution authorising the spending of money on one thing only was a useful and good one. With the new system you cannot keep a proper check on things. I think it would be a good thing if the Minister would supervise his department to the extent of being able to say that the shifting of things from one Head to another does not obtain in that department.

I fail to see how the Auditor General of this colony can with all its programme and all its manoeuvring with the connivance of the Government itself, shift money from one Head to another. If you come in and say you want cement, it is either for these buildings or this school. How can anybody tell if the money for that Head is not used up? Therefore you must vote for it.

1.00 a.m.

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Chairman,— Speaking on Item No. 37, Police Stations, Posts and Courts. The Note reads as follows: "General Maintenance, Repairs and Minor alterations. Increase due to continuation of painting and re-roofing programme." But Mr. Chairman, I welcome the increase of this vote although it is only \$884, I would not mind if it were more so that it could be used as a means of putting an end to the practice of the washing of walls and the painting as done by policemen at the several stations. I consider that practice to be outside of the duties of policemen. Sometime ago, representations were made to the Commissioner of Police (not to the present one) on this matter and, I think, he did put an end to this practice for a week or two, but gradually it has drifted back into the old state of affairs. There are a lot of masons and carpenters who congregate in Trafalgar Square on mornings, and I think if the Public Works Department were to take over the washing and painting of these walls, it would be a means of hiring some of those artisans and thus relieving some of the unemployment which exists among them.

With respect to Item No. 56, Bathing Sheds for which the sum of \$500 is to be voted, I would like to say that during the consideration of the Estimates last year I made an appeal to the Government for the erection of a bathing shed at Brighton for the convenience of people in that area. You must admit, Sir, that the bathing sheds at Graves End serve a useful purpose and are extensively used by the people in the immediate vicinity and even from further afield. I have had conversations with some of the

people who live at Black Rock, St. Stephens, and Cave Hill and other surrounding areas and I am sure they will appreciate very much the erection of a bathing shed at Brighton where they could undress and leave their clothes with some degree of safety; and where after sea-bathing they can get a fresh water bath.

I am again making an appeal this year for the erection of a bathing shed at Brighton; and I hope that the Minister in charge of Public Works, who by the way, also represents the parish of St. Michael, will make a note of it and at his earliest convenience have a shed erected for the convenience of the people in that area.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Item No. 84, Bus Shelter for which the sum of \$500 is to be voted to provide a shelter for bus passengers at the corner of Beckles and Culloiden Roads. I think the Government should really consider putting some in places further in the country where people wait for buses. If you go up by the corner of the Pine and Upper Collymore Rock, there is always a collection of people there waiting to catch a bus. I have no idea of any particular spot where the condition is worse than at another spot, but I think it is something which that Department should dwell on. I also have in mind the stop at the top of the Garrison Hill where you see many school-children waiting. Of course, at this time of the year when there is sunshine it is of no hurt to anybody to shelter where there is a shade, but it is in the rainy season.

Hon. M. E. COX: So far as the point raised by the honourable junior member for St. Peter, again, I shall like to say that as far as my knowledge goes relative to the Department, I feel you cannot have a department better run than that. In answer to the question as to whether all the cement ordered goes into the erection of those buildings, I will say that I am satisfied; and I feel confident that the greatest care and supervision is exercised in that department.

I just want to remind the honourable member of something in connection with that particular post. I am sure he will remember that only recently we wanted a temporary assistant engineer and the salary was fixed at \$3,456 per annum. The person who was appointed to this post is a chap who was here and went down the islands to take up a similar appointment. He has now returned. As the Hon. Premier pointed out this man, Mr. Nehaul has been doing similar work to that done by Mr. Wason and others, and it would be wrong to bring in a junior and pay him a higher salary than you are paying to a man that you have in your employment for a few years and no doubt doing quite a good job.

The point made by the honourable junior member for Christ Church relative to the erection of Bus Shelters at various points is a very good one indeed; and I want to assure him that I will take it up with the Director and members of the Government in order to see what can be done. The erection of a Bathing Shed at Brighton was also suggested by the honourable junior member for St. Michael. I will also take up that point with the Director and members of the Government in order to see what can be done. As far as my information goes the Police are no longer called upon to wash and paint walls as they formerly did, but I have been made to understand that sometime they do take a little lime and touch a spot which may be dirty; but the extensive work which they used to do years ago such as washing and painting and cleaning, they no longer have that to do.

So far as the point made about carpenters and masons by the same honourable member, I want to

assure him that we have tried our best as far as it is humanly possible to employ as many of these people as we can; and today we have under construction some 47 schemes to say nothing about regular maintenance work. We employ an average of 2,128 people which as you know, when spread out and multiplied by 6 or 7, would be supporting approximately 12,000 people to say nothing of those who are indirectly employed as a result, such as those people who cut and freight stones for the various schemes, which runs into many thousands of dollars.

The question that the sum of \$208,817 be voted under the Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXVI—Pensions

Head XXVI—Pensions was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$152,001 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I want to know how much further from this Head are we going. It is one o'clock now, I cannot remember what the Hon. Premier said as regards Pensions dealing with War-Service Credits. I see nothing in these Estimates appropriating towards that; so I want to know if he has any further information from that which he gave me on the last occasion. I tabled a question with respect to the matter at the beginning of the session, but up to now there has been no reply to it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: We have to do some special thing which we have not yet done at the Executive Committee in order to get through with some of the work on the Order Paper. We have had so much to do, that we had to adopt the procedure Thursday after Thursday of taking a few of the items as read unless there is objection. We are passing Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, in that manner but we have not got down to War-Service Credit yet.

We have not really got down to it, but it is far from being pushed aside. The position is that every now and then something more pressing comes up on the Order Paper and we have not got to that yet.
1.10 a.m.

The question that the sum of \$152,001 be voted this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXVIII—Subsidies and Grants

Head XXVIII—Subsidies and Grants—was called.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, under this Head we have to debate the whole question of the B.W.I. Airways Subsidy and I think that we should adjourn at this stage. The reason why I think we should adjourn at this stage is that we have to debate these Heads "Subsidies and Grants", "Miscellaneous Services" and so on.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of \$405,324 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I thought that the Hon. Premier would have shown his willingness to adjourn the House at this stage so that we would be able to come back here and deal properly with a matter of this sort. The Hon. Minister of Communications has put before this Chamber a Memorandum dealing with a subsidy to the B.W.I. Airways. This is something which you are asking the people of Barbados to enter an agreement on; to grant a subsidy to an Airways Company which has been in existence for some years. I do not think it is right that the Government should begin to discuss a matter like this

after we have been sitting for 13 hours. It is purely an indiscretion of the Government; the Hon. Minister is seconding the motion for this sum of money to be voted under this Head has not attempted to explain to the House why they are asking us to agree to give this subsidy to the B.W.I. Airways. At one o'clock in the morning we reach a stage in the Estimates where we are asked to consider something which will not be considered by other members until three weeks hence. How can anybody expect the co-operation of an Assembly in issues like this? I am dealing with members who will vote for something without studying all its effects. Are we agreeing to subsidise this Airways Company to the tune of \$10,000 annually? This House was asked to approve of the Agreement in respect of the Shipping Service; we were never asked to consider granting a subsidy to British West Indian Airways. The first hint as to this matter came when the Hon. Premier made an after luncheon speech indicating that if we are not supporting a British Company we are not playing a fair game. This is what is at stake; we have built an Airport at great cost; we have started to make charges at the Airport; and what is the justification of saying that you are charging people for landing at the Airport but you are taking the same money which you charge them for landing at the Airport and giving them back by way of a subsidy. It is not farcical to say that out of one pocket you make a charge and then you give it back out of the other pocket. The B.W.I. Airways is a subsidiary Company of the B.O.A.C. and B.O.A.C. was nationalised by the British Government. B.O.A.C. runs a service in other territories and they are not given any subsidy. The Memorandum of Agreement cannot state the fundamental reason whether the Government should agree to it or not. About ten years ago a debate took place in this Assembly and then there was a division of opinion as to whether you should subsidise the B.W.I. Airways or not; we stood out and we were forced to pay higher rates for our freight. There cannot be any reason today for saying that there is no individual traffic between Barbados and many of the other territories served by the B.W.I.A. If you remember the argument used by the Hon. Premier when we were dealing with another Item, (that there was no objection to any other airline landing at Seawell, that it was only a matter of traffic.) I would ask what is the real reason for our agreeing to this matter?
1.20 a.m.

My attitude therefore, Mr. Chairman, is that I am not prepared to vote for this subsidy; and that is not based on any personal feeling towards B.W.I.A. because I am not interested in that company one way or another. As a result of my work I have to travel from place to place, and I am forced to travel principally by that Airline. If we can afford to spend \$10,000 annually on a subsidy like this, I find myself unable to agree with the Premier when he tells us that we cannot find money to spend on other things, some of which would not even cost as much as this.

I do not know what is the financial position of B.W.I.A., but I do know that they are backed by B.O.A.C., and they showed a better financial position last year than they have shown for some time. The Premier has made a statement to the effect that we should support the idea of regionalism. Members of this House are aware that the Premier does not agree with a lot of regional things when it comes to the Regional Economic Committee. Members are aware that both the Premier and the Minister of Labour have been very diffident about the

usefulness of the R.E.C., and that is a regional organisation. But the Premier and the Minister of Labour were not, because of that difference, regarded as being anti-federationists. But today the Premier is making a bold statement to the effect that when you question a matter like this you are doing something to harm Barbados' position as regards federation. When a matter like this is put in the Estimates one can only discuss it as I am discussing it now; because it was the Government's intention to have those votes passed in the House without making an explanation as to why they consider it necessary to subsidise B.W.I.A.

I go further and say that this Government is indulging in a policy of Toryism in this case. Only a Tory Party could with any justification at this time agree to subsidise a private company over which it has no control. B.O.A.C. is owned by the British. The House of Commons debated that company on the occasion when the House of Commons quarrelled because the Directors bought some American planes, and the Commons felt that the planes should have been built by British companies. That company is British in the sense that the British Treasury has a direct control over it. Moreover in Great Britain the Government controls the Bank of England and Mr. Butler can do what he has just done, because the Labour Government nationalised the Bank of England and they control the spending power of the community. We are not in that position.

Although we are not in that position, here we have a Socialist Government subsidising a capitalist company in a line of endeavour that is unlike West Indian shipping which we felt was a service that would be of some use to the area. Barbados could have done without the services of the *S.S. West Indian*, but as a token of goodwill and as a token of showing that we are not against helping our weaker brothers, we agreed to it. But the same thing cannot apply to the Airways.

I do not see any reason why you should have to subsidise this company. You subsidise a company when competition is such that it is necessary to subsidise it. This is like subsidising a glut; you do not subsidise fishermen when everyone can get all the fish they want; you subsidise against shortages and high prices. We do not know what is the position today with B.W.I.A. Have they made any public statement as to their position?

1.30 a.m.

I am going on to policy at a later stage but I am saying now that B.W.I Airways Ltd. is a private Company. It is a capitalistic company in the same sense as other local capitalistic companies with a board of Directors. I make bold to say that. Since that company has been given a subsidy in these territories just as an act of good faith to show that they are willing to employ coloured people, they are putting one or two coloured people from Trinidad in their offices there to work. What association should I have with a company which persistently pursues a policy which shows you quite plainly that they do not intend to take people of my pigmentation to do work for them other than the work of a messenger. I am saying these things because I am not ashamed of my colour; I have nothing against any man of a colour different from mine. I do not preach race hatred, but I have a consciousness of my own race; and I feel that no man whether he be white, black, or yellow should be discriminated against. It is not anyone's fault that one has a dark complexion therefore when it comes to the question of employment, people should not be driven to see

reason and fair play; it should be a matter of normal course. I have lived in Barbados long enough to know the policy of that company and I know it has not changed its policy. That company will not employ people of dark skins to do work other than messengers and porters. Why should we then take the public funds of this island to assist in a policy which is the antithesis of a socialist policy? No democratic Government should encourage it.

What is the financial position of the B.W.I. Airways Ltd? My point, Mr. Chairman, is that I do not feel it would be fair to ask us to give to a private company like the B.W.I.A. a subsidy. Obviously, the Government should have made the giving of the subsidy of \$10,000 to the B.W.I.A. an issue in itself; it should not have been connected with the Budget, and members of the Government know that. In parliament you will find that a matter of this nature should be discussed as a separate issue. I go further and say that members of the Government knew a long time ago that they had this matter to be dealt with, but they would not deal with it until they put it into the Estimates. Your Estimates should reflect something that you have agreed upon already; it should not be a reflection of something that you have in mind, but has not been agreed to in principle, just like this subsidy of which the principle in itself has not been discussed. What I mean by that is this: if you have to push in the salary of an officer in the Estimates just as you not long ago increased the salary of the Superintendent of Works. It is just like where the partment, that was a case of where the House has already agreed on the establishment of the post of superintendent of Works. It is just like where the House has already agreed to extend the Hospital; therefore, when you come in your Budget for other items in connection with that, you can claim that the principle has already been accepted. The House has never for the last ten years discussed a subsidy for any Airways. You come now in the Budget with something which concerns a vital matter of principle; something which the Government has not yet discussed publicly to get the views of the Legislature; that is not the way in which Budgets are presented. If that were the way in which Budgets were presented, the Government would come down during the presentation of every Budget with anything in it. That is to say if on the matter of Federation or any other matter which the Government proposes as a Government to deal with concerning some other foreign power or something which they never discussed, you should not put it in the Budget; that is not the way. There is no where in these Estimates, not even anything in italics, where you see that this House has given a subsidy to an Airways Company. The only subsidy which you find here on a somewhat similar footing is the one we gave to the West Indian Navigation Company; and if you go back to the debates, you will see that when you gave a subsidy to the Canadian National Steamships this Government would not agree to it just because Trinidad and Jamaica had agreed to it. The giving of a subsidy to B.W.I.A. should have been dealt with as a separate matter of policy, and this House and the people of Barbados should have been given the opportunity to deal with it separately; not in this way. All that we have heard of this matter came from certain after lunch speeches. These are things which concern a matter of principle; and it is known in any part of the world that you do not budget in your Estimates to include any important aspect of policy which has to be decided by the Legislature. Your Budget is a reflection of what you have agreed upon; it is to provide financial provisions for what

you have already agreed upon. If that were not so, you would not have put things in the Five Year Plan. You came to the Legislature before that plan was adopted and said these are the things we propose to do, and when you got an agreement on principle on them you estimated for the financial position they would reflect in your annual Budget. The granting of a subsidy to the B.W.I.A. is not a provision that you made in your Five Year Plan nor is it anything which you can say that this Legislature is likely to agree on. It is not something which concerns a conference that you can say you put it in a conference vote.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is a school of thought which says that you can push anything of a financial provision into your annual Estimate and then while dealing with it, debate the policy for that provision. If that is your view, what more can we do? That is like the opinion you got just now as to the right of certain procedural matters. However, while that may be so, when it comes to a matter of broad financial policy where a country is going to embark on doing something for the first time, it is not the practice to include that in the Budget.

1.40 a.m.

