

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 8th November, 1955.

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

PRESENT

His Honour K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*); His Honour A. E. S. LEWIS, (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E., Hon. R. G. MAPP (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD (*Leader of the Opposition*); Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mrs. E. E. BOURNE and Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M.A.

Prayers were read

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting of the 25th October, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members and unless there be any objection these Minutes will be now taken as read and confirmed.

There being no objection the Minutes were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. John a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ending 30th September.

I have also received from the said Commissioners in connection with tenantry roads a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended 30th September.

Also from the President of the Legislative Council the following:—

The Legislative Council To

The Honourable The House of Assembly

The Legislative Council have the honour to return to the Honourable the House of Assembly the Bill intituled

"An Act to amend the Parochial Employees Pension Act, 1944 (1944—14) as amended by the Parochial Employees Pension (Amendment) Acts, 1947 to 1951 inclusive, the Parochial Employees Pension Act, 1952, and the Parochial Employees Pension (Amendment) Act, 1953," which has been passed with the amendment which is shown written on the Bill.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor to lay on behalf of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing the following:

Post Office Advances for payment of Money Orders to 31st July, 1955.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$710,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955—56, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1955—56, No. 47, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

At this stage may I say that this Resolution — and this will be explained later—was formerly for \$500,000 but we are now asking to have that changed to \$710,000 as you will see. This Resolution was circulated over the week-end and I beg to state at this juncture my intention to ask leave to suspend Rules 88 & 89 in order to deal with the Resolution later today.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$5,665 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955—56, Part 1, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1955—56, No. 48, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to move the passing of the following Address to His Excellency the Governor:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House desire to draw to Your Excellency's attention the profound disquiet felt by agricultural labourers and workers in the Sugar Industry at the statement of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing that "same persons who had not been qualified under the Labour Welfare Organisation were given loans." (Official Gazette published, October, 20th 1955).

2. The House is of the opinion that such a Statement, from a responsible Minister, would be widely accepted as a disclosure made by Government of its own shortcomings.

3. The House further believe that persons who have applied for but who have not yet received loans will feel that they have been overlooked in favour of those who were unqualified to receive such loans.

4. Accordingly, the House respectfully request Your Excellency to set up a Commission of enquiry to enquire into the substance of these and other cognate allegations made by the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Address:

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House desire to draw to Your Excellency's attention the severe loss suffered by fishermen throughout the colony in the recent hurricane and respectfully request that Government will make a contribution of at least \$20,000 to assist in the restoration of fishing crafts and fish pots to enable fishermen more readily to resume their calling and to increase the limited supplies of fresh fish now available.

QUESTIONS

Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question:—

To enquire of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:—

Is it a fact that workmen at the headquarters of the Waterworks Department, of the same status that obtain at other Waterworks Stations, are paid at overtime rates if working on Sundays and holidays, while those at the other Stations are paid at prevailing daily rates for working on Sundays and holidays?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister explain the reason for this wage discrimination between workers of the identical status in the same Department?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:—

Mr. F. C. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:—

Is it the intention of the Government to publish the report of the Committee which was appointed in April of 1953 with the following terms of reference: "To investigate and make recommendations on the following matter:—

- (1) Rates of depreciation allowed under the present Income Tax Legislation.
- (2) The Legislation governing depreciation allowances.
- (3) Income Tax legislation in relation to grants from the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund.

(4) Income Tax concessions granted under the Pioneer Industries Encouragement legislation in relation to any proposals which the Committee may make in regard to established industries?"

2. If the answer to the preceding question is in the negative, why not?

3. Does Government intend to implement the recommendations of the Committee referred to in the first question?

4. If the answer to question (3) is in the negative, why not?

5. (a) Is Government aware that Income Tax legislation in Barbados is not in line with other West Indian territories where economic development is encouraged?

(b) If so will Government introduce legislation to bring it into line? If not will Government make inquiries to ascertain whether it is so?

6. (a) Is Government aware that industrial development is in effect limited to the parish of St. Michael due to the much heavier Parochial taxes levied in other parishes?

(b) What action, if any, does Government propose taking to ensure that industrial development is distributed as widely as possible throughout the entire island?

7. (a) Does Government intend to implement that part of the Five Year Plan which relates to the development of revenue earning resources?

(b) If not, why not?

(c) If Government does intend to implement the Five Year Plan in this connection, will Government state when it proposes to do so?

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, before you call the Order of the Day it is my intention to enquire with your permission why it is that the Clerk of this House is now sending out Resolutions or attaching memoranda to Resolutions sent out from Government with which they intend to deal with at the next meeting of the House. It strikes me that permission should be given to the Ministry concerned to send them out and it should be their responsibility to send them out. It strikes me as peculiar that I should receive something from the Clerk of the House in an envelope sent from a Government Department; and in it is a note telling me that a Minister proposes to do something. I have no doubt that the matter was drawn to your Honour's attention.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter has not been drawn to my attention.

Mr. LEWIS: If that is not so I am drawing it to your attention now. I thought it was. It strikes me as wrong procedure.

This House must retain its privileges. If there is something to be sent out by Government Departments to members for them to deal with it, it should be circulated by the Ministry concerned. It is not a document of the House and in my humble opinion the Clerk has no right to be saddled with the responsibility for distributing it to hon. members.

RULES 88 & 89 SUSPENDED

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Rules 88 & 89 be now suspended.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and that it be an instruction of the House when in Committee to deal with a Resolution for \$710,000 of which notice has just been given.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

Supplementary Estimate, 1955-56, No. 40 Fishing Industry

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, This is a Supplementary Resolution for \$80,000 to supplement a Revolving Fund which is now more or less exhausted because it has been taken fully advantage of in so far as people securing engines for powered boats. As the Addendum to the Resolution sets it out, 26 powered boats have already been built with the assistance of loans provided from the Revolving Fund, and 30 more are under construction. The overall total of powered boats now operating is 47 as against 8 two years ago and with the assistance by the passing of this Resolution it will be possible to assist 57 more.

Contrary to the expectations of some hon. members although there is the 40% which the boat owners are asked to put up and which is the estimated value of the hull, it is very encouraging to note that boat owners are taking full advantage of this Scheme and already we have 57 applications of which 26 have been given assistance.

Let me state at once that this Resolution is separate and distinct from that for Hurricane Relief. A Resolution for that purpose will be brought down to this House in a week or two and I am sure that the wishes of the honourable senior member for St. Philip as expressed in that Address of which he just gave notice will be fulfilled and even beyond expectations, because I can tell him now that fish pots which have been lost by fishermen will be given free. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!]

3.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that this Resolution calls for any lengthy argument because in reality it is a principle to which we have already agreed. We have voted \$40,000 in the Estimates and at that time I asked for the assurance that when I came down for another amount it would gain the support of the House. The idea was that I had come down for too small an amount. We have to move in accordance with a stated policy in so far as financial arrangements are concerned.

This Resolution is nothing connected with the Hurricane; this is a separate and distinct Resolution to supplement the old Revolving Fund. The Fund now operates under one Head because of confusion which took place as regards the accounts. A single fund now operates, and it is easier to keep a check on what is being done in that way.

I am asking hon. members to agree to the passing of this Resolution. The Addendum is fairly full but if hon. members would like to have any further information I should be very pleased to give it to them. As to the number of loans made, one loan was advanced in 1953-54 and the amount advanced was \$2,318.41. In 1954-55 ten loans were made, the amount advanced being \$16,055. Up to this point 22 loans were made and the amount advanced alto-

gether is \$35,348.41. In 1955-56 loans were as follows: (1) amounting to \$6,615; (2) amounting to \$3,930 and (3) amounting to \$6,430. The total repayments amount to \$2,560.02.