In the Budget Speech I listened to hear what were the reasons given for this subsidy. This is a very important matter; I cannot remember the Hon. Premier's views in those past years, but I know that there was a difference of opinion between the then honourable senior member for St. George and himself although they belonged to the same Party as to whether they should subsidise this Airways Company or not. That was about ten years ago; to-day we are presented with something in this manner asking us to agree with it in the Estimates. I am very sorry that all of the relevant information connected with the reason for this subsidy has not been given, and I will wait here until anytime in the morning to hear what those reasons are.

In connection with Item 20 "Intra-Regional Shipping Service" it has been reported to me that this ship is running a new service and the members of the crew could be a little better accommodated. Apart from the question of the accommodation provided for the workers, there is another question which I do not know if the Government has anything to do with it; but you will find that unless you are looking for a pleasure ship or you are a very wealthy person you cannot enjoy this service because the rates are not competitive. It is cheaper to go from Barbados to Trinidad or anywhere in the area other than by the "West Indian" and that would be a good thing for the Government to see about.

Another Item I want to comment on is Item 50 Publication of 'Barbados and the Confederation Question.' I do not know how it is done, but I am asking this question: how do we come to know that this document by Dr. Hamilton is such a superior one that we have to pay for the publication of this thesis? I understand that this thesis which is supposed to have been written by somebody, is the same which you can find in some book written by the late Hon. C. P. Clarke. I am doubtful about this: is this document a worthwhile one that the Government is engaging in its publication? If a man in Barbados to-day with the spread of learning has written a book which is regarded as being so valuable, he does not need the Government to assist him in its publication. I do not know what precedent there is for this; Dr. Eric Williams has written a book on "The Rise of Capitalism" which any West Indian Government should obtain copies of to be

distributed among the population. I do not know if a copy of that book is in our Library. If there is one man in this territory who is not given a fair chance in his own territory but who has done as much as anybody else to foster West Indianism and Federation, it is Dr. Eric Williams. What he as a brilliant scholar has written has not been given fair treatment in his native land; now that Dr. Hamilton has written this book —

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What Item is the honourable member speaking on?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am speaking on Item 50. Now that this gentleman has found himself in some financial difficulties we are being asked to vote this money. The Note to this Item says that it is expected that this sum will be recoverable from sales; why should the Government undertake to pay the subsidy on a book written by this gentleman? We are providing people with funds to go to Universities and why should we pay over \$2,000 for the publication of a treatise which has been given for so many years? Is the Government doing this for Dr. Hamilton because he is the Head of the Evening Institute and is assisting the Government in some way?

1.50 a.m.

Mr. Hoyos has written books and has not got the money for them yet; he has done more for the Government than Mr. Hamilton has ever done. He has written a history of the Progressive Movement. I do not know how men of learning regard this matter but it seems to me very strange that the Government should find it possible to devote funds to this. I would prefer to see an additional scholarship given to some boy or girl.

As regards Item 40 dealing with the Regional Economic Committee one would expect that in these matters one would hear from the Government from time to time when these things are being introduced, what is the position with regard to the R.E.C. I have not long ago mentioned the views of the Premier and the Minister of Labour as regards this Committee, and on the eve of the Premier's departure for Trinidad I think it would be a good thing if we could know what are the views of the Government on the R.E.C.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I turn to Item 30. I remember reading in a newspaper some very fulsome statements which the Premier made about the Salvation Army. Maybe the Salvation Army are so modest that they have not asked for any more money than they had last year, but I see they are still getting the \$720.00 they always get. They do very useful work in this community. I think that the amount devoted to the Item which I mentioned just now could with pride and justification be given to further the work of the Salvation Army.

There is also Item No. 35, Indian Ground Day Nursery. This is the first year that they have been given a grant, and they have been given the modest sum of \$100.00. These organisations, especially in the rural areas, are doing a great service to this community and relieving the Government of some of its worries. I think that we should give such organisations all the assistance that they should have, and I hope that the Government will see its way in the future to increase the grants.

Now if you look at Item No. 41, Caribbean Tourist Association, it will be seen that the Government has shown a very liberal attitude towards what is known as tourism. We heard the Premier say that despite whatever the Government does for tourism it does not mean that they will ever do anything

to foster any aspect of discrimination. For some years now, whenever the poorer sections of the community asked the Government for anything and got it, I heard about the Government being subjected to "pressure groups." Now I have lived long enough to see that the pressure groups from the capitalist side have succeeded in getting the Government to do the things they wanted done. Let us make it clear (although some of the things are not within the immediate confine and purview of the Government) that many of these tourist organisations still consider low wages and bad conditions as the preserves of the Tourist Industry. [A MEMBER: What is the Trade Union doing?] Trade Unionists are doing their job. I have always done my job in the Trade Union better than he could ever do any job because he is fundamentally lazy; that applies to the Minister of Labour.

2.00 a.m.

What I do say is this: no worker in this country has ever said that the Barbados Workers Union does not work on his behalf; but it must be borne in mind that a Trade Union is not a Government; a Trade Union cannot create conditions. Even C. D. & W. has made it clear that it is not giving certain territories monies where the Governments do not agree to the formation of proper trade unions; that is to say, C.D. & W. is not prepared to give money to areas where workers are not in a state of proper organisation. That is not the situation here. What is the situation here? As I have said, where it is known that employers in a small community with a redundant population would take objections to certain people working in certain industries and would victimise, ostracise and dismiss workers, that community needs a firm organisation to represent the workers; and the representatives that those workers have in Government should also beware of any public assistance that is given to foster such industries or organisations.

I want to make that point very clear because some people misinterpret you. I am not suggesting that everybody in the tourist industry is against the formation of trade unions, but I do say that there are some of them who make it very difficult for workers in their particular industry or organisation to be organised in a trade union. I therefore would be failing in my duty if I did not take this opportunity of drawing that matter to the attention of the Government.

Mr. Chairman, I will end on the point where I began. I do not think that the Government should have persisted in forcing this Head through at this stage; and they have only done so because they realise that they cannot give the community a full explanation as to the reason why the community at this stage should agree to subsidise the B.W.I.A. Limited. This is robbing the representatives of the people of their fundamental rights. If parliament had to ratify an agreement like this, parliament should be given the opportunity to discuss the matter by itself; not in a manner like this in which the passing of the Estimates is a condition of agreeing to the matter. It is known that the Government is going to bring down in the first week in April next a Supplementary Resolution for money not reflected in this Budget, but for items which come up after this Budget has passed and the House will be asked to agree to that Resolution, therefore, there could be no harm done to anyone if this provision for B.W.I.A. Ltd., was made the subject of that Resolution. It cannot be claimed that this is a matter which you have been debating already and you have now asked this Committee to agree to it; this is something which we are now de-

bating for the first time; something which we knew of for the first time when it was shown in the Budget which came down to this Assembly on the 22nd February last. It is approximately two weeks since we started to discuss the Budget. I am sure that the Executive Committee and the Ministers of the Cabinet did not agree to this issue in the manner in which we are asked to agree to it. I would put my head to the block if any Minister sitting there would say that Ministers of the Cabinet agreed to this by just looking at it and in one minute. I know they have not done that, nor have they had a party discussion on this matter in the same way as they did with the Electric Company as regards whether they should put money in the Electric Company or not. No member of the Labour Party would say that this issue was agreed upon.

I would say that I have not made up my mind one way or the other as to whether I should vote for the giving of a subsidy to B.W.I.A., but I would say that I have not been given the opportunity to do so. Why is it that at this time we are asked to do things in a manner that none of the members of the Government would have accepted it, were they not members of the Government. If any hon. member were to take up the Debates of this Chamber between 1934 and 1935, he would see that no Government could push anything in the hands of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph in this way and ask him to accept it. The essence of parliamentary democracy is that you must provide all members of parliament with the fullest opportunity and information to be given to any decision on a public matter.

Sir, you are also up against the fact when you discuss anything of any person or organisation and it is reported to that person or organisation, they entertain the opinion that you are against them. I say that not because it matters to me, but because I remember I had the instance of debating an issue where a public officer was involved and because I discussed it in a way which was contrary to his view, he withdrew from me his speech which God had given him; he probably thinking that his action could do me harm. If anything I say on this matter is reported to anyone, it is immaterial to me what attitude they may take.

I may say that a noticeable feature of B.W.I.A. Ltd. and its structure is that among its directors is a coloured man in the person of Mr. H. O. B. Wooding who is a brilliant lawyer and friend of the Hon. Premier. I am not suggesting that friendship has any influence on this matter, but I am the most surprised man in this island to find that this Government composed as it is has agreed to provide the B.W.I.A. Ltd. with a subsidy of \$10,000 in this year of grace 1955, when on the occasion of the passing of the last Estimates when a certain matter was raised, it was stated most emphatically that unless oil was found it was impossible to do anything outside of what was provided for in the Five Year Plan. I am very glad to see that there is hope of finding oil by this provision. I am very glad to see that the Government has found funds available or has had some tucked away somewhere, that it has been able to subsidise this Airways Company and on the agreement that it is on a West Indian basis. I am very glad to see that Barbados finds itself in the happy position that after consideration of a matter not agreeable to Barbados but for the sake of West Indian unity, it finds that it must agree to it. However, I would not be one of those people to agree to anything just for unity's sake. I would not marry just for the sake of marriage.

2.10 a.m.

Mr. BARROW: Like other honourable members who have the interest of the community at heart, I was myself surprised when the Estimates were thrown into my hands shortly before we began to discuss them and I noticed that we were giving this subsidy to British West Indian Airways. As far as I can see, it is the first time that a direct subsidy is being given to this Company since the first agreement began in January, 1943. I am completely and utterly opposed to giving any subsidy to B.W.I.A. or any other Airways Company at this stage. Just before we began to consider the Estimates an agreement was placed into our hands; I suppose it is an Agreement drawn up by B.W.I.A. with 23 Clauses in it. Nearly every day honourable members have been scrutinising the Estimates and we have not had any time to consider the subsidy which is, I suppose, ancillary to the Agreement. No previous discussion has taken place in this House and no warning was given either in private or in public capacity when such an Agreement would take place. There was no Agreement to subsidise B.W.I.A. last year. The Company was operating until 1949 when it went into voluntary liquidation and became a subsidiary of B.O.A.C., and it was operated by Captain Yerex who was regarded as one of the pioneers of Civil Aviation in these parts.

Since the Government has decided to play owl, I will go through the Agreement Clause by Clause in order to let the public know what we are binding ourselves to. The Preamble to this Agreement sets out that it is an Agreement made between the several Governments and then it goes on to say this:—

"Whereas the company has been operating a service (Hereinafter referred to as the "said service") for the carriage by aircraft of mail persons luggage and goods over the routes (Hereinafter referred to as "the said routes") and with the weekly seating capacities and weekly frequencies of trips each way specified in the First Schedule hereto in pursuance of and subject to the provisions terms and conditions of an agreement dated the twenty-fourth day of January One thousand nine hundred and forty four and made between the first three named hereinabove of the Governments concerned of the one part and British West Indian Airways Limited a predecessor of the Company, which went into voluntary liquidation in the year One thousand nine hundred and forty-eight shortly before the incorporation of the Company AND WHEREAS it was a term of the said agreement that the same should commence on the first day of April One thousand nine hundred and forty-three and remain in force for the period of ten years from that date so that the same expired on the thirty-first day of March One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three AND WHEREAS it is recognised by the Governments concerned that it is essential that their respective territories be connected by regular scheduled air services and accordingly that they should do everything within their power to foster and encourage between their respective territories and other points within the area comprising the West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Miami and Venezuela (hereinafter referred to as "the said area") AND WHEREAS in consideration of the concessions and recognition hereby granted the Company undertakes to carry on the said service and to foster and encourage develop and extend the same consistently with reasonable public demand or necessity therefore, and thereby to provide regular and efficient transportation by air appropriate to public requirements for all persons, luggage and goods within the said area."

That is the first part of the Preamble and we have often referred to these things as matters of inducement. If we examine the Preamble itself, we will see that it is full of false premises. It is stated, Mr. Chairman, that this service is to be operated through the British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Miami and Venezuela, hereinafter referred to as "the said area." I would like to know if this service is to operate between this area, whether the Bahamas, Bermuda, Miami and Venezuela are parties to the Agreement, or is it that these territories have more sense than we have.
2.20 a.m.

If they are parties to another agreement it seems that whereas British West Indian Airways may be contracted with them separately and contracted with us separately, there would be no affinity of contract between us and those particular territories. It is not that I am in favour of the agreement. I will show you that the whole agreement is a bogus thing foisted on the people of this island by a company which does not deserve a subsidy, and which cannot be described as an infant industry and the only possible method of obtaining air communication between the several islands.

The agreement goes on to state, "Now this Agreement witnesseth that it is hereby agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows, etc." On that I will say that I understand that the Minister of Finance has stated that we might be wrecking the prospect of West Indian Federation if we do not agree to participating in this agreement. It is a rather peculiar procedure to me, Mr. Chairman, that this agreement should be brought to us without any previous discussion whatsoever as to the merits or demerits thereof; and that we should be told that if we do not sign the agreement we would be wrecking the prospects of West Indian Federation. I find it extremely difficult to follow the logic of an argument like that.

Even if we accepted an argument like that, I would go back to certain statements made when in 1942 there was a debate in this Chamber on the subject of British West Indian Airways and it was stated then by no less a person than the present Minister of Finance, that B.W.I.A. were pointing a gun at our heads. What I am going to quote from that debate may well take 7½ hours; but it will be the only method of bringing the full facts to the attention of the public of Barbados. Once this Head is passed, debate will forever be stifled, and B.W.I.A. will continue to go their own sweet way rejoicing.

I have much to say on this matter Mr. Chairman, but I am aware that this is the opportunity at this early hour of the morning for members of the public of Barbados to become acquainted with the full facts of this situation, and this agreement being foisted upon us.

The agreement says, as I was reading just now that this agreement witnesseth that it is hereby agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:—

"1. The Company shall as from the commencement of this Agreement continue to operate the said service over the said routes and shall also with all convenient speed extend the said service to any other points within the said area and to each of the Islands of Saint Vincent, Dominica, Nevis, Montserrat, Tortola, Anguilla and Barbuda as soon as landing fields and other aerodrome facilities of the standards specified in the Second Schedule hereto shall be provided in any such Island by or at the instance of the Government concerned.

2. The Company doth hereby agree with the Governments concerned that at all times during the

continuance of this Agreement or of any renewal thereof —

(a) at least sixty per centum of the issued shares of the Company shall be held and owned by persons of the British nationality, or by British Company or corporation (as hereinafter defined) free from any interest lien or trust granted or declared in favour of any foreigner or foreign corporation (as hereinafter defined).

(b) at least three-fourths of the number of Directors of the company (including the Chairman) shall be of British nationality; and

(c) not less than eighty per centum of the employees of the Company shall be of British nationality except by permission of the Governments concerned."

I will stop at the end of Clause 2, for a while. There is no point, Mr. Chairman, in saying that 80% of the employees of the B.W.I.A. shall be of British nationality if all of the employees who have any of the important executive, administrative or flying jobs are going to be of one particular complexion. That is the situation today. Not only that, but I remember well at the end of the last war that several of our co-pilots, even Trinidadians, made applications to B.W.I.A. They were men with vast numbers of flying hours in the Transport Command all over the world from Burma right up to the western approaches of Norway and Sweden and places like that; men who had accumulated good qualifications and long experience in flying in all sorts of climatic conditions. They were told by B.W.I.A. that they were not wanted, although at that time there was a stipulation in the agreement between them and the Governments that at least 80% of the employees were to be of British nationality.

Well, a lot of the young fellows who would have liked to continue to make aviation their career had to turn to engineering, architecture, and other professions that they were lucky enough to get into because B.W.I.A. closed their doors on coloured West Indian air crews. I was not one of them; I could have gone into the European Airways if I wanted to. In spite of all that, we have this farcical clause about 80% of employees of the Company should be of British nationality. That means absolutely nothing to us.

While I am on the subject of the employees of B.W.I.A., I am yet to see one coloured hostess coming out of a plane of B.W.I.A. There are one or two coloured engineers. Where this company is concerned the standard of manners and the standard of courtesy in dealing with members of the public leave a lot to be desired. It is not an organization which any right thinking West Indian Government should support. I will come to the economic reasons afterwards.

It is true to say that this company has pursued a policy of deliberate discrimination in the employment of their staff. I have discussed it with the Directors already. There is one girl from Jamaica who will pass for coloured working with them now, but she is certainly fair enough not to upset the Barbadian social setup.

I have had an experience (and this is not one of the reasons which I am urging upon members, or which has caused me in any way to talk against this subsidy) I have had the personal experience of going to B.W.I.A. office to ship an urgent parcel up to Jamaica three hours before the date of closing of freight, to be told by a B.W.I.A. employee that members of the public are always rushing in at the last minute, and he did not feel like taking any parcels. That was three hours before the time of closing; not the time that the plane was leaving or anything like that. I asked him how much more time he needed and why they said until four o'clock

when they are only prepared to take parcels up to the day before the date of the plane's departure.

2.30 a.m.

That is the sort of thing which goes on; and they think that they are doing people like you and me a favour to sell you a passage at all on B.W.I.A. It is West Indian in name and nothing else.

This is Clause 4:—

"During the continuance of this Agreement the Company shall maintain and operate the said service over the said routes at the weekly seating capacities and weekly frequency of trips each way specified in the First Schedule hereto, and any extension thereof as may be provided in pursuance of the requirements of Clause 1 hereof at a minimum frequency on one trip each way weekly."

And it goes on to say:—

"The Company will so far as is reasonably practicable co-ordinate its services and arrange its timetables so as to ensure that through bookings and connections with any other airline operating in, to or from the said area, may be made with as little delay as possible."

Clause 5 states:—

"(1) The Company shall at all times during the continuance of this Agreement provide a sufficient number of aircraft (registered in the territory of any of the Governments concerned) which shall be properly equipped and be suitable and adequate for the purpose of maintaining an efficient and satisfactory service and of operating from airfields and air strips of the standards referred to in Clause 1 hereof. The Company shall consult the Governments or Government affected and obtain their or its consent before substituting aircraft requiring longer runways or more elaborate airfield equipment which have to be provided at the expense of the said Governments or Government concerned. Nothing in this clause shall preclude the Company from chartering aircraft not registered in the territory of any of the Governments concerned for the purpose of augmenting its own fleet should the necessity arise."

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Communications whether B.W.I.A. before they placed the order for Vickers Viscount turbine air jet planes consulted with this Government. That is something vitally affecting the facilities which we have at the Airport and the runway. If that Company did not have any consultations with this Government over that, you can see how much an agreement like that means to them. I do not like to repeat what I said, but I warned honourable members of this House though it was in connection with T.C.A., that Vickers Viscount turbine air jets would cause Government to spend a considerable sum on Seawell. Now we have this provision for \$523,000 for the Seawell Airport. All this has taken place without any previous consultation with the House. I maintain that for this particular aspect of the matter, there was no previous consultation.

Sub-section (2) of Clause 5 says:—

"The Company shall also carry mail by the quickest practicable means, and for that purpose shall be obliged to carry such mail if necessary by an indirect route."

I do not think I need comment on that again.

Clause 6 says:—

"At all times during the continuance of this Agreement the crew employed by the Company in any aircraft shall, save with the express permission of the Governments concerned, be of British nationality."

There is no point in putting the stipulation in an agreement that the crew should be of British nationality. If the inference is that they are to be of British nationality, you mean British nationality of one complexion.

Clause 7 is the one which I really want to deal with a little more fully. Sub-section (1) is stated as follows:—

"(1) During the continuance of this agreement, the Company shall have the exclusive right and shall also be obliged to carry all mail originating at any point, and destined to any point, within the said area."

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I do not want to stop the hon. member, but the House will have plenty of time to discuss that.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, has the honourable member risen on a point or Order? He is not going to work anything on me; I want to make that quite clear. The honourable member makes one undertaking now and then tomorrow morning makes the direct opposite. What is the object of pushing this agreement in our hands the same day as the Estimates if they did not want us to discuss the subsidy. If there was no agreement for a subsidy, there would be no agreement. You are not giving them a subsidy like that which you can give the Daily Meal School; do not try to pull that one on me; can you give anybody a subsidy without having an agreement? The agreement itself discusses the matter of the subsidy. I cannot remember the exact number of clauses but this is my recollection of this matter. It has 13 closely written pages of the agreement itself and then all the Schedules connected with the matter. Why say now that we will have time to discuss the agreement. You are saying *ex post facto* because you have to go to Trinidad on Sunday that we will have time to discuss this matter. We will have time but time when it is too late.

Clause, 7, Subsection 2 reads as follows:—

"The rates chargeable for the carriage of mail by the Company shall be such as may from time to time be mutually agreed between the Governments concerned and the Company or in default of agreement by arbitration as hereinafter provided."

Mr. Chairman, I know that you are tired, but the Hon. Premier got up just now and said that we will have time to discuss this agreement. I will tell you the conditions under which this agreement came into our possession. When we opened the Estimates we saw that Government was asking us to provide a subsidy of \$10,000 for B.W.I.A., and if you look at Item 23, you will see that it is proposed to make an agreement with this Company for the payment of a subsidy of \$10,000 to B.W.I.A. Now the Hon. Premier has the temerity to get up and say "We will have time to discuss this agreement." What is the point of our voting money for this subsidy if we do not have to discuss the agreement along with it. I see reading from the Barbados Estimates of 1955—56 from which the word "Colonial" has been so clearly deleted, that it is proposed to make an agreement for the payment of a subsidy to B.W.I.A. You will forgive me if I come to the conclusion that this is a draft of the agreement which is going to be made between the various Governments and B.W.I.A. Even that is dishonesty because the agreement is not with B.W.I.A., the agreement was to pay B.W.I.A. a subsidy, not to make an agreement with the several Governments concerned. Why did they not include the Governments of Venezuela, Bermuda and so on? Do not come and say that we will have plenty of time to discuss the agreement; we will have time to discuss it but not in the way the Premier would like us to discuss all matters. He would like us to hurry up and vote on it. He wants to avoid discussion on the matter and then he will be the first person to get up and say we are reflecting on a vote of the House if we happen to say anything on the matter at a future date. When I first came into this House I was willing to think that he means

everything he says and I would be willing to sit, but not now.

I will read Clause 11:—

"a quarterly subsidy shall from time to time be paid by the respective Governments concerned to the Company. Such subsidy shall consist in the case of each of the Governments concerned of—

- (a) a sum equivalent to the amount paid by the Company to such Government in any quarter for customs duties on aircraft, aircraft engines and on all other articles equipment and materials (including spare parts) imported into the Colony or Island and necessary for the operation and maintenance of the service of the Company or for servicing and repairing its equipment and plant; customs or excise duties on aircraft fuel and lubricating oil and other dutiable articles purchased locally and required solely for the aforesaid purposes; and
- (b) such further sum as is specified in the Fourth Schedule hereto in respect of such Governments."

What I am pointing out is that this agreement does refer to the note to Item 23 which is for the passing of this subsidy. This agreement for subsidising B.W.I.A. is in the same way as the one which was placed before this House as the result of a Message sent down by His Excellency the Governor in which a Joint Committee of the two branches of this Legislature was appointed at the beginning of the Session in 1942 to give a reply on it.

2.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, the present position of B.W.I.A. is that this Company enjoys a monopoly in the field of air transport in the British West Indies; to that there cannot be any dispute. It enjoys an absolute monopoly in the carriage of passengers within the Caribbean area. What surprises me is that we are back in 1942, at that time the Minister of Finance then thought that it was an iniquitous thing for the British West Indian Airways to be given any special concession which would extend longer than the duration of the war and a year thereafter, and he was very strong in his criticisms of the B.W.I.A. The honourable member went so far as to call the arguments used by the then honourable senior member for St. George, Mr. Springer, and the then honourable senior member for Christ Church, Mr. Evelyn, as puerile; and perhaps it would be of interest to the people of Barbados if I were to quote a few passages from this debate after giving a short history of the first Agreement made by the British West Indian Airways.

On the fifth of May, Message No. 12/1942 was sent down from His Excellency the Governor to the Legislative Council informing the members of the Other Place that the Government at that time had under examination proposals for the participation of Barbados in a scheme of development of the British West Indian Airways, and that Message sets out the different Clauses which are, in many ways similar to the Clauses in the Agreement to which I have drawn, Mr. Chairman, to your attention. One of the Clauses of that Message is Clause 10 which stated this:—

"The Company shall maintain the necessary aircraft, properly equipped for the satisfactory performance of such a service."

I will not worry to bore you Mr. Chairman, with all the details which can be found on pages 39 and 40 for that session of the Legislature in 1942. On the 23rd June, 1942, the President of the Other Place presented the Report of the Joint Committee appointed to consider the Governor's Message No. 12/1942 and there is further reference to the

same topic on page 78 where the Report of the Select Committee is discussed, and it goes right down to page 83.

Now Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote a few remarks made of a very long and protracted debate with respect to the B.W.I.A. in this Chamber in July, 1942. It was the second Order of the Day called on that day and to come straight to the point. honourable members will be interested in some of the remarks made by the Premier on the matter. I should just like to know what wonderful metamorphosis has overcome the thinking of members on this subject. Has the millenium arrived simply because they are in office? On page 407 the junior member for St. Joseph, who at that time was the present senior member for St. Joseph said this:

"I cannot give a silent vote on this matter. This is one of those matters of principle which sometimes come before the Legislature, a principle which flows beyond the confines of this colony. This is an Imperial matter. It is a matter such as I have ought not to allow a vote on this matter to take place without expressing them. I would say at the very beginning that however pungent any of my criticisms might be, they are not personally directed at any one person or Government or any community. I feel that one of the evils of this island is too great a silence when plain speaking is needed. I am fundamentally opposed to anything which is in the nature of a monopoly. I go further. I am opposed to anything in the nature of a public utility being left to the tender mercies of a commercial concern whose motive is private profit.

I was practically alone in this House when I opposed the British Union Oil Company getting a monopoly of natural gas in this island. I may be permitted to remind the House that my suggestion was even called Utopian by an honourable member whose political principles one would have imagined had made him an ally of mine on that day. If I say anything which seems a reflection on my political friends I hope they will feel that it is merely a call to look as high as possible on matters of principle.

I thank my honourable colleague for making the two points which he had made. One is that there is something to be said for the Committee who made this report which is the substance of this Address, and the other that both the senior member for Christ Church and the senior member for St. George were only puerile in attempting to argue against their better judgement that this was not blatantly and obviously a monopoly. It is silly to quibble over literary terms."

The honourable member then referred to Sir Lennox O'Reilly, and stated in categorical terms that B.W.I.A. was a monopoly. He declared: "But if out of the mouth of one of the advocates of B.W.I. Airways today the B.W.I. Airways is telling us that it is in fact a monopoly, and he endeavours to show why we should back it as a monopoly, then although the company has two distinguished advocates in the House to-day, I prefer to go along with Sir Lennox O'Reilly who is one of the greatest eminent lawyers in the West Indies—I would have said the greatest were it not that I am flanked by two eminent and erudite wearers of the long robe. Sir Lennox O'Reilly says it is a monopoly, examine it and see whether you should not encourage it."

He then went on to quote Sir Lennox on the kind of monopoly that B.W.I.A. was. The honourable member went on (and this appears on page 407 of the Debates) to say: "We are fighting a war." At that time, he must have been using the word "we" in the looser sense. He said: "We are fighting a war in which we are saying that we admit that things

have been bad in the past, a war against perpetuating private or class privileges, and then at the same time the Colonial Office is telling the Leeward and Windward Islands to sign on the dotted line, and telling Barbados that we will be in a hole if we do not sign on the dotted line."

Now, what will the Minister tell us today? He stated on this same subject that if we did not sign we would be wrecking West Indian Federation. Yet, in 1942, he was accusing the Colonial Office for the same reason. He said in 1942, "I have sufficient warmth in my body, and I hope other members also, to talk back to the Colonial Office." Apparently, the atmosphere is a bit chilly now-a-days, and we do not hear much talking back. The honourable member went on to say: "In the middle of a war when the British Prime Minister, the President and Vice-President of the United States and a Secretary of State for the Colonies, all of them have told us about a new world and a new order in which they will be no special privileges, you are asking us to give a special privilege to a particular company."

This is the same company that we are discussing this morning, and this is the then junior member for St. Joseph. That is what he said in 1942 about the same company that he asked us not to discuss about fifteen minutes ago. He would be without warmth in his body if he did not discuss it in 1942. That is how I feel today, and I hope I will never undergo the climatic changes to which the honourable member is subjected.

He went on to say in 1942, "This is one of those things that make Continentals and others feel that England is a land of hypocrisy, unconscious hypocrisy possibly, but hypocrisy none the less."

"As a matter of principle the suggestion of B.W.I.A. has nothing to recommend it. We all know to our sorrow the history of the Electric Company in this colony." That history he seems to have forgotten. "We ought to have learnt what the position of a public utility company should be. As a matter of principle I am in favour of every public utility service in the colony being owned and conducted by the Government or by a Municipality. None of us are so silly as not to see the benefit of an Airways Service. I suggested, and others must have suggested to the Royal Commission that one of their recommendations should be an Airways Service from British Honduras down to British Guiana. They did not see fit to suggest so extensive a service, but at any rate the beginning had been made with the Leeward and Windward Islands. What we want to see is a West Indies Service owned and run by the West Indies Governments."

I remember that those same sentiments were expressed recently on the question of the West Indian Navigation Company, and the Minister of Finance and Negotiations had nothing but jeers and sneers for the members who suggested that the Shipping Company should be owned and run by West Indian Governments. [Hon. G. H. Adams: That is absolutely untrue.] Check up on the Debates and at the same time tell me if what I have quoted is a misrepresentation of what he said on the 14th July, 1942, in this Chamber. Let the hatchet man check up on that too.

The honourable member said in 1942: "What we want to see is a West Indies Service owned and run by the West Indies Governments. Having an Airways Service run either on a co-operative basis, which is almost impossible or run by a Government is a vastly different thing from a Government subsidizing a Private Company for private profit, even although it might be controlled by an examination of the Company's Books."