The position is that repayments as far as the powered boats are concerned are more rapid than in other cases, as the catches are bigger and it is a more economic proposition to own a powered boat than to own a sail boat. The Government will see that no monopoly is encouraged whereby, because a powered boat is a paying proposition any one person will secure loans so as to have powered boats to the sacrifice of some poor fisherman, say, in the Silver Sands area who would be debarred from getting a loan.

The state of the Revolving Fund appears to be healthy in a way, but a number of loans have been put out against sail boat owners and steps are being taken to collect this outstanding money which has been lying there for a long time.

With regard to the "Calvert" fishing boats, it is encouraging to know that although large sums have been spent in constructing these boats, yet the actual amount which the boat owners will be required to pay is reasonable and within their means. A boat owner would be required to pay in the vicinity of \$500 and not \$800. I can only add that the powered-boat Scheme has been successful and with the passing of this Resolution we will provide forty seven more engines for forty seven boats which are awaiting these engines. Really there are more than forty seven boats awaiting engines because it seems that if money were available, and we could vote as much as \$250,000, that could be utilised in a few months' time. I am trying to get the sail boat fleet mechanized as quickly as possible; we have 30 more boats under construction and another 47 will be provided for under this Resolution. With the passing of the Hurricane Relief measure further assistance will be given and in next year's Estimates, we will make sure that a sufficiently large sum is brought down so that there will be more boats mechanized. It is all for the benefit of the community as a whole to have the fishing fleet mechanized as quickly as possible. With the marketing arrangements which we have afoot it is hoped to have fish distributed all over the island, and efficient cold-storage is being organised as the means of preserving fish so as to provide for the population as a whole, and at the same time assure the fishermen of a reasonable reward for his labour.

I may mention that steps are being taken by the Resolution of which I have given notice to-day whereby a motor-mechanic of the necessary calibre and experience will be employed to supervise the maintenance and repair of these engines and he might even undertake the repairs himself. He will instruct the fishermen as to the use of these engines and give them some sort of mechanical instructions by way of holding classes at various points of the island. The end in view is that these boat owners will better benefit and there would be a greater safety for the fishermen. 3.45 p.m.

That is the object of this Resolution of which notice was given earlier to-day.

Side by side with the increasing units of the fishing fleet it is essential to see that some form of information as regards the mechanical side is disseminated among the fishermen and especially among boat owners. The boat owners to-day pay 40%; that is the cost of the hull; so that a substantial amount of money is at stake both by the boat owners and the Government. Therefore in their own interest the boat owners have to see that a success is made of this scheme although Government has a substantial amount of money tied up in it. It is necessary to

see that assistance is given not only financially but in the operation of their boats.

I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$80,000 do now pass.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has been unduly prone to pat himself on the back. But a little reflection will show that the number of powered boats and those which will in a short time be powered represent a fairly small fraction of the entire fishing fleet of the island. If, as the Minister himself says, a powered fishing boat is an attractive economic proposition, he should ask himself the question why is it that only a very small fraction of fishing boats, so far, have already been powered and mark you, several owners have made the necessary application for engines. If he did I am sure he would find that in many cases the answer is that the cost of the engine being used by the Government is prohibitive and should not be recommended by the Government. These engines cost around \$3,000 each. [Mr. TUDOR: Not all.] Regardless of its being an economic proposition, this cost of \$3,000 for their share of the boat and the engine is still beyond the reach of the average fisherman.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry to have to interrupt the honourable member; but I think it is better for us to stick to figures. The average cost of an engine is not \$3,000; the average cost is \$1,800 and they are some the cost of which is as high as \$2,160.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Apart from the engine the honourable member does not realise that the fishermen have to find 40% of the capital cost of the boat; that is to say 40% of the boat plus the engine; and my contention is this: that they are a large number of fishermen who will be content with a small outboard engine, the cost of which is quite within their reach. The Hon. Minister will discover in the near future, I presume, that there will be hundreds more applications for loans if and when these small outboard engines are available. Every fisherman cannot afford a big engine. When this matter was discussed I recommended that the Department of Fisheries should endeavour to experiment with outboard engines, and again to-day I recommend that.

Well now, the fishermen throughout the island will be very heartened by the statement from the Hon. Minister that the Government intends to assist them regarding the losses they have suffered as a result of the hurricane; losses including their fishing pots and fishing craft. But they are also wondering why this help should have been so long withheld. Other aspects of industry and housing, in particular, have been assisted since the hurricane; but so far nothing has been done for the fishing industry. The Hon. Minister knows how important this industry is to the country; and therefore he himself will feel constrained to explain why that assistance to fishermen has been so long delayed. Since he represents a fishing constituency or rather a constituency in which the largest amount of fishing is done, he will allow that there have been nearly 1,000 fish pots lost during the hurricane. He will also know that large numbers of fishing craft have been damaged and destroyed. He will also know that there has been a marked diminution in the catches of fish since the hurricane. At this time of the year, most of the deep sea fishing is done by fish pots. This is the time of the year when the fishermen rely very largely on their fish pots. The sea-egg season had been almost completely destroyed by the hurricane and that, coupled with the absence of these fish pots in such large numbers has been reflected very seriously in the catches of fish available since the storm. Therefore, there is a case for very much earlier assistance

for the fishermen who have suffered by the storm. While we are assured for the first time that the Government intends to pay attention to the plight of the fishermen who have suffered damage as a result of the hurricane, I still feel that to the public and the fishermen themselves some explanation should be forthcoming for the long delay in according this help to these deserving people in the community. I am sure that I am not the only member of this House who has been harassed day in and day out by fishermen enquiring whether it is the intention of the Government to do something for them and why they have been left out. After all, the storm has taken place on September 22nd, and we are now in the month of November; and surely the material needed for fishpots would not take many months to acquire because they could get supplies from Trinidad or anywhere else in the West Indies.

Quite apart from the damage to boats the biggest cry on the part of the fishermen is for their fishpots which have gone and cannot be found at all. Finally, I say that I hope that the Hon. Minister will be tempted to experiment with the small outboard motor boat and see what the results will be. I myself have seen them in operation elsewhere in very large numbers.

I have made the necessary enquiries and I have discovered that the authorities are very well satisfied with the assistance they render to the industry and with the advantage which they were to the owners. I should very much like to see along side of that a comprehensive Resolution for both large boats with powered engines as well as smaller craft with outboard engines.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased to hear the Honourable Minister of Fisheries state that these powered boats are really an economic proposition, because that is what I felt of them from the very beginning. We are in the atomic age and we are going forward; there can be no doubt about that. Many of those sailing schooners which once plied between the islands have now given place to motor vessels and the same thing applies to boats for fishing. I have had first-hand information from many of these boat owners and they told me that powered boats are an economic proposition. It is surprising to know the type of persons who is now interested and going in for fishing. Of course, they have had the impetus for it by the cheap loans from the Government, and I am sure if the necessary loans are made available, this \$250,000 will be easily swallowed up.

In my travelling through the island I have come across people of humble means who are building large boats in the hope that Government will assist them with a loan towards the purchase of a machine. In the district of Silver Sands today, there is a fellow building a 26 ft. boat almost single-handed and it is almost completed, and I am sure that when he starts fishing with it and others see the return he makes with it at the end of the fishing season, and what he can pay Government, to say nothing of the profits he will make for himself, everybody will want to go in for powered-boat fishing.