Did I not tell you the agreement was the same? Right here you have the provision in Clause 9 (3). That was not sufficient for the Premier in 1942. What has happened to have made it good enough for him to give them a subsidy today? In 1942, there was no question of direct subsidy to the best of my recollection. It was a subsidy by way of remission of duties, customs charges etc. It was not a direct vote of money as is the case today. But even in spite of that the honourable member for St. Joseph was against the subsidy then. But the altitude of feasibility sometimes seems to increase with political altitude.

The honourable member went on to say in 1942: "I feel that the argument on the question of excluding the foreign companies, and what foreign companies especially American may even do has been pressed a little too far, because the International Agreements are there."

At that stage, the member for St. Joseph went on to say this: "I would urge upon the House that there are times when we can point out to the Colonial Office its mistakes. It is our duty as soon as we feel a mistake has been made to point it out to the Colonial Office."

3.00 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is evident to you, how this passage reads what he meant. He said: "I feel that its present policy is merely a perpetuation of the pernicious imperialist system of lending government aid to private companies desirous of reaching out their tentacles towards the exploitation of more and yet more 'native' markets, and supporting that policy by means of gunboats." When he said so, that was in the middle of a war. He went on to say: "But I am sufficiently a realist in politics to see that when a revolver is pointed at my head and I have no immediate desire to die, I should barter with the man at the other end." You probably may barter, I would not have to barter with him. That is the attitude of some people. He went on to say: "I can foresee the impossibility of winning this war and going on with out a Socialist Government in power. I feel sure, therefore, that a British Government after the war would have none of these monopolies."

There was a famous saying in the American Army at the cessation of the war: "The war is over, honey bunny!" To get the sequence of that statement I will read that last passage again: "I can foresee the impossibility of winning this war and going on without a Socialist Government in power. I feel sure, therefore, that a British Government after the war would have none of these monopolies." I will now say the war is over honey bunny and the sooner we all realise it, the better. Mr. Chairman, I am only selecting some of the choicest passages by the same honourable member when he was the junior member for St. Joseph.

This is almost identical with the proposals which were then discussed by this honourable Chamber. Those were the sentiments of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph on that occasion. I wonder what has happened to make him try and foist an agreement of this nature on the unwitting members of the public, the members of this House, and the taxpayers of the island of Barbados when that same company has had the benefit of twelve years monopolistic service in spite of the protest of the then junior member for St. Joseph. That Company for not less than twelve years had been in full operation. It has been able to build up its organisation in the community and has even been able to show a profit; and further has been able to invest in three of

the most expensive and up-to-date airliners that can be purchased in any part of the world today. It is at this stage, just at the inception of its new service with Vickers Viscount turbo-jet aircraft which is going to cost West Indian Governments more in the maintenance of their runways, that we have been asked to give this private company which has the additional advantage of being a subsidiary of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, another monopolistic grant in the world of Civil Aviation, an additional subsidy of \$10,000. B.W.I.A., has had twelve years' unlimited monopoly of all your transport in the Caribbean area. That Company has been able to capitalise on the excuse that Barbados is not prepared to make any concessions to airliners of foreign countries until those countries are prepared to give the B.O.A.C. similar concessions. We have heard that talk up to a few weeks ago in this Chamber. Here it is, B.W.I.A. has a complete monopoly not only for the duration of the war, but ever since the war, and the agreement was only for ten years. They did try to whittle it down to seven years but it went on until 1953 when the agreement expired. So powerful was B.W.I.A. at that time that they could force the agreement against the expressed wishes of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph.

What has happened? A certain eminent lawyer is a director of B.W.I.A., not because he is a deserving West Indian but because he had shares, whether the shares were given to him or whether he purchased them, though he must be a major shareholder as well. Of course, that gentleman has made use of his position; but with all that, he cannot get one coloured person on the staff. In the preamble we read that B.W.I.A. is to employ people only of British nationality, but how can that be so when a director at the head of that company cannot get one coloured person of West Indian origin employed on the staff? That company went into voluntary liquidation in 1948 and was re-organised as a subsidiary of B.O.A.C. making them more possible to be intemperate in their treatment to the average West Indian citizen and more callous in their demeanour to people of different complexions than their own. We get this wonderful change over in the thinking of the responsible members of the Barbados Government, so much so, that we are not even warned before the Estimates came down about the giving of a subsidy to B.W.I.A., this is for the first time, speaking under correction, certainly for the first time since I have been in this House, has B.W.I.A., being given a direct subsidy. You cannot even say that it is an infant industry because you must ask yourself, when does an industry grow up? And that company was operating for twelve years as a monopoly, and it has in the preamble matters which show that it is not in a sort of financial stress, nor anything else to show that the company is unable to continue its services unless it is given a subvention by the several West Indian Governments. I find it hard to believe that that company is in such financial difficulties when it can purchase three Vickers Viscount turbo jet aircraft when it is adequately equipped with aircraft already.

I do not see how any company could be the subsidiary of B.O.A.C., and say that it is in any financial difficulties. The whole position of B.W.I.A., is anomalous; they dictate the terms, they say they want a longer runway and you have to give them an increase in fares. Can you name a single person here who has the interest of the community at heart, who would examine their accounts and say that they are entitled to any increase of fares? And the B.W.I.A., fares at

present are above those of Pan-American and the North Eastern and North Western Airlines of the United States of America! It is fantastic for members of the public to have to pay the prices which they now have to pay for a return passage by B.W.I.A., between Barbados and Trinidad; a flight which lasts for a little over an hour. You can go from Paris to London about four times for the price of a return passage between here and Trinidad. Do you see anybody like West Indian Nationals flying these aircraft? You would see that during the War; they are those who went out night after night during the War but when they applied for a job at B.W.I.A., they would not give them. Thank Goodness, I was never interested. On the Memorial Plaque are the names of those who died when you and I were sleeping. However, that is the position under which this Company has been in operation, having a virtual monopoly, not a monopoly granted by Royal Charter, but a pure and simple economic monopoly over the Caribbean area for the last twelve years. That Company is over important, over pompous; in 1948 before they went into liquidation they made it plain that they were West Indians in name but not in nature. They were fulfilling the prognostications of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph. when he spoke of the policy of perpetuating the pernicious system of Government aid to private companies. I feel that the next Resolution that the Premier will come in here with would be a Resolution to purchase gunboats for Barbados; he said that their policy would have to be backed up by gunboats. Even if he brought gunboats I would never vote for the Resolution under this Head.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not know where to begin. First of all I do not think that any member of this House would claim that he is sufficiently informed about this matter. Nobody can say that this Government has made this House aware of any possible issue between itself and other Governments that would have to be resolved in an Agreement which it would have to underwrite between the Governments and the B.W.I.A. It certainly cannot be claimed that by pushing a memorandum or the type-script of an Agreement in our hands is sufficient to inform us of what they intend to do. It may be even different if this matter reaches the Other Place, which I hope will not happen, when the public and the community in general will be vouchsafed an explanation by the Hon. Mr. Cuke, who I think is one of the Directors of that Company, which is not given to us in this House.

3.10 a.m.

All of that is quite possible; that is nothing to our purpose. This subsidy is wrong in principle, and if it is wrong in principle it should be rejected out of hand. Before I attempt to give my views on it, just let me say something generally about this Government's policy in respect of these matters. I cannot for the life of me understand the sort of mentality which finds it possible to say in some matters where hardship is experienced by the people that "we have not got money to assist you, and we cannot do anything for you unless we find oil," and yet at the same time, they know that they are cooking up an agreement to be presented to this House which will call for the considerable grant which they propose to give.

I cannot help commenting on the fact that some weeks ago my constituents were very much concerned with a matter which, to do them justice, would have involved no more than \$1,100, almost a tenth of the sum for which this subsidy calls, and they were given a solemn assurance by two Ministers of this Gov-

ernment that while the Government might possibly be sympathetic, what prevented them from acceding to their request was the fact that there just was not the money available. I want to ascertain from this Government whether they imagine that to give \$10,000 every year to a capitalistic enterprise which has a monopoly and is making a profit and has been making one for the last twelve years, whether to do that is better than to lend one-tenth of that amount to eleven people whom they are supposed to govern and protect in this island. I want to ascertain from them if on every occasion they are going to show their cloven hoofs and their readiness to deny help to the people whom they should help, and actually impose their assistance on people who do not deserve it and certainly can do well without it.

British West Indian Airways is an organisation which has been running in the West Indies for some time. I would have felt, and I suppose you too Mr. Chairman, that if that company was getting into financial difficulties, the members of this House would have heard about it. We have not been so apprised. We follow news of developments in the West Indies and we hear news about big commercial undertakings. We do not always hear all the news, and we do not always get it up-to-date; but you cannot ask me to believe that a company like this could ever be in financial difficulties and members of this House know nothing about it. Is the Government claiming that the finances of this company have made so catastrophic a reverse in the last four weeks, four months, or even since last year, that the West Indian Governments must now rush to the aid of that company? They cannot seriously ask us to believe that, because if there was a time to disclose that information to the House it was surely some weeks ago when the Premier himself was defending Government's policy towards B.W.I.A. with respect to other airline companies.

That was the time, Mr. Chairman, to let us know that B.W.I.A. was getting into rough waters; and that we would be asked in another month or six weeks to provide money for that company. The argument between the Premier on the one side, and the honourable junior member for St. Peter and the honourable junior member for the City on the other passed off with some heat; but certainly, that was the time when the House should have been told that B.W.I.A. was becoming impoverished and that it needed help.

Mr. Chairman, I imagine that it would be said by the Premier that \$10,000 is the maximum, and it is the extent of this Government's obligations; that we will not be called upon to give any more and that to that extent we are safeguarded from further infringements on us; that \$10,000 is the absolute limit which Barbadian tax-payers can be called upon to pay; and that we can have the assurance that it will be \$10,000 and no more. If he says that, it may well be true; no one will dispute it having it put like that. But Mr. Chairman, this is a proposed agreement between all the British West Indian islands and this company, therefore you can be forgiven if people think that when and if this agreement is concluded in this form, this commercial airline will be subsidised perhaps to the tune of \$100,000. Therefore, you cannot even consider this in relation to Barbados itself; you have to consider it as part of a subsidy which all the Governments are giving to this private company; so you are asking us to accept it as being a party to giving a sum of money, perhaps more or less than \$100,000 to a commercial company which will enjoy a monopoly of the air-traffic both in luggage mails and persons, and asking us to believe that we should give so much money to a commercial airline and also allow them to enjoy a monopoly in doing something wrong.

If this Government chooses to assure the public of Barbados that this \$10,000 of its money is going to be well spent it will have to do much more than to push a number of copies of this agreement in the hands of members of this House. It should be the aim of any Government in the West Indies to get the best possible air-service for the inhabitants of the area. As a matter of fact, no one would deny that air communications are important. As we have heard from the honourable senior member for St. George, the Premier himself agreed with that thirteen years ago. That is quite true. But you will never get up-to-date communications by merely spending money in subsidising a monopolistic company without doing yourself the justice of discovering whether you can get a superior service from other companies.

Are we going to be told that we have to subsidise B.W.I.A. because no other company or organisation of comparable size and means can give us the service we should have? Is the justification for taking the tax-payers money and throwing it at this company going to be the excuse that it is better to do that than to invite a new company or companies? I want to stress that the argument is that we should have a better service. If the argument is that we should have more comfortable transport in the last resort and cheaper rates of travel, you will not get that by subsidy; you will not get it by giving the taxpayers' money to that company; you will get it by competition. Throw open your Airport to commercial airlines. Let B.W.I.A. take its chance with the others who are willing to provide a comparable service. Let it be by virtue of competition that this company either hold its own or drop out of the race if it cannot win.

I am not convinced, and I do not think that any number could be convinced that by paying a subsidy you are doing even what you should do. That is not all. What I would ask is, does this company actually deserve that treatment? It does not. I have never yet read any pronouncement from that particular company as to the extent of its profit and loss account. No one knows it; but by all accounts it is a flourishing company. If it is not a flourishing company, if there is something in its operational cost which renders it an uneconomical proposal, a subsidy will not help it; you cannot subsidise a loss, nor can you subsidise inefficiency.

To do B.W.I.A. justice I do not think upon it at all in those terms. I look upon it as everyone else in the West Indies looks upon it, as a long established and prosperous company. There is no hint to the contrary. It is expanding its services. Justice should be given where justice is due, so I will say that it has a fine record for air-safety. It is not only efficient but it is actually prosperous. Therefore, if you are subsidising it and the other Governments are agreeing to subsidise it, there is more in it than actually meets the eye. Certain questions will have to be answered.

3.20 p.m.

It is not enough Mr. Chairman, for us to be told that in an agreement there is provision for you to see a balance sheet; that does not help; and even seeing a balance sheet at this stage, cannot justify your giving a subsidy especially when you cannot substantiate any need for such a subsidy. In any case, Mr. Chairman, it is no concession to the Governments of the West Indies to be told that they can see the balance sheet. After all, if they enter into an agreement it is not more than what is their due to see how their money is being spent. Mr. Chairman, the people of the West Indies should not be asked to pay their money to subsidise private companies or to swell the dividends of shareholders; that is really what it means. After all, B.W.I.A. is still

operating at a profit. What we must ascertain first is: is it losing anything now? Or, has it lost anything over the last year or two? If it is, it has a right to appeal to the Government. It is of no use for the Hon. Minister of Trade to sit down here and say nothing on the matter. If he wishes not only me but the House to know the facts he has a right to present the facts and advise his colleagues to do so. [A VOICE: Sit down and you'll get the answer.] It is confounded nonsense, a misconception of the principles of this House, when members get up to express an opinion for them to be told "sit down and wait". I do not propose to sit until I finish all that I have to say. I do not see the one who can persuade me to do so. You will sit until morning. You are very rude and silly.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I object to those remarks.

Mr. TUDOR: I am saying Mr. Chairman, you cannot just ask people to spend their money like that. If B.W.I.A. has become poor, that is something which cannot be happening because the air travel to the whole West Indies would be affected. Are you going to say, failing the knowledge that that company is in financial difficulties, that you must throw the taxpayers money into this company? It is not Barbados alone that is subsidising this company to the tune of \$10,000; the whole West Indies are asked to contribute. It is a colossal sum which is thrown into that enterprise. I do not think that it is acceptable bait to pretend that in return for all of that you will get so much percentage of the directors to be British and so much of the crew and employees to be people of colour. That is somewhere in the agreement unless I am mistaken. They did not say "coloured" but they said a proportion of the directors is to be of British Nationality. That to me is not a great concession for \$10,000 to be given away on that strength. Would you expect that of an Airline company operating in the West Indies having a virtual monopoly? Would you not expect an airline company operating over this territory that some of its directors would be British and some of the employees, and even the most subordinate would be British too? That is something which you would expect and it is not enough to barter \$10,000 away for that.

One other point Mr. Chairman, and it is this: we have now become too accustomed to the technique which is worked in this island by this Government on the public. Obviously this Government knows more of the facts than anybody else, but you cannot get from them anything to give you a true appraisal of the new situation. Some people of course who follow current affairs might be able to put two and two together. I would like to know what there is between this and the visit of Sir Miles Thomas, the gentleman from B.O.A.C. and the further interesting speech which the Hon. Premier made before Sir Miles Thomas on the occasion of the luncheon. I want to know what there is between the three things because a lot of people listening to the Hon. Premier on that occasion, took him at face value. I know him well enough to know what he said on that occasion has two or three meanings. I am wondering whether the visit of Sir Miles Thomas had anything to do with the protection of B.O.A.C. in these parts. Is there some new policy in B.O.A.C. which is being felt in its subsidiary company which necessitates that B.W.I.A. must have this money but which they cannot raise from their own sources immediately? Is it that the West Indian Governments are being asked to subsidise, as you have been told, the three turbo-jet aircraft so that B.W.I.A. can get those three new

planes on the run before public clamour in the whole Islands rises for greater competition? All these things we must know and they have some necessary connections; but if you are outside of the Government, you cannot know these things. The proper thing would be for members of the Government to tell you those things but not to inveigle or cajole you into giving away the people's money and then at their leisure, sometime afterwards, extending things to you in dribblets. Let Government be frank and fair even as they would on some important matter of theirs. They are supposed to have certain principles; I do not know if they still adhere to them. You cannot if you are a Socialist embark on schemes which push private enterprise more firmly entrenched than before. If B.W.I.A. is in bad waters, all West Indian Governments should begin by gradual process to nationalise it and take it over. If you tell us that any money you ask for would not be for a subsidy but to purchase a block of shares, we will agree with you. Tell us if you wish, that the West Indian Governments are willing to buy up any of the shares of B.W.I.A. However, that is not what you are aiming at, because if it were so you would have no hesitation, you would say this company appears to be in bad waters and from the appraisal of the situation it appears that West Indian Governments will have to come to its aid and as a result, Barbados proposes along with the other Governments to come to its aid by putting money into it; but the way in which we are putting money into it is by way of taking up some shares in order to get a controlling interest. If B.W.I.A. is not in bad waters and realises its value to the West Indies, then try to get advantage of the situation by attempting to control it. If the company is in good waters, do not be inveigled into giving away the taxpayers' money to subsidise what does not need to be subsidised. You should not be subsidising a company which has a monopoly. The issue seems to be clear. How can you in the face of the many things you have to do, if you say you want to do them, but you do not have the money, give away this subsidy? The directors of the B.W.I.A. may be good financiers and people of good reputation. I say nothing personally about them.

3.30 a.m.

The issue seems to be clear. In the face of the many things which you have to do and for which you have no money to do them, how can you find money to do these sort of things without any justification. The Directors of B.W.I.A. may be able to say that their reputations are above reproach; and if one of the close friends of the Premier is one of the directors of that organisation, there is all the more reason why he should be in possession of all the facts. I want to know from him if the facts have not been given to him and whether he can seriously contemplate asking the taxpayers of this colony to support this scheme, especially if the facts show that this Company is in a flourishing position. The travelling needs of the public are first of all, that they should be able to get from here to yonder quickly, cheaply and with efficiency and despatch, and also with the minimum of cost; and if there are parcels and freight they want to be free to be able to transfer them from island to island in a network of colonies at the lowest possible cost; and the most important thing is that the materials which ensure communications between the islands should be carried cheaply and quickly. This is indispensable; do you mean to say that B.W.I.A. knows these things so well that it has to be subsidised? What are you subsidising? Profits or Losses? If you are subsidising losses you should be open to competition and if you are asking to subsidise profits, then you are not only throwing

water into the sea but you are encouraging the Company not only to be a monopoly which is bad enough, but you are also making inroads on the taxpayers of the island. If you are subsidising this company on the grounds on which other islands are doing it, you should not do it on those grounds if they do not seem to be sufficient. It cannot be seriously contended that if Barbados does not support this Agreement the chances of Federation would be wrecked, because from my casual reading of the Agreement, B.W.I.A. has almost said that if Federation comes the Agreement will be reviewed in the light of the new circumstances; so that if B.W.I.A. wants to look at any Agreement made now as a tentative one, the argument that Federation would be wrecked by failure to agree does not hold water. The people's money cannot be seriously thrown away like that; it would not be a good thing for us to commit ourselves to this kind of expenditure every year. I anticipate that one of the arguments which the Hon. Premier will use in his reply is that no great harm will be done by trying it for this year; that on the basis of facts known to us we can sign the agreement and we can try it for this year and next year we will maintain the right to break the Agreement; but we would be silly to allow ourselves to be persuaded to vote for this subsidy on that excuse. As I said before, Mr. Chairman, just as in our domestic concerns here we noticed that a situation is developing for sometime and they are formulating policy to meet it so too, it must be true that whatever lies behind this request for this subsidy, was known and I do not think the Premier would say to us that this is something suddenly being thrust on the Government for its consideration and it was a matter of life and death which this island had to agree to.

3.40 a.m.

This is something that has been put to this Government and has been debated by them on the basis of facts known to them and not to the rest of us; and that is where I disagree with them most bitterly. I would have thought that when they gave us the draft of the proposed agreement it would have been easy to give us a resume of the difficulties or misfortunes of the particular company for the last five years. That would be a reasonable time to see what has been the ups and downs of this particular company, and what profits and losses it has made and how they managed to carry out what extensions they have carried out. If they had laid that information along with the agreement I myself would probably be inclined not to support it, but at least I would have had a little back-ground knowledge.

Giving such information could not harm B.W.I.A., because if their case is a good one the more people who knew it, the more support they would be likely to get; and if their case is a bad one on the basis of the facts presented to us, it would create greater urgency to assist in the matter. It may be that they do not consider that the information if placed at public disposal would be enough to satisfy this House, and that is why the facts were not brought. You cannot bring an agreement between governments and a commercial undertaking without giving some idea about the history of the negotiations which led up to the proposed agreement between the parties involved.

I like to be fair, Mr. Chairman. It may be that there are ways in which the Government can benefit from this; we can concede that although we have not been told in the agreement. We have been told what the Governments propose and undertake to do and the penalties liable to be undergone by B.W.I.A. if it fails to carry out its pledge. I think that one

of the most striking things in this agreement is the fact that this company not only asks for a subsidy from the West Indian Governments, but it is prepared in almost every clause of the agreement to hedge itself around with what I call saving clauses. Everything is done in the agreement to put B.W.I.A. almost beyond the reach of adversity. I do not see any comparable concessions given to the Governments. I do notice that it says somewhere that one of the things which B.W.I.A., is prepared to do if the agreement goes through is to allow the Governors of the several territories and perhaps their wives to travel free from one point to another within the area; also Government Officials, presumably going on official business, will receive rebates. I am not saying that those are not two concessions which the Government will have; but when you are proposing to pay out \$10,000 of the taxpayers money, and probably even more in the case of Jamaica and Trinidad, is it right to pay out so much money for so little benefit?

If Governments are to reach public advantages for the communities which they control, it must be on the basis of cheap air-travel; cheap freight carriage; cheap mail carriage; and in addition to cheap rates there must be safety, speed and efficiency. I am not convinced that paying a subsidy is the way to achieve all this. I am not even prepared to believe that these objections are the ones which the Government has in mind. I still think that the West Indian Governments are being sold a pup. If I think so, I can be forgiven because neither I nor any member of this House except the five Ministers possibly in addition to B.W.I.A., know the basis of this decision.

Is the company flourishing? If it is, you do not need to subsidise it. Is the company badly off? If it is, you may need to subsidise it, but you must take steps to control it because you cannot be expected to take your money and give it to a company the result of which will be to stiffen the back-ground of the company, and pull it out of a hole and give that company by virtue of the money you have in it, an opportunity to raise its fares and prices generally, and possibly, as a result of sweet complacency, to give you a worse service than you have been given before.

For those reasons Mr, Chairman, I would be inclined to be against this subsidy to B.W.I.A.
3.50 a.m.

There are other matters under this Head which I should like to bring to the attention of the Ministry concerned. Item No. 10, St. Patrick's R.C. School has allocated to it \$1,440 and the Note says to assist with the work done for education by the R.C. Church. Quite recently I have been examining quite closely and at close quarters how beneficial is that work. Some of my nieces go to that school and because I happen to take them there and to be there at certain times of the day, I have come to see at close quarters the splendid work that is being done at that school. The thing which enticed me most is the feeding of school children on mornings. Some who live too far from school are given their first meal as they get to the school and in the midday most of the children are given a free nourishing lunch. It is a tremendous work which those Nuns have undertaken and it appalls me to think, whatever maybe their sources of revenue, we can not find it possible to give them more when we think that this is a work which Government itself should be doing. If voluntary organisations are doing this work they should be supported. The sum of \$1,440 is not a large

amount for the purpose which that school is carrying out and it certainly could be increased.

The next thing is with respect to the University College of the West Indies. I see here that we are allocating the sum of \$111,168 as our annual contribution to that College. The point I wish to make here is, (and I wish to throw it out to Government) I do not think that the public in Barbados is sufficiently university conscious, and I think steps should be taken through the Government broadcasting a little more to get them university conscious. I notice that the Princess Alice Appeal Fund has been launched and more and more people are becoming acquainted with the role which the University College is playing in our midst. I think the Barbados Government itself is pulling its weight in supporting this institution but I feel it might do a little more to encourage private citizens to do the same.

With respect to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society the sum of \$7,200 is voted and it includes provision for upkeep of children's museums. The question I want to ask is whether it actually does cost that amount. What actually is bought for the upkeep of such a museum out of this money? What proportion of it goes in wages and salaries to staff?

With respect to Item No. 20, Intra Regional Shipping Service the sum of \$21,120 is to be voted. I have heard Mr. Chairman, quite a number of comments and criticisms not of the worthiness of the service itself, but of the fact that there is great disappointment felt at the fact that West Indians themselves are not likely to be employed in the numbers and in the stations to which they would be privileged to be employed otherwise. I would like to hear the Hon. Minister make some pronouncement as to what is the policy in respect to the shipping service and as to whether Governments have received any complaints about the employment of West Indians and whether anything can be done or has been done.
4.00 a.m.

As regards Item 26 "Boy Scouts Association" the Note says this: "A grant of \$384 is made and may be increased by a further \$400 on a dollar to dollar basis when subscriptions exceed \$400." What struck me there, Mr Chairman, is this: while I have no close contact with scouting, it did seem to me that more than \$400 could be collected by them and therefore the contribution should have been a little more. What I would like to know is what other sources of revenue does this Association have? Scouting seems to be going down in this island and if the attempts it makes to get its own revenue are so small, then even with what the Government gives its revenue is still small. As regards the Salvation Army and also in the case of the Roman Catholics, I was really surprised to see that more money was not allocated to them because the Hon. Premier has said that if a case had been made out he would be prepared to consider it. I do not know whether they made out a case to him and failed or whether they did not make out any case. The night shelters and the rescue work of that Salvation Army are of such value to the community that something should be done to increase what is given to them.

In connection with Item 35 "Indian Ground Day Nursery" I am sufficiently interested in this particular creche to know quite intimately what is going on there, and I would make a plea to the Government that in all cases where voluntary organisations are doing such splendid work they should not cut them just to the bone. While you do not want to bring about a diminution of the voluntary effort and while you want to encourage volun-

normally help in their private capacity, you like to see something which is flourishing. It happens that institutions such as these do not get enough attention because official help is not as generous as they would like to be. I think that this Nursery could do much more for these children but the contribution of \$100 a year is not the sort of money which would help them to do much more. I am making the plea but I do not think it will be heard for this financial year, but it is worth considering that a little more money should be allocated to this Voluntary Organisation.

With regard to Item 48 "Publicity Committee" the Note says this: "To provide representation and advertising in U.S.A., Canada, U.K., and Venezuela and to maintain an Information Bureau at Pierhead and at Seawall. Increase due to proposed increase in advertising and publicity and for liability accepted by Committee for half cost of contribution to Caribbean Tourist Association." Of course it would be interesting here to ascertain what actually is the extent of that liability. The sum of \$44,000 is an enormous sum of money to be so heavily committed including the contribution to the Caribbean Tourist Association; it all means that you are spending a lot of money. Perhaps the Hon. Minister of Trade will tell us at some time or other whether this sort of expenditure is justified; but the public generally do not feel that it is. One wants to know where the taxpayers' money is going when such a large sum of money appears to be called for; although one expects that advertising in Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Venezuela does cost something, it gives cause for misgiving when one considers that the Bill is so high.

The next Item to which I want to refer is Item 42 "Imperial Institute." We are spending \$360 which appears to be an annual contribution to this Institute; it would be interesting to ascertain from the appropriate Minister what precisely are the benefits we achieve in this connection. I know of course that most of these things have a sort of prescriptive right, that they are traditional and when we start on them we have no idea of their actual benefit. However we are told by this Government that every cent counts and that it must be accounted for; if this Institute does not afford to us the benefit for the expenditure of this \$360 it would be as well to check up and see whether or not we are making a mistake. If that amount of money were devoted to our Library or the Attorney General's Library we might find a more useful and numerous collection of books.

Item 44 is "Parliamentary Association." I see no Note opposite to this Item but I suppose it was omitted because it must be clearly well-known that we have to contribute to it. I am a junior member of this Assembly and I therefore might be forgiven for my intemperance; but I wonder if we are getting returns to justify the expenditure of this \$1,200. I myself have received magazines or reading matter which were posted to my predecessor in this island and apart from the reading matter, I wonder what are the advantages achieved. I have read that when delegates have had to be chosen for gatherings on these occasions the House has to vote the necessary funds. I do not know therefore why we should be asked to contribute so much money for so little returns.

For the repatriation of Barbadians from Cuba the amount is almost the salary of a Permanent Secretary. The Note to this Item says this: "Contribution to the cost of services undertaken for the

relief of West Indians in Cuba. The basis of the contribution which has been made in respect of the 1939-45 War has been revised with the result that an amount of \$1,396.60 stands to the credit of this Colony. It is proposed to utilise this balance to meet this Colony's share of the expenses of the Commission until such time as it is exhausted." I say that it is not the money which is actually spent and I do not suppose that there are many Barbadians now alive in Cuba who will need to be repatriated; but it does raise a point in my mind, and it is this: why does the Government not keep a sort of reserve fund on which it could call in respect of these matters? It does give one the impression that your expenditure will be rather much more than it is, and that all sorts of things are found to fritter away money on when some of the things do not call for expenditure.

4.10 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, the last thing is Item No. 50, the Publication of "Barbados and the Federation Question." The Note says that this amount of \$2,169 is to pay for the publication of a Ph. D. thesis by Dr. Hamilton relating to the history of the island. It is expected that this amount will be recoverable from sales. I myself like the honourable junior member for St. Peter am at a loss to know why this is here. I must confess that I have not read the particular thesis, but I was under the impression that it had been published. In any case, I do not know if it is right in principle for the Government to undertake the publication of the thesis. This is nothing to do with a scholarship or of the worthiness of the thesis, but whether it is right in principle for the Government to undertake its publication.