Some time ago, Mr. Calver passed through here and made a statement which I think I heard over the radio or read in the newspaper. He said that it was a mistake to embark on these powered boats for fishing as we are doing. Of course that is his opinion. He feels, apparently, that our fishermen are not mechanically-minded enough and in a short time these engines will be breaking down and the boats will be drifting to St. Lucia and elsewhere. I think our fishermen are quite aware of the risk they are taking and

because of that they will gather any information they can from mechanics so as to keep their engines in tune. I feel sure that they know that their lives are at stake when they go out to sea and that they will take all the care they can. However I think it should be compulsory that they take out at least two oars with each of these powered boats. I do not think they should be allowed to put out to sea just with an engine. It should be compulsory that they take along a few oars in the event of any breakdown.

Another matter which was discovered after the hurricane "Janet" is that many of these fishing boats are insured; (they have to be insured to qualify for Government loans) but the insurance companies did not cover them for hurricane because the insurance which they get does not cover them when they are beached. Well the hurricane "Janet" come and smashed them on the beaches and because of that no Insurance Company would pay out for such damages. I know that a Resolution will be introduced next week to provide for that—at least we were told so today. I had hoped that that Resolution would have come forward two weeks ago because the fishing industry is at the point of putting to sea. I know that the Government's hands are full and they have to do housing but the fishing pots have been lost and fishing boats were damaged as a result of the hurricane and by that those people's livelihood has gone with the wind.

I think the time has come when Government should pay attention to securing a proper place for hauling up these boats. If we are expanding our fishing industry and building bigger boats, we should have proper facilities for the hauling up of these boats. The time has come when Government should buy areas of land in suitable places so that these boats could be carried further inland for repairs and probably for shade in the off season. That is what should be done. Do not haul them up at the brink of the water side, just half way out of the ocean and half way on land so that when the rains come or when fishermen have to pull them in at night without assistance, they are smashed up and then there is no insurance to cover the loss. Insurance for fishing boats only cover the fishing season. As a matter of fact, in the months of August, September and October, even if they are lost when tied to their moorings, nothing can be done as regards insurance. I hope Government will come to the assistance of fishermen in this respect, and I think, it is an expense which is recurrent.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is an accepted fact that we the elected representatives of the people are responsible for the peace, happiness and well being of them. This Resolution is for money to help the fishermen and although it is a bit late in coming, I think it is timely. I want to give Government my support of it without much ado, but they are a few remarks which the hon. Introducer of the Resolution made for which Government needs to be commended, and it is for that reason that I rise. One of them is that Government intends to institute a mechanical-aid Department to help fishermen with the keeping in good repair of these engines in their powered boats. I think that is one of those things for which Government should be commended because it is a service which is greatly needed. As you know, Sir, many of these fishermen are inexperienced in servicing these motors. I know of a case at Foul Bay where a fisherman who furnished his own motor had to take it out of the boat two or three times and send it to Bridgetown for repairs and in doing so he got all kinds of fancy prices charged before he managed to get it in working condition.

4.05 p.m.

That is one of the things on which I hope the Government will act immediately. I think, Sir, that the suggestion which my colleague has made for using some of these outboard motors will find favour to some of these fishermen. I hope the Hon. Minister will explore the possibility of using some of these outboard motors. I think we should insist on these fishermen carrying out a small mast and sail because some of these motors do not give any notice as to when they will stop.

Another matter is this: speaking under correction there is machinery being used in the vicinity of the Princess Alice Playing Field for sawing out timber. This Government should use that machinery for getting out timbers and supplying them to some of these boats which have been damaged. At this time of the year every sail boat is about to put out to sea and only one boat is being worked upon. I know that one boat got smashed and the engine was brought to town. However, I am glad that the Government is actually acting in this matter. I hope they will investigate the damage which has been done to the boats and render help to the fishermen so that we can get some fish around Christmas. I know that the boat builders have been assisting in repairing houses which have been damaged by the recent hurricane, but I think the Government should step in and help by getting some of these timbers out and helping the fishermen. With those few remarks I heartily support the passing of this Resolution to expedite and improve the expansion of the fishing industry in this island.

Mr. LEWIS: From the very inception of this Scheme I warned the Government that it would be necessary to employ some one who is capable of assisting in the repair of these engines and of teaching the fishermen and I am very glad to hear that such an idea is all but implemented. I am asking the Hon. Minister if he is not aware that it would be a good idea for the fishermen to have both sail and engines in these boats. It is all very well to have these engines but when you have not learned all that there is to be known about these engines, you may be left on the fishing banks to drift. I think that we should encourage the use of the engines as auxiliary and not as the sole means of getting the boat along.

I would have been interested to hear something about the damage which has been done to fishing boats during the hurricane; I am sorry that the Hon. Minister has not given the figures about that. I would like to know what is the estimated damage and what has been done about it. I know the Government has on its hands the rehabilitation of the houses of people, but honourable members should know what is taking place now that they are dealing with a Resolution to assist the fishing industry.

Another matter is the question of insurance of boats, which is of vital importance. It is of no use having these boats insured for the fishermen during the fishing season, and just when they may be in more danger ashore to find that there is no provision made for that.

The Hon. Minister mentioned something about the repayment of loans being slow with those who still have the sail boats. Perhaps some of these people who owe the Government money may have had their boats destroyed or damaged in the recent hurricane and figures in that connection could have been given to the House to-day. It might mean that you may have to give assistance to a man who owes money and who has had his boat damaged. That is information which it is necessary for the people's representatives to have. We are hoping to get some up-to-date information about the damage to houses and what has been done with this \$700,000 odd. In

like manner we would like to know what has happened about the fishing boats.

Mr. TUDOR: Before the Minister replies there are one or two aspects on which I would like to touch. The first is this: I note the distinction which the Minister has made in his remarks between the damage done to fishing boats which should be treated under hurricane relief, if at all, and this other matter which he explained as something which the Government has been doing and which it is continuing to do,—the expansion of the fishing industry. I think the distinction ought to be made clear; some people might think if they have not been following this matter carefully that the 47 new powered boats are to make good possible damage done during the hurricane. That, of course, would not be true, and although the Minister was careful to point out that the Government was merely continuing its policy of expanding the fishing industry I do not think he ought to let us rest with the impression that the extra 47 boats is as much as can be done for now. I am surprised that the Government only contemplates an additional 47 boats; probably this number is due to the fact that the financial year will soon come to its end and the new Estimates will contain further provision. The Government must realise that if the industry is to expand as rapidly as possible and if mechanical improvements are to play their part in the increase of the fishing catch, not only must loans be made available but they must be made available to more and more people.

4.15 p.m.

On the question of the different types of engines, I myself am not familiar with many aspects of the matter. But since boats are of different sizes I think that the loans should be made and graded to suit, not only the capacity of the person borrowing, but also the size of the boat with its engine. One of the advantages of having inspection is that a great saving will be effected to the fisherman by the expert advice given by the Government engineer or mechanic who could be put at the disposal of the borrowers for the purpose of purchasing the engines. But I think it ought to be made quite clear that no person who wishes to purchase a powered engine because the size and build of his boat requires it should be prevented from so doing. The only stipulation which should be made is that Government must be satisfied that the boat requires the engine so stipulated and that arrangements be made for the repayment of the loan. While it is true that engines ought to be within the capacity of fishermen to pay for them, I think it is also true, that, having regard to the size of the fishing boats, it ought not to be confined to the particular type of boat that they are to build.