If my memory serves me, Dr. Hamilton is a post-graduate of London University, and I remember that there was a special provision made in that University for the publication of theses. I thought that there was a recognised procedure by which theses got published. If Dr. Hamilton's thesis is good enough to be published I do not know why the Government of Barbados should be asked to publish it, unless of course it is going to be used as a text book in the schools. That is the only way I know of in which this amount can be recovered from sales.

I hope that this is not going to be a precedent. Of course it cannot be in one sense, because you do not get theses every day or every year to be published. But why discriminate? I certainly think that the things written by Dr. Williams, and any of the publications of Dr. Arthur Lewis, particularly with respect to colonial economy merit publication too. I would not advise the Government to undertake publication of this thesis even if they were going to use it as a text book in schools. While I would not object violently to this I feel a bit uncomfortable about it, because in the first place I feel that there should be arrangements between Dr. Hamilton and the University on one hand and a reputable publisher in London on the other. Secondly, it involves a sum which cannot be recoverable unless the book is circulated in schools.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I do not think that the two honourable members who have just spoken on Subsidies and Grants will expect that the person introducing this Head should give an explanation of every single Item. The normal thing would be to allow members to ask the Government questions on this and that Head. I did not care to interrupt the honourable senior member for St. George at first. It is no use in any case, because he will say that he does not believe anything that you say; that you say one thing today and one thing tomorrow. I am personally much opposed, absolutely opposed to

much of that agreement, and that is why we have come down for \$10,000. When the honourable senior member for St. George came to the passage or paragraph that we were to give up this, that and the other he stopped. This Government and the Government of British Honduras—

Mr. BARROW: Is the honourable member saying that I left something out which I ought to have read? What is the impression that he was trying to give? If he asks me I could go on to read the details. If I did not refer to the debate of 1942 he would have defended this agreement up to the hilt. Now we are hearing, just like in the case of Federation, that he is bitterly opposed to it. Let us introduce an element of sanity into this debate.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: When the honourable member came to paragraphs 11 and 30, he just referred to them and stopped.

Mr. BARROW: That is not true. Emphatically, it is not true. I read out that the Government shall pay such sum by way of remissions of customs duty etc., and such further sum by way of subsidy. The honourable member indicated that I was wasting the time of the Committee and that the agreement had no relation to the subsidy. It is a favourite method of his to deal with criticism by building up a false case that no one has postulated. He is being dishonest if he persists in that. You heard what I said, Mr. Chairman. You should not allow him to get away with it.

1.20 a.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I will never descend to take any notice of the honourable member when he behaves like that. He can go on cursing as much as he likes. Neither British Honduras nor ourselves agree with this subsidy. If the honourable member will take the trouble to listen he will see that what he was talking about the agreement it is nothing to do with the \$10,000. When this agreement was drawn up various Governments gave their views. We said that we were not giving any of those terms and British Honduras said the same. I made it clear to Mr. Wooding and Mr. Dos Santos that Barbados could not give any of those terms.

If we were to give up, British Honduras would be also prepared to give up and that is the wording which we have. They said that if we gave a subsidy they would give \$23,000 and I said that we would not give so much as that. An honourable member asked what this \$10,000 represents. I repeat, how can you under "Subsidies and Grants" expect an honourable member to say what about this and that? Did not I intervene and try to point out that the agreement was a matter for the House of Assembly? When I did so I got the usual language coming from that side "nobody can trust you".

Let me say that we did not agree with this agreement; we did not agree with giving up these dues. British Honduras said that they will put \$23,000 if we gave something and we said, "nothing doing" we will give you a lump sum. We could have said \$5,000, \$6,000 or \$10,000. We said when we were doing the Budget we will see what we can spare. I do not care who attack us; I couched my reply in the mildest possible terms and not because I am afraid of being abused again.

Every single human being in the British West Indies has read over and over again, either in the *Trinidad Guardian* or the *Barbados Advocate* that B.W.I. Airways does not pay; it loses millions of pounds. Over and over again the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has said; "Why subsidise a loss; why not subsidise to gain." Over and over again he implies that this company makes no money. These are his fears every now and then but actually these are the figures. There was a conference and

as a result this draft agreement evolved and we turned it down; nobody knows except the Ministers.

We know the dividend paid up for \$4,750,000 has incurred a loss. The apparent loss was \$3,133,928 by the amount of \$2,273,600 revenue and \$850,328 added to this contribution as well as provident funds, and on the other hand profit from the sale of equipment would accumulate \$1,161,150. Those are the facts which the company put before the West Indian Governments in respect of their request for financial help. We said then just as we said before, our Legislature is not going to agree to helping you. There is not one single word I said years ago which I would not say now. On that occasion, I was not against helping B.W.I.A. but I was against helping them for a period longer than was necessary. It is just as I maintained then that the bases in the West Indies which were handed over to the U.S. Government should not be leased for ninety-nine years. There is very little more I can say to this point. I say again that this draft agreement was not agreed to by members of this Government or by British Honduras. British Honduras said they would give \$23,000; we said we would not go so far. The most we said we would do is to ask the Legislature to vote a lump sum. By this vote B.W.I.A. has no claim on the \$10,000. We are only asking in the Estimates whether the terms are acceptable to the Legislature so as to permit us to pay the money. That is all it means.

Any agreement which is arrived at must be an agreement which this Legislature agrees to. That is what I got up to say. Because these Estimates were being done before the agreement was arrived at is the reason why the \$10,000 was put down in the Estimates. Those are the facts.

I would pass on to the Five Year Plan but let me remind honourable members that we cannot take money which we have said we are going to allocate to this that or the other, without coming back to the Legislature and getting an agreement on it. This is the same thing; that is the position on this particular vote. We will in due course say how far we are going; and we are coming to the Legislature to get your approval as to how far we should go before B.W.I.A. gets another subsidy. Who is going to agree to any monopoly? We have never said that. We get some of the most unblushing lies in arguments on the floor of this House; we get statements that are not true. I know what is a back of this position; it is not true to say that the British Government has prevented Pan-American Airways from coming here or that it is making use of Barbados to keep out Pan-American Airways. Nothing of that sort has taken place, nor are we granting anybody a monopoly. Again I say, how can we agree to a monopoly? I said on the floor of the House a month or so ago that a Norwegian firm of Airlines can come here but we must bear in mind that we are endeavouring to bring these colonies together and we have the B.W.I.A. service which is doing very much for Barbados and other West Indian Colonies.

We gave money to the Canadian National Steamships Limited for coming here. They went out of commission. Is it not a natural thing to give an alternative subsidy to somebody else to carry out the agreement? That is a vastly different thing from saying we are granting somebody a monopoly.

As regards the point raised about Dr. Hamilton, this is not the first Colonial Territory that has done that sort of thing. This is far from being a precedent. I am trying to encourage Mr. Shilstone to write a history of Barbados because there is no history of Barbados other than Schomburghk's which is worth while. I hope Mr. Shilstone will agree to write one;

and when he has completed it this Government will come down to the Legislature to vote a sum of money in order to bring it out. We are just giving a sum of money to Dr. Hamilton to bring out this work; we will get our money back before he makes any money on it. We all know that the publishing of a book takes a lot of money, especially a publication of this sort where you may not sell more than 1,000 or 1,500 copies. That is the answer to the question about Dr. Hamilton.

As regards the giving of a subsidy to the Salvation Army, I do not see why we should go saying before hand that we will give so much to anybody. If you ask you will get but they have not asked, therefore what is this Government to do?

As regards the Roman Catholic Church we know it does a good job feeding those children. They have asked for an increase and we gave them an increase, and this is a further increase. If the honourable member will look at the annual budgets he will see what they got before and what they got last year. They have had two increases. For a number of years they were only getting \$960, now we are giving them \$3,000.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter also referred to Item No. 41. Many of these organizations do not qualify for Government's subsidy and nobody will make a condition that regular Trade Union Wages are paid. However, now that the honourable member has drawn the matter to my attention I will go into it.

4.30 a.m.

Mr. BRYAN: This is now the wee hours of the morning, and for that reason I had decided to withhold my comments; but the remarks made by the last honourable member have brought me to my feet. Last year I flattered myself that I had made out a case for assistance in the rebuilding of the Roman Catholic free School. But my appeal fell on deaf ears. I must confess my disappointment on opening these Estimates to find the same amount (\$1,440) as last year. You cannot say of the Roman Catholic as you have said of the Salvation Army, because the Roman Catholic applied for an increase, and their application has been refused. One would have expected to see an increase this year as a sign of penitence for the sin of omission last year.

Government admits the good work the Roman Catholic is doing, by way of educating and feeding poor children. Government can still do its part by sending down a Supplementary Estimate to assist this deserving cause.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: You will remember Mr. Chairman, that I raised the point in connection with the subsidy to the B.W.I.A., but the point which the Premier was making is fundamentally different from the one I made. I do not agree that we should vote this \$10,000 as a block vote.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I had not finished replying. I do not want to say more than I need say, but I do not think the Roman Catholic Church is so badly off and I think that with the money which Venezuelans bring here these Venezuelans should be appealed to as the Roman Catholic Church appeal to the Government.

I am rather surprised that somebody with the general knowledge of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy should ask anything about the Imperial Institute; the honourable member ought to know what letter in the alphabet comes after "R". [Laughter] With regard to the contribution towards the relief of distressed West Indians in Cuba, does

he not want these West Indians in Cuba to be relieved?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Where the Hon. Premier and I differ in this matter is this; it is a matter of principle so far as I am concerned. This is a matter which the Premier says should be done in this way. I say that I do not agree to the granting of this \$10,000 as a block vote and the Hon. Premier says that we have to discuss the agreement; but this agreement is contingent on this money we are voting. I do not subscribe to the view of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy; I am not concerned about the Government agreeing to the agreement and I did not suggest that before you can reach an agreement you must tell the Legislature about it. However, if you do reach an agreement before you come to the Legislature—You cannot come to the Legislature and ask it to initiate an agreement; it is the function of the Government to initiate an agreement and it is the function of the Legislature to ratify that agreement. The Government must initiate its internal agreement before the Legislature knows about it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: We are not going to agree to some of these things but because Estimates were given at the time when these talks between the Government were drawn up, we said that we will put in this \$10,000; but the terms of the agreement we will come back and talk to you about.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not so concerned now with the amount; I would be in a better position to agree if it were a dollar vote. What I object to is that when you put this money in your Estimates, when it comes to the question of the agreement it would be stupid to come back and say that you disagree to a particular clause of the agreement. I want to be in a position to agree or disagree with giving this subsidy to B.W.I.A.; if you did not give them a subsidy before are you continuing with it? If I vote this \$10,000 you must bear in mind that I am agreeing to the subsidy and I am agreeing to the principle of providing a subsidy on condition that this agreement is suitable to you. I want to be in the same position where as long as you reach an agreement to provide this Company with a subsidy then that subsidy could have been a dollar as a token. I have already pointed out that I was unable to make my second reading speech and that I would have to speak often.

The Hon. Premier cannot claim that honourable members did not try to get through these Estimates; the suggestion was made that we should adjourn and leave this Head so that when we came back to it the points would have been made clear. The honourable senior member for St. George has read what the Hon. Premier had said in this connection some time ago, and there are lots of members of this House who hold strong views about providing the B.W.I.A. with this subsidy. I was surprised to find that that suggestion was unacceptable to him or to his Ministers. All this debate could have been saved. In so far as this subsidy is concerned I am not in agreement with it; I have not dealt with the agreement at all; there are aspects of this agreement—it would not have done the Government any harm and it would have done the B.W.I.A. a lot of good if the Government could have set out their case and we could have dealt with the matter outside of the Estimates. I feel that we could have got through the Estimates and the \$10,000 could have been the subject of a separate Resolution. I am of opinion that this is a matter of tactics or strategy and I do not mean anything vulgar about that. [Hon. M. E. COX: The Other Place can take it out.] The Other Place cannot take out anything which the House has passed; I forget the Other Place when it comes to a matter of this sort. I

consider that the suggestion which I made would have worked but it did not meet with the approval of the Government.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: There might be the necessity of incorporating something controversial in the Estimates. We did this simply because we say that we must incorporate in the Budget all our expenditure and try to cut out supplementary expenditure. Some of us may feel strongly about giving a subsidy to the B.W.I.A. or anybody else, but we may agree that this is merely on a par with subsidising the ship which we subsidised the other day. The C.N.S. has gone, a lot of us are travelling by air; and so let us subsidise land, air or sea. We put that in the Budget because the Budget should show all that we intend to spend in the coming year.

Mr. BARROW: If the honourable junior member for St. Peter wants to be naive in this particular matter —

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am naive about it. 4.50 a.m.

Mr. BARROW: I am not saying that he is not naive about it; I say if he wants to be naive about it that is a matter for him. The honourable member surely must have known something about it.

The Premier came into the House and said that he was bitterly opposed to the provisions of 1942; but there was no Minority Report that he dissented to the views which were expressed. If I did not repeat the debate which he made in 1942, he would bamboozle the House into accepting this situation. As the honourable junior member for St. Peter has said, now that we have Ministerial Status, Government is entitled to give this Legislature an explanation of any new negotiations that are going on and as regards the principles underlying the particular thing. The Government has no right to commit the Legislature to what is going on.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: What I did say is that no Government, whether it is Ministerial Government or not, should negotiate an agreement because Parliament is the body which ratifies the negotiations and the honourable member should know that. No Government should have the fundamental right to implement negotiations and where there are financial commitments, those are for the ratification of Parliament.

Mr. BARROW: I cannot understand what the honourable member is saying. Does the honourable member mean to say that you have to allow them to go and make agreements. When he talks about ratification, he does not talk about disallowing and not ratifying, therefore surely when there is anything of a great nature of this kind, the best course for Government to pursue is to set out generally that there are negotiations going on and these are the principles involved and invite the criticisms and suggestions from the Legislature on the proposed agreement. What the Government did here is to insert the specific provision into the Estimates which will eventually find itself into the Appropriation Act; so we will have no control as to if they give it or not; it will be a matter for their discretion. The giving of that subsidy should be debated at the same time as the agreement because it has a direct reference to the agreement.

Sir, it is only now after certain things have been pointed out to the Government that they see the inconsistencies in the course which they have been pursuing and are trying to evade it and look differently on the situation. I am sure the directors of B.W.I.A. would be extremely surprised to read that the Government never held the view that they should honour the terms of this agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I am pointing out the danger of the irregular procedure which was adopted by this Government from time to time, and it is only when they find themselves in a tight position that they say that they never agreed to it. If you say that this is an agreement by the Barbados Government, we must come to the conclusion that you knew what the draft was. There was never any covering memorandum to the agreement saying that the Government did not agree to Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and so on or that they were not acceptable and they propose to hold a full-dress debate on this matter to see what are the opinions and sentiments of this House. Nothing like that has occurred. How long are we going to be engineers? How do you expect us to know where we stand from day to day? We have to think of the way how the money of the taxpayers is being spent. I object as a taxpayer and for my own self that B.W.I.A. should get one cent of our money this way.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to make reference to Item 20, Intra Regional Shipping Services. That was the subject of a special Resolution in this House some few weeks or months ago. I would like to say that since the publication of the passenger and freight rates and since the members of the public have had a chance to look at the particular vessel which is put on the run, we are not so convinced that we have got a bargain. The standard of the cleanliness of that boat leaves a lot to be desired, and the very appearance of the boat is not conducive to the large volume of passenger traffic from those who can do better. Certainly the freight rates, despite the subsidy, are not at all as reasonable as we would expect it.

When it comes to the vote for the Barbados Council of women, (see Item 34) I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services whether the transference of the separate votes to the Black Rock Baby Welfare League, the St. Lawrence Health Centre, the St. Thomas Nutrition Clinic and the St. Philip's Infant Centre was done at the incidence of the Barbados Council of Women. I would also like to know whether he considers that \$3,318 is a sufficient sum to cater for the needs of these organisations which look after children of the less fortunate members of this community, and whether it is enough to pay doctor fees and buy cod liver oil and other items of commodity, such as milk, at the prevailing market prices. I have spoken year after year on the parsimony of the Government when it comes to the vote for the welfare of children. I have noticed certain very dangerous trends in Government circles in that the prevailing economic philosophy seems to be one of neo-Malthusianism in which the Government is concentrating on getting rid of the people; it is not concerned with providing a decent standard of living for the people whom we have and making sure that the infant mortality rate is reduced considerably from the exceptional high level which prevails in the colony at present. Barbados has the highest rate of infant mortality in the whole of the West Indies. This Government is evolving a neo-Malthusian principle because it is trying to impress on the people of this island that they are propagating too freely and multiplying all over the face of the earth. I therefore can only attribute the fallacy of the Government to recognise the need for an increased grant for the baby welfare clinics to this adoption on their part of the neo-Malthusian concepts which are growing in this community and are being fostered in high places. The whole attitude of this Government is not one of providing jobs and employment for the youth who leave school, but trying to bring home to the people of Barbados a sense of original sin by telling them that they are multiplying too freely. I have already pointed out that our rate of population growth is only

one-half that of what it is in the United Kingdom. There is nothing abnormal about our rate of population growth but there is something abnormal, almost immoral, on the part of our medical authorities in their lack of interest of our high rate of infant mortality which is a disgrace to the British Empire and the whole civilised world. I would like members of the Government to pay attention to these matters like the high rate of infant mortality in this island. Throughout the length and breadth of the world it is known that Barbados is one of the worst places for infant mortality.

5.00 a.m.

Is there any effort being made to reduce infant mortality? No, they adopt the policy of birth control and make no mention about reducing infant mortality. They have failed to come to grips with the economic and unemployment problems of the island and instead of trying to come to grips with those problems, they try to impress upon the people that the only thing which is necessary is for them to reduce the rate of population growth, and the millennium will arrive and the people will not be aware of their failures so much.

Imagine a Government which blandly says it is in favour of birth control, and which makes no mention of any attempt by the medical authorities to reduce the high and disgraceful rate of infant mortality in this island. Whether they like it or not Barbados will have 400,000 people to support one of these days. What is the solution? The Leader of the Government once said to divide up the land between 60,000 families. What would you do with the other people? Get rid of them. Get rid of them where?

There is no mention of the infant mortality rate in the notes to vote for Public Welfare Clinics, because apparently, they do not want to keep the children alive. I invite the Minister of Social Services to ask the doctors at the Hospital whether the large number of children who actually die at a tender age do not die because of starvation or malnutrition. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the large number of school children who faint on their way to school due to the lack of a proper diet. We are told that hot meals for school children in the mid-day are only for temperate climates. If you check on the Debate of 1942, you will see the then senior member for St. George discussing provisions for hot meals.

I think it is a disgrace for anyone running a Nursery or Welfare clinic for children and babies to have to go cap in hand in this year of grace asking for subscriptions. It is also a disgrace to contemplate the size of the Government's grant depending to a large extent on the voluntary subscriptions they can get. That would be alright as regards an organization like the Boys Scouts, but not organizations which if we had well planned social legislation would be a part of Government's machinery.

When we come to the Victoria Emigration Society that Society does not appear to be performing a useful function. It is the only sort of Board or Committee on which myself and the honourable junior member for the City have not been pushed by Government members, because it is a Society appointed by Mr. Speaker. The views of persons on Boards which views are not entirely suitable to Government, are no longer wanted. That is the position in which we are placed in this country.

I do not believe that the Victoria Emigration Society even draws from the Treasury the \$720 voted to it. In any case, in the context of our present emigration needs it would be inadequate except in the case of showing favouritism to one or two persons. No equitable distribution of the limited funds of the Society can be made because of the inadequacy of the

vote, and secondly because of the way in which the Act regulating the Society is drafted.

Certain recommendations were made by members of the Society who even have appealed to the Governor through the Chief Secretary; but nothing so far has been done about it. I would like to point out that the purpose of this Society is to assist in the emigration of poor women who are compelled to earn their living but are unable to do so in Barbados. I would say that 85% of the women in Barbados would probably qualify for help under the provisions of Section 6 of this Act. Therefore, it will be plain to all but the blind that the vote of £50, if the spirit and the letter of the terms of reference of the Society are to be carried out, would be a hopelessly inadequate vote. I would suggest that the Society be abolished and the Act repealed.

I think that after 60 years have passed, we have done enough honour to the 60th year of the reign of good Queen Victoria by instituting and carrying on this Society. I personally believe that the whole object of the Society was purely *ad hoc*. If there were one or two bad cases of people out here who wanted to be repatriated to the U.K., this Society was used as a device. I do not think that we are making any serious attempt to grapple with the problem of unemployment in this island and I think that the Society should be integrated with the Government's policy of emigration.

As regards the Publicity Committee the increase is really a substantial one. I would say it represents about a 30% interest, or \$33,000 out of \$44,000. I hope that as a result of the increase for advertisements, that we will see advertisements of Barbados appearing in such publications as "House & Garden", "Holiday", "The New Yorker" and magazines of that standard. I have seen advertisements in such magazines of Bermuda, Jamaica etc., but I fail to see any mention of Barbados. There is no point advertising only in obscure periodicals that only reach a limited circle or a certain church group.

The honourable junior member for the City made some remarks about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The sum of \$1,200 is voted for that. I have already brought it to the attention of members of the public that this Association really serves no useful purpose for members of the public and members of this House outside a favoured few in Barbados in particular. Whenever a conference comes off, you find that some favourite person as of the Legislative Council is drawn aside and told not to vote because it is a matter for the House of Assembly. When you expect that someone like the Deputy Speaker would benefit, you find that is regarded as a vote which is put there to patronise someone who has voted the right way or done someone a favour. The Association is not one of democratic lines. I think that the practices of a Parliamentary Association should be free from personal rancour and that \$1,200 should not be used for granting favours of joy-rides. In addition to the \$1,200 we have to come back and vote \$3,000 or \$4,000 when it is an exceptionally long trip. I do not see that it serves any useful purpose except to those people who like to go to England and have tea in the House of Commons. It is an Association that is far from being what the Mother of Parliaments would expect it to be. It is the direct opposite and antithesis of an Association which should be for the improvement of parliamentary relations, and where you can discuss matters freely without question of Parliament or personal feeling.

I would like to see that vote completely deleted. If the Government is so hard pressed that they can-

not do those things which they should do until they strike oil, votes like these should be completely done away with.

5.10 a.m.

When we are invited to conferences and matters of that kind, those members who feel disposed to go should go. That is how it should be; or alternatively those members who want to see a favourite go, should push their hands in their pockets and send their little favourite. These conferences really do not serve any useful purpose because no report is made. Let us take the last person who went to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference. I understand that he went around giving lectures and showing lantern slides of his trip to Kenya but he has not given us the benefit of his experience of the trip or told us what went on there. We voted something like \$7,000 for the particular trip; I do not see why the taxpayers of Barbados should subscribe to this. This should be subscribed for by members of this House of Assembly or members in the Other Place.

When it comes to Item 45, Relief of Distressed Barbadians abroad, I would like to know what steps this Government is taking under this vote or any other vote. I think what I want to say can be dealt with better under Item 46, contribution towards West Indians in Cuba. I was saying I would like to know what steps this Government is taking in places like Panama and Cuba where Barbadians have gone and made a substantial contribution to the wealth of those communities and have spent the best of their years in those countries? What representations are made by this Government through the British Government to see that those people do not suffer any untoward distress? It seems to me that if one spends 30 or 40 years of his life either in Cuba or Panama which means that those people emigrated to those countries before the first World War, that person has helped to build up the economy of the particular country to which he emigrated, and it is not asking too much of those countries to provide an adequate system of pensions and gratuities for those persons—in this case expatriated Barbadians. I have heard through personal contact with cases from here and in those countries, that Cuba and Panama are not as bad as have been made out. It is true to say that in Cuba the people were just thrown on the scrap heap after working for a number of years both with the Cuban Government and in private industries. I do not see the reason why we should be called upon to contribute to the relief of West Indians in Cuba in the sum of \$5,760 which we are called to vote. Mr. Chairman, I really would like to know from the person responsible for this Item what share do we in Barbados have in dictating or participating in the policy making organisation in Cuba, because when we send this money overseas we have no guarantee that it would be usefully spent and would be spent for the relief of Barbados and not for the relief of all and sundry. We cannot, therefore, regard it as a contribution to the national revenue of the Cuban Government has discovered in the fulness of time made the enquiry as to the method in which this fund is administered and the policy which is carried out.

I was under the impression that a subsidy to the Imperial War Graves Commission would not be put in. I have not seen any vote for it. I suppose the Government has discovered in the fulness of time that it was no longer necessary to make any contribution to an already defunct body.

I would like Mr. Chairman, to deal with Item No. 31, Barbados Association in Aid of the Blind,

Deaf and Dumb. The position with that Association is rather anomalous.

Mr. Chairman, I am drawing your attention to the fact that there is no quorum. I suppose we will have to wait until the Government summons up its cohorts. I think the best thing to do is to adjourn the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot adjourn the House.

A member entered the Committee and took his seat, to make a quorum.

Mr. BARROW: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, I am not so sure if the present arrangement for the running of that organisation, the Association for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, is entirely satisfactory. There was a recent case in which the Social Welfare Officer moved against one of the blind students at that Institution thereby causing an injustice to that student and his family. Finally, she tried to pin the responsibility of her action on the Committee for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb but the Government has not made up its mind whether the Association for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb is part and parcel of the social services of this island. When it comes to the limited facilities available to students at the Institution or amassing penalties from the students or actually dismissing them, it is a fact that the Social Welfare Officer plays a great part in these machinations, I would like to see the education of the blind on a more solid footing. Certainly there are other things for a blind man to do other than to knit a basket. A blind man can perform the duties of a Court Reporter and there is no reporter-typist in the Law Courts of this island. That is the position which can well be established in the Law Courts of this island. They exist in all the metropolitan Police Magistrates' and Stipendiary Magistrates' Courts in London and nearly all of those posts are filled by people from St. Dunstan's or other organisations like that. People who live at such homes learn to manipulate short-hand typewriters and learn to do shorthand.

Item 36 is for a vote of \$1,020 for the "Civic Circle". I think the Civic Circles has really been performing a useful job in this island, and I did hope that some more recognition would have been made this year to the valuable work which they did especially on the occasion of Royal visits and other such visits, by the substantial increase in the vote for the Civic Circle.

I may also mention that the windows by the sea in Bay Street as well as the gardens at the Housecraft Centre and other places are really a credit to this community; and it is a pity that the other Departments of Government do not follow suit in beautifying the surroundings of the City and the rural areas. Now the other organisation which does good work in my opinion is that of the S.P.C.A. That Association has numerous duties to perform. They have to conduct prosecutions in the Courts; they turn up more promptly than the Fire Brigade when they are wanted for any animal injured and generally they carry out good work in this country. I am rather surprised that only the paltry sum of \$720 has been allocated under this vote for the Barbados Society for the Prevention of cruelty to Animals.

Other honourable members have already commented on the fact that the total vote for the Salvation Army is only \$720 and therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would not worry to make any further comments on that because we now understand from the Hon. Minister of Finance that no application has been made for an increase of the subvention which they get from this Government.

There is one vote in respect of Item 19, "Commissioners of Highways", a vote of \$113,480, and I would really like to see a break down of this amount. We know that the amounts are fixed by the Act of 1900, but I am sure that honourable members would like to see a break down as to the manner in which this additional vote of \$113,480 would be allocated because over and above the amount fixed by law there is a subsidy to the Commissioners of Highways of each of the parishes. Surely if this Department is under the control of the Minister of Works he must know by now how they intend to split up the additional vote. There is an unfair distribution of the amounts allocated to the parishes under this Head; if the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has the figures we would normally expect that a full explanation would be given as to the manner in which the work is carried out.

Looking at this Head of the Estimates on the whole, I would say that the general policy of the Government as regards subsidies as set out here leaves a lot to be desired. I do hope that some Items which are here will not be here in the next Estimates, Items like the Victoria Emigration Society and one or two other Items of that nature; and that far more accurate estimates will be made of the varying needs of the several bodies, groups and associations which are Government subsidised, and that a more level policy will be introduced in the next Estimates. I hope that I will not have to repeat any of the strictures and criticisms which I have made under this Head when we next have to debate matters of this kind.

5.30 a.m.

Mr. TUDOR: There was one disquieting feature of the Premier's remarks in reply to the main portion of this debate on this question of the subsidy. It is this: it is true as I said that either this Company is flourishing or it is not. I said that more from argument than anything else. I did not expect he would say that we must subsidise this Company because it is actually losing money; but he has substantiated the point I made about the information we should have. It appears that he is bitterly opposed to certain features of the agreement and that is pleasant news. I am sorry to hear that the main reason for the Government wanting to subsidise or to pay a subsidy to B.W.I.A. is that it is losing money; but it seems to me that in the last three or four years they are down at least \$1½ million. If the facts as given by the Hon. Premier are true, there is all the more reason why we should not subsidise losses.

This company, if it has been losing must be losing for reasons which are best known to itself. Are we to be asked to believe that the only means of arresting this downward trend in the finances of B.W.I.A. is to subsidise it? In any case, it is true that the subsidies will come from all over the Caribbean, but if they are losing more than a quarter of a half million dollars a day, a subsidy if it is to do any good, must be in the vicinity of what they are actually losing.

Suppose however, they continue to run inefficiently, or that more bad luck follows them up so that their losses become greater. If you establish the principle that you must give them a subsidy because they make out a case that they are losing, if they come next year or the year after and ask for \$20,000 you cannot say that you are not giving them because you are committed to a principle to underwriting their losses. I wish that the Premier in addition to disagreeing with certain features of the agreement, had also said that he was prepared to take steps to withdraw the subsidy if and when it seemed that more money would be required of us. I think that

once you establish a principle of underwriting their losses you will not know where to draw the line.

On the contrary the company might even begin within the next three years. But until it starts to make a profit by some favourable turn of luck, say make a profit you must still be subsidising it and the profit in that case would certainly not be a true profit. You may be told if you attempt to withdraw the subsidy, that it is the subsidy on which the company relies to make their finances look favourable. It will be just like taking a chair from under a man just as he is about to sit or after he is seated comfortably. The Government is bound to come up against that difficulty; and it is very disquieting to have it admitted that the company is actually losing at a great rate, and therefore, the subsidy is not so much to encourage them to improve their services but to put money back into the shareholders' pockets.