With respect to some other remarks of the Hon. Minister concerning the replacement, not only of fishing boats, but of fishpots destroyed or damaged by the hurricane, I am sorry myself that the Government has not got around to this matter sooner than now. This is really a matter of Hurricane Relief, and I think it should be treated on precisely the same lines. As a matter of fact, alternative accommodation has been found for persons who have lost their houses; but alternative livelihood has not been found for those fishermen whose boats were badly damaged or completely destroyed or who have lost their fish-pots. It is, therefore, a matter of great urgency; and it is surprising to me that Government did not treat it with more seriousness. I think that where the fish pots are con-

cerned, I cannot stress upon Government too much the real urgency of the matter.

In the parish which I represent, there are large numbers of people whose only source of income is what they get from their fishpots; not only for them but for their families. Without their fishpots they are completely lost and they have no other alternative occupation. I wish, therefore, that Government had found it possible to assist these people before now instead of allowing weeks to pass, leaving the people in a state of uncertainty; and I strongly advise the Hon. Minister to issue a statement as soon as he can to reassure these people, especially those who have lost their fish-pots. While it is not necessary to say upon what scale the Government should assist them, I think it is necessary to impress upon Government that if people who have lost their fishpots could only be given. Therefore, it is not a case of their being unable to assist themselves in the rehabilitation of their livelihood; on the contrary, they are quite willing to be as reasonable as possible in their requirements: which is all the more reason why Government should hasten to bring them in the plan of rehabilitation. It is, therefore, a matter of regret that today we did not have the Resolution before us to assist the fishermen who have had their boats damaged and those persons who have had their fishpots carried away by the high seas. Generally speaking, we welcome this proposal not because we feel it says the last word, but because it is time enough, especially when the fishing season is coming in, that those boats should be given help. It would be a pity, if for a lack of a boat any fisherman were unable to take part in this year's catch. When we reflect also that it is an economic advantage to have a powered boat, we need have no fear whatever as to whether these fishermen will be able to repay the loan, and whether great profit will accrue to the fishermen who have made this venture in bringing their means of catching fish up to date, and keeping it in uniformity with what is required for the expansion of the industry. I just do not wish the Hon. Minister to believe that this is the last possible word in the matter; but that he should endeavour to encourage more and more persons not only to build boats but to have engines installed in them; that they should be assured the widest possible variety of engines used as has been suggested; that no restrictions other than those of financial safeguards should be placed upon persons wishing to acquire engines—and the best possible engines—available for the particular types of boats; and that no restrictions should be made to prevent fishermen from having this or that type of engine if the type of boat requires it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think I shall now take the opportunity to reply to one or two points made. Hon. members seem to be very apprehensive as to the cause of delay in helping the fishermen to rehabilitate their industry. But I may say that, in the first instance, a survey had to be made. Hon. members will realise that all of the beaches were struck by the hurricane; and I am referring particularly to St. Philip and Christ Church. At those beaches one will realise that all of those boats were battered up. They will further realise that this survey could not be done at a stroke of the pen as in other cases. It was difficult to make the survey. The beaches had to be cleared first before the survey could be made. So it is not a question of delay, it is a question of trying to

arrive at a figure and trying to make some sort of complete survey as guide to damage done.
4.25 p.m.

Here are the details of the damage:—

Nature of damage	Full estimated cost of replacement repairs.	Amount of proposed assistance from Hurricane Relief Funds on basis proposed.
	\$	\$
2 Launches, totally lost ..	5,400	5,400*
1 Launch, engine only to be replaced extensive repairs to hull ..	2,300	2,300*
17 Sail boats, totally lost ..	18,700	18,700*
15 Pot and Sea-egg boats and		
3 small boats, totally lost ..	2,765	2,400
3 Launches, repairs to hulls overhaul of engines ..	950	950*
36 Sail boats damaged	7,625	5,780*
9 Pot boats and small tenders damaged ..	275	240
Replacements of Fishpots	6,300	4,000
Contingencies for undiscovered cases, increases in prices, etc., at 5% ..	—	1,985
	\$44,615	\$41,755

*50% recoverable. Total amount recoverable \$17,885.

As you can see the damage has been estimated at \$45,000. As far as fishpots are concerned that is a free grant. It will be given in the form of materials to make them. In so far as other damage to boats, the Government will assist with 50% as a free grant. It will be given in the form of material. Government is doing the same thing it did with respect to fishermen and the loss they sustained in December 1951.

Many honourable members have asked questions but before I reply to any of them, I want to make it perfectly clear that this Resolution for \$80,000 is separate and distinct from that which we propose to bring for the damage caused to the fishing fleet by the hurricane. I thought I had succeeded in making that clear when I was introducing the Resolution.

Mr. Chairman, I have given some explanation as to the cause of delay of that Resolution for the hurricane damage; I think honourable members should realise that a survey had to be made and that had to be done island-wide. It would therefore take some time to do. I do realise the necessity for having these boats ready to put to sea and the fishpots operating to the fullest extent, and it is for that reason that the assistance given to fishermen by Government in this respect is free, *gratis* and for nothing. As you know, it is not possible to estimate the loss caused to fishpots. If a fisherman come to you and says that he had twelve fishpots, well, all you can say is that he had twelve fishpots, because there is no means to check on that.

The hon. senior member for St. Philip made a point which he made on a previous occasion in connection with boat owners when he referred to boats with outboard motors. I am going to ask the Fishery Officer to examine that question. Speaking for myself, with a slight knowledge of that matter, I have

always known that outboard motors are all well and good for boat owners who do joy-riding, but when it comes to boat owners who have to go ten miles or more to sea, I do not believe that outboard motors will stand up to that strain. We are not here to cause the average fisherman to commit suicide; and so if the proponents of the outboard motor scheme on the advice of some experts would like to see them installed in fishing boats, I for my part think that it is a dangerous type of engine to use in a boat which is putting far out to sea, having regard to the distance at which our fishing banks are situated, Government will not be a party to causing fishermen to put themselves in a precarious situation. However, I will ask the Fishery Officer to go into this question. In so far as concerns the remarks made by the honourable junior member for Christ Church, in regard to the purchase of land to provide a place for the hauling up of fishing boats, I think that is a very good point; and one which we will have to go into and act on promptly. If we have proper places that means less embarrassment will be caused to fishermen.

The honourable junior member for St. Philip also made the point that smaller engines should be made available to boat owners and suggested that powered boats should also be made to carry sails; in other words, he suggested that owners of powered boats should be compulsorily made to carry along sails. That is a question of regulations.

The honourable junior member for the City spoke on the question of insurance. He said that insurance did not cover these boats for the hurricane months. That is a fact but that is a question which is beyond Government; he will have to see the insurance experts about that. However it is fortunate for the fishermen that they have a Government like this which will give them assistance which the Insurance Companies normally deny them.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to assure the honourable junior member for St. Lucy not to have any fear about fish pots which formerly operated in St. Lucy because they will be replaced when the Resolution for \$45,000 comes down to this House next week. I do hope that it will receive full co-operation of honourable members and they will avoid lengthy debate on the matter so that fishermen will be able to get these necessary fishpots and their boats repaired without any further delay.

4.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, there are just a few small replies which I am forced to make. One is with regard to the delay in the sending down of this Resolution to assist the fishermen about which the Minister has said that it took some time to make the survey. The Minister is surely aware that the survey was completed some weeks ago and that the Fishery Officer told the Press some weeks ago that the estimated damage was \$40,000, and that he actually told the Press some weeks ago the number of fishing crafts damaged and the number lost as quoted by the Minister to-day. Certainly, the Minister would otherwise have had reason to castigate the Fishery Officer if he had taken from September until now to discover the damage done to fishing boats by the storm. I am in a position to say that the survey was completed long ago and I say that the delay in this matter has been unjustified. When I saw the Fishery Officer's Report to the Press I took it that the Government was immediately taking steps to deal with the situation. It is only because I saw that nothing was done that I gave notice of the Address handed in to-day.

There is one further point. Far be it from me to suggest any means of fishing which would lead to the fishermen losing their lives. The Minister suggested that the use of outboard motors would lead fishermen to commit suicide. Surely the use of powered boats does not mean that there would not be any loss of life to fishermen because these boats have proved to be just as dangerous as sail boats or outboard motor boats. Therefore I endorse the suggestion made by my colleague that the boats whether powered by outboard or inboard motors should also carry sails in the event of a breakdown at sea. I want to assure the Hon. Minister that his apprehension of the dangers of outboard motors is completely unjustified. When I first suggested the utilisation of outboard motors earlier this year, it was merely a question of my commonsense telling me that although an outboard motor boat which would be a smaller craft might not go ten miles which the Minister expects a large boat to go, yet still it would go further in all types of weather than a sail boat. After all, the boat with the outboard motor and that with the inboard motor would go further than the sail boat, but the important consideration is that the cost of construction would be far less than the average cost of \$3,000 which it takes to build a larger boat with an inboard motor.

I want to tell the Hon. Minister that since I made my suggestion in this Chamber, I had the good fortune myself of seeing a large number of small craft with outboard motors all along the coast of Martinique and Guadeloupe in August this year, and they were boats with outboard motors. I never saw one large craft with an inboard motor. Of course, that does not mean that they were not there. My contention has been amply justified; and I am sure that the Hon. Minister will find that while in the course of time the entire mechanisation of the fishing fleet will be faster realised if we adopt both methods of having inboard and outboard motors. The fisherman who cannot afford an inboard motor, if given the chance to acquire an outboard, will sooner be able to pay for a boat with an outboard motor. No danger is attached to either if due care and attention are exercised.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture what progress has been made with regard to the supply of lifebelts to fishermen or if he considers it very important to make it compulsory, if necessary for each fisherman to carry a lifebelt: and if they are difficult to be obtained by the fishermen themselves, whether the Fishery Officer would initiate the getting down of such lifebelts so that the fishermen can get them from that department.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is—

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In reply to the hon. senior member for St. John, I will say that this matter has been under very close scrutiny within recent months. The whole matter as far as these lifebelts are concerned, is that we are hoping that the fishermen, if they are given these lifebelts as we call them, will actually make full use of them and not lock them up in some place or other. It is of no use giving fishermen these lifebelts and then when the boats overturn the fishermen go under with them. We hope to give the fishermen lifejackets which they will be encouraged to use and not the sort of life-belt which when the boat overturns, the fishermen will go down with them.

4.45 p.m.

The matter does really need close examination. I can assure the hon. senior member for St. John that when next I come to the House with a Resolution of this sort, I hope to be in a position to tell him definitely that the matter has solved itself, and that a start has been made in that direction to assist the fishermen with what is necessary in case of their boats overturning. We have been considering the matter for some time; but the trouble lies in trying to provide them with something which they will be actually able to utilise.

The hon. senior member for St. Philip has again stressed the point about out-board motors. If he has seen them used with success in Martinique and Dominica, I suppose there is no reason why we should not try them here. Off this Island there are strong currents; so, in order to secure large catches, the fishermen must of necessity go to the fishing banks. However, the assurance given by the hon. senior member for St. Philip does not necessarily mean that the fishing banks are not particularly close.

Another point is this: it is not that the fishermen or the boat-owners are debarred from buying an out-bound motor if he thinks it fit. It is that Government has decided on a type of engine which they feel will give the necessary security and safety. There is no question of compulsion in this matter of the type of engine to be used. It is a mistake for hon. members to suppose that if a boat-owner or fisherman cannot buy the type of engine which the Government favours, he cannot get a loan at all.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear that pronouncement. The Hon. Minister has stressed this point, other hon. members have made it, and now I wish to bring to the attention of the Fishery Officer the fact that the owner should be allowed to exercise his discretion as to the particular type of engine. This question of the poor type of fisherman or boat-owner will no longer exist, and because of that, hon. members will feel easier in mind.

The question that this Resolution for the sum of \$80,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Leave to take Supplementary Resolutions Nos. 43 and 47 Granted

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to take charge of the Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier and the one standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, both of whom are absent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to that two Resolutions, one standing in the name of the Hon. Premier, the other standing in the name of the Minister of Communications be taken as the next two Orders of the Day, respectively. If there is no objection, leave is granted.

There being no objection, leave was granted the Hon. Minister.

Statistical Service

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, this first Resolution for the sum of \$4,900 relates to the invitation to Mr. Dudley Seers, Statistician of the Colonial Office, to come here for the purpose of establishing a Statistical Service for the Island and to advise and train suitable local personnel to carry on the Services. His Excellency the Governor has sent a Message (No. 30/1954) to this Chamber which informs honourable members that consultations have taken place between the Government and the Colonial Office with respect to the establishment of a Statistical Service, and that as a result the Govern-

ment has applied to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for the services of an expert. Mr. Seers is also a member of the United Nations Secretariat.

Mr. Seers is expected to reach this Colony in a few days' time, and this Resolution is to meet preliminary expenses of the project to the end of the financial year. According to the Addendum:—

"This includes an estimate of the cost of clerical assistance and furniture which will be necessary for the establishment of the office;" hence, this Resolution. I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$4,900 do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, when we look at the date mentioned in this Addendum, we certainly cannot compliment the Government for having shown any interest in the establishment of this proposed Statistical Department. As far back as 1954 we have been hearing about this.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that it is the desire of the Committee to adjourn for the Tea interval. I therefore, beg to move that you do now report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

ADJOURNMENT

The question that Mr. Chairman do now report progress with leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. Chairman reported and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Hon. Dr. Cummins, seconded by Hon. C. E. Talma, the House adjourned for half an hour.

4:55 p.m.

On re-assembling,

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY—C'TD

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

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

Statistical Service

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, the obvious delay in dealing with this matter would give one the impression that the Government is not really interested, or is not as interested as they made out, when they first started to get this statistical information. They have taken great care now not to tell you what was the Message. They prepared Estimates for 1955-56 and they have put nothing in them for this service. They have now come and put in a new item under the Secretariat for this service. This is something which was looked forward to in this country for a considerable time and especially so in these days when people set such a great appreciation upon statistics.

What I am wondering is if this gentleman is such an expert that he would find suitable staff here to be trained in this highly technical subject. I hope he will be able to train Barbadians; but while it is a good idea to teach people around him and to familiarise them with what he is doing, I do feel that this is one of the occasions on which to send people out of the colony to be trained in the knowledge would prove a better method than for him to teach

them here, and I hope Government would not overlook that suggestion.

In paragraph 2 of the Addendum, it is stated that Mr. Seers is due to arrive in the colony about the 12th November, and funds are required to meet the preliminary cost of the project to the end of the financial year. This includes an estimate of the cost of clerical assistance and furniture which will be necessary for the establishment of the office. Well, sir, if you are going to set up an office on the recommendation of a particular man, it seems inadvisable for you to start off furnishing what you regard as an office for statistical service. If you are going to furnish his office by giving him immediate staff and furniture for that purpose, that would be alright, but do not say that you are providing for the establishment of a statistical office. I do not like your saying that, because I am quite sure when Mr. Seers comes he will recommend something quite different from what you have in mind. What Government is really doing now is to establish an office for this gentleman—not a statistical office, because the Addendum clearly states that we are waiting until he arrives. However, I wish the Government well in this matter. There is a great deal of information along this line that people were looking forward to for a long time and I hope that this effort would really meet the need.