I do feel unhappy about it, and I am sorry that this debate is taking place in this atmosphere. I had hoped that we could have left this Chamber long before now, and return to this problem refreshed; but I am afraid that the Government's obstinacy has made that impossible. It is a pity because a matter like this needs not only more thought but greater thought. I cannot find it possible to support this idea of a subsidy either in principle or in any other way.

When I turn to the agreement I see some things which appear to me even more disquieting than the Premier's fears. It may be that members of the Government find it possible to hate something bitterly and at the same time push it through the House. I am sure that if I disliked it more than the Premier does, even if I found myself disliking it half as bitterly as he does, I could not certainly recommend this House to adopt it.

Now, the first thing that catches my eye is a stipulation in Clause 2, which says, "The Company doth hereby agree with the Governments concerned that all times during the continuance of this Agreement or of any renewal thereof etc."

Then you find in Clause 4, "During the continuance of this Agreement the Company shall maintain and operate the said service over the said routes at the weekly seating capacities and weekly frequency of trips each way specified in the First Schedule hereto, and any extension thereof as may be provided in pursuance of the requirements of Clause 1 etc."

You will never be able to give the Company enough; you cannot pour enough money upon them to make them flourish. They have to undertake not only to maintain but to expand their services which they cannot possibly do if their situation is as the Premier says it is. If it is like that they can certainly never expand their services; it will be all they can do to maintain it.

I see in Clause 5 (2) that, "the Company shall provide a service for the carriage of persons, luggage and goods by the shortest practicable route, and shall use its best endeavours to avoid night stops on any journey between any two Islands or Colonies. The Company shall also carry mail by the quickest practicable means, and for that purpose shall be obliged to carry such mail if necessary by indirect route. Such service shall be available to the public within the limits of aircraft capacity, and the Company shall within such limits be bound without any discrimination to carry for reward all persons (save any person declared to be a prohibited immigrant by the Government of any territory to which he may be proceeding or through which he may be transit) who may desire

to utilize such services, etc." That is alright. They do that even now.

There is something which I find very disturbing in the portion of the Agreement which I have just quoted. How will B.W.I.A. know before hand that a person is going to be a prohibited immigrant unless he had been made one before he gets on the plane? If a man gets into a plane to go to Trinidad or Jamaica, how will the Airline authorities know that he is going to be declared a prohibited immigrant? If when he gets there and he is to come back on the plane, is B.W.I.A. saying that they will leave him there?

I feel very disturbed about that. I do not think it should rest with B.W.I.A. to say what sort of person they will convey and to know beforehand that certain people are going to be prohibited immigrants.

5.50 a.m.

One other thing and it is this: the stipulation here is that the Company should send to each of the Governments concerned a copy of the audited accounts and balance sheet as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting. Of course it has a right to do that if it is spending our money. The point is even that will not satisfy us. The information contained in the balance sheet may be valuable but is it not what should be given? I would be more courteous by saying that even before the subsidy was asked for it should have been given. That is perhaps the most disturbing feature of all the possible explanation of the Company's activities not necessarily to do with this present agreement.

This is how Section 12 is worded:—"The Company shall be at liberty to negotiate with the Government of any British Colony or Island in the said area, not being a party hereto, for the extension of the said service to and from such Colony or Island: Provided that the terms and conditions of any agreement in that behalf shall not be more favourable in any respect than those contained in this Agreement, but no such negotiations shall be completed by any agreement unless the same shall first have been submitted to and approved by the Governments concerned. In the event of any difference arising between the Governments concerned or any of them and the Company concerning the inclusion in or omission from any agreement so submitted for approval of any terms or conditions or concerning the specific provisions of any terms or conditions contained therein, such differences shall be settled by arbitration in manner hereinafter provided."

If you are giving that company a subsidy and still allowing them the distinction of making other agreements you have no control over them. The company is not bound to disclose anything to you; they may negotiate with Governments outside of the British Caribbean area and maybe you will not be able to influence other Governments. I do not think that is satisfactory at all.

Then there is this last point:—

"(3) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Clause, the Company hereby recognises the right of the Director of Civil Aviation or other appropriate authority of each of the Governments concerned to issue permits under the Air Navigation (Licensing) Regulations of such Government, and the issue of such permits shall not constitute a breach of this agreement unless the same are issued in such numbers or in such a manner as may reasonably be regarded as an undue interference with the exclusive right granted to the

Company by paragraph (1) of this Clause to operate the said service over the said routes."

The Director of Civil Aviation must assure you that these promises are in such a way as not to give undue interference. With regard to the exclusive right granted to B.W.I.A., honestly I cannot understand that. I agree with the Hon. Premier that there are disquieting features about this agreement and if he says that Government is really disturbed about it and disturbed about some of the Clauses, I can well feel so. My reading of this proposed agreement makes me wonder whether the service is justified and for that reason even if your Director of Civil Aviation is going to be circumscribed in his duty, in his promise which he is granted merely because this particular Company is being granted a monopoly. If the principle is right I think this thing need not to have been included.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman I rise on a point of Order. There is no quorum. Send for the Speaker.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to call the Marshal.

A member entered the Committee and took his seat to form a quorum.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know whether the Marshal is a Party Whip or whether he is there to obey your orders.

6.00 a.m.

As I was saying Mr. Chairman, the Government itself in the words of the Hon. Premier has told us that it is not satisfied with this proposed agreement; and as I have said before, it seems as if I anticipated what the Premier was about to say. It appears that they have said that they would not give more than a certain amount and that \$10,000 was the sum which they thought fit to give. I am appealing to the Government to see that if they are convinced as I am that this is an unhappy agreement, it would not be in the best advantage to this island to sign it, and it certainly would not be to the best advantage of this island to make such an enormous outlay as this \$10,000 is for a subsidy. Of course if you feel that you are in favour of postponing it until a later day we will gladly agree with you.

It is therefore very disturbing to know that a Government which shares the disquiet of hon. members about this proposed agreement is still preparing to recommend it to the House and even to force it through. I hope it is on record that the Premier had said that he dislikes certain features of the agreement and that he could not find it possible to agree to everything in it. They have insisted that they do not want the public to feel that \$10,000 is the absolute limit of what they are prepared to spend. I hope that it goes on record because the public of future generations will want to know why if their opposition to this matter is as great as they say it is, they are still supporting it? What are the reasons for that? If the Company is losing money the more money that you can offer to help it you should offer. Why should you give it rather less than it needs and hope that that amount will pull it through? I have no more emphasis at my command to record my feelings in this matter; there is nothing more that I can do but to appeal to the Government to reconsider this matter. Hon. members who have spoken against this subsidy and this proposed agreement have had their strongest arguments supplied to them by the Premier himself. Certainly he has said nothing to convince me that I was not right, but it was heartening to hear from him that arguments which I held and still hold

against these measures, are held by him and by members of the Government to such an extent that they are willing to use them to ratify this proposed agreement. However, there is still something which we have not yet been told. Suppose you take the Premier at his word and rely on him to get a more favourable agreement; suppose he tries to get one and does not succeed; I do not think he could undertake to take the words of other West Indian Governments in this matter; and suppose they are prepared to go all out along the lines with B.W.I.A. and whereas we have reservations; suppose he is outvoted in this matter and therefore finds himself in a minority against other Governments! Would we not therefore find ourselves further committed to aspects of this agreement that we have not thought out carefully and to which you are still opposed? The key to this whole matter is this subsidy; when once you put this money at the disposal of the B.W.I.A. and you have committed yourself to pay the subsidy, there is no means of taking yourself out of an impossible situation. Wisdom requires that if the Government feels unhappy, if it feels that it does not like this agreement, wisdom would dictate caution or even refusal in asking for this subsidy; because if you start to pay a subsidy no matter what you say afterwards, you have accepted the case put up to you by B.W.I.A. You cannot say to the other Government "I am paying this subsidy, I am making my contribution to the agreement, but there are certain features of the agreement with which I do not agree." If there are certain features you do not agree with, you are not doing right to pay this subsidy; they may ask for more. That is how I feel about it.

Obviously we cannot stay here all day, but I think that this debate has served a useful purpose in more ways than one; this trial of strength can work both ways. When we suggested that we should adjourn at midnight so that everybody could get much needed rest and come back here and attend to this matter, they said they wanted to go on a little longer and completely broke faith with hon. members; they broke faith with those who sit on this side and who felt their responsibility in coming back here to go through these Estimates. I can stay here until anytime and I hope that they have learnt that particular lesson. It is silly to taunt hon. members to that extent; twelve hours is long enough time and we should have adjourned. I hope this debate has taught them a lesson.
6.10 a.m.

On the positive side as far as the issue we are actually discussing is concerned, I think that if we did not stay here we would not have known what we actually do know; and those who are interested enough in the matter to want to have it discussed might have gone home and it might have been passed, and vital facts such as the ones that the Premier gave might not have been indicated to this House and through this House to the public. Therefore, I feel that the debate has served a useful purpose.

Mr. Chairman, I have done all that it is humanly possible for me to do to appeal to the Government to think twice about this matter inasmuch as they themselves are unhappy about it. I am counselling them not to enter into an agreement or course of action which does not seem all right to them. I have done that which I consider my duty; but I still reserve the right of disassociating myself from any action which this House

may take on this matter, because I am unalterably opposed to this subsidy.

Mr. BARROW rose.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS rose.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I was on my feet before the hon. member.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I agree with only one thing that the hon. member has just said, and that is that this debate has taught us something. It will not be the first time in the history of Parliaments that a thing of this sort has led to the tightening up and establishment of rules which will prevent members of parliament from making a farce of its proceedings. At least we are grateful for the occasion which shows the necessity for tightening up the Rules of this House.

Mr. BARROW: Is the hon. member speaking on this Head or not, or is he trying to absolutely negate the principle of Parliamentary democracy by trying to impose a dictatorship on this country?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 28, stand part.

Mr. BARROW: Before you put the question—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have put the question.

Mr. BARROW: You began to put the question but you did not put it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was on his feet and then he gave way. I rule the hon. member out of order.

Mr. BARROW: I submit to your ruling. I hope you will remember that I am still speaking on this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that—

Mr. BARROW: I am still speaking on this matter. I am asking you to call the Speaker.

HON. DR. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Mr. BARROW: I feel constrained to say Mr. Chairman, that you engineered my sitting so as to put the question, because after I sat you put the question again.

The question that the Chairman report progress and ask for leave to sit again, was put and agreed to.

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I feel constrained to draw to Your Honour's attention what transpired in Committee. Before the Chairman put the question that the Committee report progress and ask for leave to sit again, I rose to my feet on two occasions and the Chairman stopped me, and gave the hon. senior member for St. Joseph priority. Before he put the question a third time I again pointed out to the Chairman that I was still speaking on the Head. The Chairman of Committees shouted me down but the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was not told anything.

I feel it is my duty to bring it to the attention of Your Honour that the Chairman made a deliberate attempt to stifle the expression of opinion in debating this matter. I think that what we have witnessed here today, Mr. Speaker, is a direct denial of the right of members of this House to speak when the House is in Committee on any question.

I have told the Chairman that if he wanted me to give way to the senior member for St.

Joseph I would do so provided I had the right to speak after that hon. member. I hope Your Honour will take appropriate action. I regard it as a direct denial of my constitutional rights. Your Honour is well aware of the circumstances under which we are sitting at this early hour of the morning. There is a deliberate attempt to foist upon us a form of obnoxious dictatorship that I as a representative of the people in one of the most honourable and ancient parliaments in the Empire will not tolerate for one moment. I assume that the Chairman of Committees is a responsible officer and should not be guilty of behaviour of that kind, nor submit in any way to the foisting of a rule in this country which we would all abhor.

Mr. TUDOR: I rise not to detain you sir, but just to bear witness to what the hon. member for St. George has said. It was a flagrant denial of justice on the part of the Chairman of Committees, although I think that in fairness to him he could have been tired, and therefore a little jittery. But what he did in the last resort to deny the hon. member his rights and shout him down, he did at the behest of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, aided and abetted by the honourable senior member for St. Michael. I think it was with the connivance, and at the instigation of those two members that he acted in this drastic manner.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this is one of those regrettable things which happen. I hope Your Honour will act in a way that would not allow this issue to go further than it has already gone.

After 18 hours sitting I believe you will know that tempers will get frayed. As I warned the Hon. Premier yesterday I am a younger man than he, and I believe I can withstand this strain more than he. Sir, when you come to the end of the race you meet horses tumbling down at the pole. After a race is run somebody must win. However I am quite serious. At this time of the day it is known that tempers will get frayed. The hon. senior member for St. George did not feel like giving way when he saw the Chairman there a very tired man. Temperamentally, the hon. senior member for St. George and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph seem to be cast in the same mould.

Mr. BARROW: I resent that statement about my being cast in the same mould as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. The day that I am cast in the same mould as he, I will commit suicide.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There is nothing unparliamentary in what he says; the Premier would say the same thing. I would say that we have to learn before we reach a certain stage. I never objected to something which was done not long ago. I do feel now that the debate has ended there should not be any recourse to any bad feeling. All that I would say is that the Hon. Premier should realise sometimes that when a suggestion is made to him in good faith that he should be more willing to accept the suggestion in good faith. Mr. Speaker, that is all

I would like to say at this stage. I take the view that you are quite capable of dealing with this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has not desisted the charges made by the hon. senior member for St. George and confirmed by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, and they are very serious charges against an official of this House. They are such charges that if hon. members want a compete result of them, they would have to be put in a formal substantive motion for which due notice will have to be given. I do not know if the hon. senior member for St. George has such intention, but I take a very serious view of what he has said especially since the hon. junior member for St. Peter has said that he hoped this would be the end of the matter. It might be; but if the charges made by the senior member for St. George can be proved it would result rather seriously, and I think it would have to be the subject of a substantive motion; but as the honourable junior member for St. Peter has suggested we may as well iron out this matter placidly, I will be just only too willing to do so.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I just would like to make my feelings clear on this matter. This was a deliberate act on the part of the Hon. Premier, the Hon. Minister of Communications in active collusion with the Chairman of Committees to flout the constitutional rights and privileges of this House. I think it is high time that responsible members in London read the debates of this Chamber. The Hon. Premier said that he is going to redraft the Rules and threatened to redraft the Rules so that debate on matters like these can be stifled. Obviously there was a pre-arrangement between the two Hon. Ministers and the Chairman to stifle my efforts to continue the debate that I did not finish. Nobody would say that I tried to restrict the proceedings longer than was necessary, because I was one of those hon. members who suggested that the Committee should report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

If something does not come out of this matter the next thing is that we will not be allowed to speak in this House of Assembly. I do not mind when Your Honour is in the Chair, but I mind if Officials of the House are going to behave in this manner then it is a conspiracy to throw all constitutional and parliamentary democracy in this colony to the ground.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to take up this matter at a subsequent meeting of this House so that it will go on record and be brought out that the Leader of the Government was actively connected in this dastardly plot to flout the customs and privileges of this House.

Adjournment

The question that this House do now adjourn until Thursday the 10th instant at 12 (Noon) was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

6.33 a.m.