Mr. BARROW: I am rather surprised that the Government at this late stage has decided for the establishment of a statistical office, but there are two entirely different concepts which must be borne in mind. There is no doubt that the information which the administration should provide for the benefit of legislators, myself, and the general public is in a state of confusion. Your Honour will remember that over three years ago I drew it to the attention of the House that I had a discussion with an officer of the Government with respect to the establishment of a Statistical Bureau for Barbados and he intimated to me at that time that not only had he thought about it and considered it necessary to have it: and he had already (without disclosing any name to me) singled out a suitable Barbadian who was highly qualified to preside over the particular bureau. Now, that was over three years ago, but I see that there is no provision in this particular Resolution which we have now before us for the establishment of a bureau such as the one which was admitted at that particular time.

What is more important in this Resolution is that there is no indication that the Government is aware that you cannot train a clerk or a member of the clerical branch of the Civil Service to be a statistician unless he went to one of the Universities to be trained along those lines. The reason why you cannot do it is because there is a lot of elaborate machinery (I do not mean typewriters and things of that sort: I mean the process by which it is taught and which costs over ten thousand dollars) which is a necessary adjunct of a statistical office. It seems to me facetious that anyone coming to Barbados for a brief visit will be in a position with a couple of mahogany tables and four rocking chairs to establish a satisfactory Statistical Bureau in Barbados. The whole approach of the Government to this particular problem has been rather strange—and I say strange because they seem to be completely unaware of the functions of a Statistical Bureau and the long period of training which it is necessary to undergo in order to turn out an efficient statistician. So serious a problem is this for finding skilled statisticians that all the undergraduates long before taking their final examinations are offered jobs along that line depending upon the successful pass-

ing of their examination. However, members of the Government seem to think of it just as they thought of a surveyor of the Barbados Government Service. That particular individual has not the slightest acquaintance of the elementary rules of trigonometry which a surveyor should have to be able to use a theodolite and that is so because members of the Government were able to bamboozle this Chamber into accepting the individual as a surveyor and giving him by act of Parliament the professional qualifications for which he would not otherwise be qualified.

5.35 p.m.

I would like to warn them that the statistical affairs of this country will be in a greater state of confusion with this procedure which they hope to adopt. It would appear that no matter how long and how strongly the adoption of certain measures are advocated by the elected representatives of the people, the Government is not prepared to make any move until some plenipotentiary from abroad suggest to them that they might be in need of a vacation to Barbados.

The examples which I could quote to substantiate that particular argument are too numerous with which to bore you, Mr. Chairman, at this particular stage. I do not have to go back very far; there is Professor Richardson, Mr. Foster and up to now, two years after reports have been made, we have not been able to see the benefit of the excursions made from the home countries of these particular individuals or to have the privilege of discussing in this Chamber the reports which they have made.

Another classic example of the way in which we misuse technical co-operation aid which we are entitled to use is the question of the housing experts who have been in Barbados for some considerable time and who had considerable difficulty in making the Ministers aware of the fact that they were in Barbados, far from having their services utilised for the benefit of the country. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services exactly what future expenditure do they anticipate that this Resolution will entail. We all know from sad experience that they will come for a Resolution for \$2,000, and then they will come for one for \$200,000; and we are told that we cannot criticise or make any suggestion which would be in any way a sort of curtailing the amount of money which they want to spend, because we have already supported it in principle by voting for the lesser Resolution.

From my slight acquaintance with matters statistical, I would say that in order to set up any proper statistical office, Government would need about £25,000 or thereabouts. I would like honourable members to be fully conscious of the Resolution which is before the House, because if we carry it to its logical conclusion, it would mean the setting up of a very large department and we should be aware of the financial implications of the Resolution which is now before us.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, we have seen so many of these occasions when some Officer has come out to train somebody here. He gives training for six months, then he returns whence he came. The person who is supposed to be trained returns to his substantive post and we hear nothing more. I have two or three cases in mind. The Fire Brigade Officer came out here to train somebody and the next thing we knew is that we had to get another Officer. Mr. Parris was trained by a Factory Expert [Mr. CRAWFORD: And he had a good time out here too] who spent two or three years here and returned; and I do not think we have a Factory Inspector to-

day. I hope that this is not another of such instances.

I know that we have a statistician attached to the Customs Department in the person of Mr. Ashby. It is necessary to have such an Officer in that Department and if this Expert is going to be of any help in training Mr. Ashby further, then I would only be too pleased indeed. It is necessary to have such an Officer in the interest of the community as a whole. There may be other Departments which could benefit greatly from this expert's visit and I do hope that full advantage will be taken of what training has been given to our selected Civil Servants and that they will not, soon after the departure of Mr. Seers, be given promotion to some other Department which has nothing to do with statistics. By all means promote a person who has been trained, increase his salary and let him remain where he is; but if you remove him from the particular department, it would have been a waste of time in training him. I think we should say whether we accept the Government's idea of bringing out experts in the future.

5.45 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: I think that any person reading the Addendum to this Resolution must be struck by the manifest absurdity of this whole thing. I think too that such a person would wonder whether this Government really understands what is involved in the setting up of a statistical bureau.

This is not just another Government Department; although, perhaps it would be something which would interlace all Government Departments.

The science of statistics, Mr. Chairman, is almost entirely mathematical. It has to do with the nature and quality of numbers, their arrangement, their scope and their meaning. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: Hear! Hear!] Well might the Minister of Trade say, "Hear! hear!"; because if he really understood what it was really all about he would be more than careful to recommend such a proceeding. But he thinks that all that statistics means is to be able to show how many blue beans make five! It is rather more than that, and we have to carry it to a much higher level than this Government can understand and appreciate. If, therefore, this Government is really interested in setting up a statistical bureau in this Island, the idea that an expert, coming from the United Nations Secretariat, could train a civil servant for a few weeks or months expecting him afterwards to be able to carry on the Service efficiently, is the most ludicrous I have ever heard. What such a person could do is this: he might give some elementary and preliminary instruction on how to arrange a given set of figures something as elementary, for instance, as drawing up a table of the births and deaths in a given parish and to show how many of the persons dead had received their Old Age Pensions at the age of sixty. The last mentioned operation would be relatively easy, because nobody at the moment does it. But for anything which is called for above and beyond the preparation of simple tables, it is not within the range and possibility of such an officer to prepare such candidates. Therefore, it ought to be borne in mind by the Government that they simply do not know what it is they are asking for.

First of all, you do not call a man a statistician until he has reached a considerable way in mathematical knowledge and training; in mathematical subjects which are just names to all of us here as they are to a lot of people. How many members of this House could undertake to extract the square root of a given number without misgiving. All of us would have trouble in doing that. [A VOICE: I agree].

That is the sort of problem that is of interest to the statistician; because all of these mathematical subjects which do not come within the scope of the average person is his concern; because the study of statistics requires that you must know the accuracy of a figure and the truth of a particular method. The question of unemployment, employment and employability; of the rise and fall of our trade, of our national income which is distributed per head of population—all those things are the fit and proper study of statistical experts. But a man has got to have a very long training in mathematical subjects and formulae, in the technique of handling and interpreting figures and numbers before he can enter such work.

I have tried to outline what is involved, so that members of this House will get to understand that it is not possible to train a person as a statistician within a few weeks or months. It is a farce. I therefore, would urge upon the Government to postpone consideration of this matter for further information for themselves, and for their own good. They cannot expect to do anything which on the face of it is so silly that it will make us a laughing stock by people who know so much more than we do.

The next thing is this: they are asking us to give \$4,900 and we are told that this includes an estimate of the cost of clerical assistance and furniture which will be necessary for the establishment of the office. In the first place, Mr. Chairman, if we are not going to have a statistician, it is silly to talk about the establishment of an office for that purpose. If an establishment there must be, it can only come when the bureau itself is to be set up and for that we will want very much more than furniture; and at this stage we may be expedient to ask this question: if some expert or other is going to come here for a few weeks periodically, have we got on each occasion to find money for tables and chairs and probably a mat upon which he would wipe his feet? Is it to be believed that in the whole wide expanse of the Government departments, there is not a single table, a single carpet, some blotting paper or an unused pencil which could be put at the disposal of anybody who comes over here for a short time? What about the condemned equipment which is not going to go into the Ministerial Buildings? Is it imperative that we must go and buy new furniture for a temporary office? Are there no limits to which this senseless extravagance must go? Then, it is more disheartening when you read that it will not be possible to prepare precisely any figures until Mr. Seers has arrived and the work is started. If Mr. Seers is coming to train some clerks in the Civil Service, what possible delay can there be except the fact that personnel suitable for training could not be available to him? If he is going to give a course of lectures—as a matter of fact if he is going to do anything the Government has enough space at Combermere School which, although it might collapse at any moment, might still not collapse on Mr. Seers or his pupils. There is plenty of room and chairs suitable for the teaching, and whatever is not there for his comfort and use, could be found in another Government Office.

I therefore, do not believe that money should be spent in so wanton a fashion. It is unnecessary in the first place and secondly to all of us it falls far short of the mark of practicality. I know it is quite difficult to get hon. members of this Government to understand that there are people who know a little more about certain things which they bring into this House, and who, because they have had contact with the subjects of discussion are able, from time to time to shed a little light upon them. It is unfortunate for Government that they resolve all these issues into questions of prestige and generally tend to believe the postponing of a measure is tantamount to a Min-

isterial defeat. I am sorry that they take that attitude about things; but whenever we press upon them the second thought, it is only that we seek to preserve not only the Government themselves but also the good sense and reputation for sanity which this island has long enjoyed.

Therefore, we are asking them to consider this and I will be very willing to accede in the request: when he takes the opportunity to reply, and I find no such request forthcoming, I am going to make a formal motion so that the Committee can decide it.

5.55 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am rather afraid that if we do agree with the last speaker and suspend consideration of this Resolution that the consequences for Mr. Dudley Seers shall be very grave, because I see from the Resolution that Mr. Seers is due to arrive here on or about the 12th November, and that means he is merely four days off from here. If he is coming by air and we suspend consideration of this Resolution, Mr. Seers will be suspended somewhere between heaven and earth like the mythical Mahomet's coffin, and the poor fellow will not be able to land. Apparently, what has happened is that as usual the Government decides to embark on these schemes and then treats the Legislature with disrespect by coming to us at the last moment for the money to finance its ill-advised ventures.

What I really believe has gone wrong in so far as this statistician is concerned is that the phraseology of the Addendum to the Resolution is really not what it should be. On the face of it, it appears to be hopelessly absurd, but I want to be charitable enough to say that what is in the Addendum to this Resolution is not entirely what is intended.

Be that as it may, it does appear as if it is somewhat farcical to solicit the services of an expert of United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in order to prepare for the establishment of a Statistical Bureau for a one by four colony like Barbados. After all, what important information can ever be gleaned from a colony like this in order to justify the procuring of one of the United Nations experts for this colony? It does appear that the correct procedure should have been to select a suitable officer from the local Government Service and send him abroad to the appropriate place for the appropriate training, so that on his return he would be able to modify what he learnt to suit local conditions. The most that an expert of the United Nations can do is to come here and endeavour to bring himself down from the high pedestal of his learning as an expert statistician to the level of what a similar post in Barbados would entail, to arrange the necessary formulae and the forms which the statistics in Barbados should take and what not, show a few local officers what should be done and then clear out. That is why I say from my own point of view that the wording of the Addendum is at fault. More can be read into it.

Let me say that the most that can come from the visit of Mr. Seers is that he himself would enjoy a little vacation in a tropical climate, and while doing so he may assist in the arrangement of the forms which these statistics should eventually take and leave local personnel to carry on with what he started. I am convinced that it would be unnecessary to spend over £1,000 to obtain these results because the keeping of the statistics is not a matter which you can inject into the brains of a reasonably well qualified officer overnight. The officer must have more than a nodding acquaintance with economics; and certainly, one should not be asked to assume that all you have to do to qualify a local Civil Servant to be an expert in this matter is to bring someone here for a few months as if the training only entails taking a syringe

and injecting training into his arm. Certainly, it must entail some study and more than an elementary acquaintance with the science underlying the keeping of statistics, and certainly, if all that be true, the correct position to be adopted should have been to select one of the qualified economists in the Government Service (and we have a few B.Sc.'s), send him abroad for the requisite training, and then let him return with that training to establish and equip a statistical department. This is how it appears to me and I shall be glad to be proved incorrect.

6.05 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not at all surprised at the scant courtesy with which this House has been treated in this matter. If you look at the Addendum to this Resolution, you will find that in 1954 His Excellency the then Governor told the Legislature about this idea of having a Statistical Department and now just four days before they expect to get this Officer, they come and tell us that they want some money to do this thing. However, to be frank, I do not agree with the hon. junior member for St. Lucy that we should postpone the consideration of this Resolution because I am convinced that there is the necessity for a statistical department; but I wonder how the Government feels in this matter. I remember well immediately after the War when we had a lot of young progressive West Indians in England who were willing to further their studies in the particular line of public administration, I remember saying then that it was so unfortunate that you had a Colonial Secretary and an Attorney General—I was challenged on it but it was not disputed—who were really such hypocrites as to pat people on their shoulders and then in private papers write to say that the youngsters here were not suitable for training. In those days, to my way of looking at it, they were unsuitable because of their limited pigmentation. I remember well the ex-Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, in one of his speeches from the Throne, was very strong on this matter. I remember further that when one of our young, gallant Barbadian boys came back here, for despite the fact that he had been discouraged from taking any kind of qualification for public administration, he went up and got a degree in public administration. But he was a way down the ladder and had nobody to pull his strings. He was just the son of a poor Postman; he had left Harrison College, won a Scholarship, gone to England and studied: but he was a way down the social ladder. However, he realised that he served in the Armed Forces, in the Air Force and everything else and he got his qualifications in public administration. The next thing we heard was that the then Governor said "we want to set up a Statistical Department in the Treasury" and this youngster was sent to Jamaica and got some training. I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to state what happened afterwards. We must have a Statistical Department but what I am worried about is this: take this Addendum for example. Mr. Chairman, in Trinidad, in Jamaica, in British Guiana in all these colonies they select Civil Servants and get them out to England and have them trained.

Now what we find in this Addendum is this:

"In His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 30 of 1954, the Legislature was informed that consultations had taken place with the Chief Statistician at the Colonial Office and Mr. Dudley Seers of the United Nations Secretariat in connection with the establishment of a Statistical Service for the Island, and that as a result the Government had made application to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for the services of an expert to advise and train suitable local personnel to carry on the services."

They are bringing out somebody to train people here. I believe that if members perused their Civil List, they would find youngsters with Higher Certificates in Maths., who are now writing out summonses in the Courts. A youngster will ask to be sent out, but instead some numskull, who may not have even a School Certificate, might be offered a job without even having the slightest acquaintance with that particular job. If you bring this particular expert out here I wonder if the position is going to be like the Laboratory and the Secretariat. You give a man a scholarship, lend him money to go to England to get a diploma and then you will remove him from a First Grade School and put him as a Secretary to a Ministry or something like that.

I want to suggest to anyone in the Government interested in the Civil Servants who have the necessary ability and flair for statistics—and there are quite a number of them—that Government must cease to think that everybody must come in at a salary of \$40 or \$42 a month. It does not matter how brilliant you are, or whether you have the Higher Certificate in Maths, because you are down and out you must come in at the same salary. That sort of thing needs to be revised.

6.15 p.m.

I suppose only someone who has made friends with the Mammon of Unrighteous will then put up his fingers and stop this sort of thing. I am inclined to say that we should bring the expert here; but (I should like the Hon. Minister to listen to this) not under conditions as they are worded in this Addendum. The Addendum says, "an expert to advise and train" and I am taking exception to those words. You may be able to advise as to how you should treat your departments but you may not be actually able to "advise and train" personnel. I am at a loss to understand what man there could be at the United Nations who could come out here to fulfil this mission in so short a time. You propose to spend \$4,900 and that is going to pay the clerk in his office [A VOICE: And buy the desks] and pay his hotel bills. I hope the Hon. Minister will correct me if I am wrong. If for \$4,900 you are going to bring somebody out here, how long is he going to be able to stay? With the modern apparatus today in statistical departments, it took longer than a month for Mr. Carrington who was sent to the Savings Bank in British Guiana to get acquainted with the apparatus used in that Bank. There are certain other things which you should get and I do believe that you must have an expert; but you should let him come here and see our general setup and then make recommendations.

The hon. junior member for St. Lucy and the hon. senior member for St. George have told us that it takes much more than mere training of people in a few months time to be able to carry on statistical work. Commonsense tells you that an expert cannot come here on this amount of money. He may be an Englishman who has got accustomed to the American standard of living; and if he came here he will have to give at least a tip at the Marine Hotel. This \$4,900 can hardly do much and I am only hoping that this Addendum is incorrect.

Now, we have for many years been voting money for experts and money to send people abroad for training in order that they might be acquainted with and acquire knowledge in a particular subject or line of work. I repeat that I hope that if we are voting this money today, and we should have an expert, I do not expect that in future another expert will be coming here to train anybody in statistical work. If that is so I consider we feel ourselves very superior to other colonies in that we can

have an expert to train people in so short a time. I hope that this is not just one of those things in which we find somebody coming out to train people and then the matter resolves itself into making another big post for some Englishman in the colony. We have to be careful now. This money is for an expert to advise and train. What kind of advice and training will he be able to give in just one month? Will the Hon. Minister tell us what has become of Mr. Wilkie who was sent to Jamaica to be trained and who came back with qualifications in this particular line of work? I hope the Hon. Minister will tell us if he has been drafted into the service in another direction, and if so, why? Ministers are, of course, nothing to do with appointments in the service; but in this connection I hope that Mr. Wilkie has not been relegated to the limbo of things forgotten merely because the eye of people in the Civil Service is fixed upon someone with better connections or family ties. This young man was sent for training on the recommendation of Sir Alfred Savage. Now, today, who was the first to hint that a statistical department was necessary for this country? When it was found that he could not be shifted around the service as a cadet, they took refuge in saying "let us send him to be an officer." In fact, they sent him to Jamaica to see how various departments were set up. He spent six months. Now, you are going to bring an expert who is to train somebody to do the work here. I hope I will get a sufficiently good explanation and I hope that I am mistaken and that the Addendum is worded wrong.

On the other hand, I should like to draw this to the attention of the Hon. Minister: for the past few years I know that in several Departments of the Government youngsters have been making application for transfers to go into certain particular Departments of the Service because they feel that they could do better. I know one case in which the Head of a Department said to a certain young man who is extremely well qualified and whose salary is not commensurate with the work he does in the Department: "Much as I should like to see you get through, I do not intend to let you get out of this office." I cannot recommend you for going out of this office." Imagine that you have a youngster in an office; he has the ability and you are going to keep him down purely through selfishness. Whenever a boy makes an appeal, the Head of the Department says he is a good boy, keep him on starvation wages. That is what happens when you have not got friends at court; when you are not a political hireling; and when you are not one of the people prepared to sink your manhood.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Hon. Minister will take note of what I have said. There are in your service a lot of youngsters who are just disgusted; boys who normally cannot get into teaching or just do not like it; lots of youngsters may be that way. These are the type who would do well for training, but are being kept down for one reason or another. Finally, I repeat that an expert cannot come here and train these youngsters for this type of work as I understand it is intended he should do. Why not give them the opportunity to go abroad and receive this training?

6.25 p.m.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I am tempted to rise to my feet by the type of criticism to which I have listened so far. The criticism has been based on pure assumption of time, when the Resolution does not even suggest anything of time. In no way does the Resolution assume that this officer would come here for a month or any length of time.

"Preliminary cost" are the two words used in the Resolution; then there is the phrase: "no delay in getting the work started." You cannot undo the logic of those phrases. We all agree that the statistical service is necessary and that it is a big job. This Resolution does not suggest that it is a small one. All that it asks for is for money to meet the preliminary expenses in the setting up of the office. I am going to read the whole of the Addendum line by line for honourable members to hear. [A VOICE: We have read it.] It is as follows:—

"In His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 30 of 1954, the Legislature was informed that consultations had taken place with the Chief Statistician at the Colonial Office and Mr. Dudley Seers of the United Nations Secretariat in connection with the establishment of a Statistical Service for the Island, and that as a result the Government had made applications to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for the services of an expert to advise and train suitable local personnel to carry on the services." [VOICES: Hear! hear!] This is an expert from one of the departments of the United Nations Organisation which is vitally connected with certain services to colonies. It offers aid to the colonies in certain technical knowledge by way of experts. This officer is not to be paid at all. [A VOICE: Where did you get that?] If you read the Addendum you will see that this is for preliminary cost of the project to the end of the financial year. It does not say that at the end of the financial year the project will cease. It says, "Preliminary cost." It includes an estimate of the cost of clerical assistance and furniture which will be necessary for the establishment of the office. This furniture is necessary for the establishment of the office because it goes on to say it will not be possible to prepare precise details until Mr. Seers comes. None of us knows what it will cost to set up the office; that is what we are waiting on Mr. Seers to know. Nor can we assume that he is going to set up the Statistical Office within a month and then go away. All that this Resolution asks for is for money to set up an office for Mr. Seers so that when he comes here there would be no delay in getting the work started.

So far as I know about United Nations Technical Assistance Administration experts, their services are offered for a certain time free. The colony to which they are about to render their services has to make the preparations to receive them by way of furnishing an office, etc. There is no suggestion in the Addendum to this Resolution that this money is to pay this expert or that he will be here for two or three months. This expert is coming here to set up a Statistical Service; whatever time that takes, he will be here; whenever that is completed, he will go. Let me say again that the whole criticism has been based on a time assumption but no time is suggested in the Addendum to the Resolution at all.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, with respect to this Resolution before this Committee for the setting up of this statistical service, I think honourable members will remember that six years ago I brought an Address in this House which had as its object the setting up of a statistical department. What is surprising about this Resolution is that at long last it is here. However, we hope that such a department will be created in the very near future.

Mr. Chairman, I believe honourable members have been losing their grip on what is meant by a Statistical Department. Let me say that a Statistical Department is not a department which can be created out of nonsense. We have asked for and have been given Mr. Seers who is a celebrity in this branch

of work as we all know, to say nothing of his services to U.N.E.S.C.O. You will find that all experts serve in the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the salary which is paid to a gentleman like Mr. Seers would be like that paid to a Governor of these islands; certainly more than that paid to the Ministers of this Government; it is at least a salary equivalent to that paid to an American General. I think honourable members would agree to that.

It is very obvious that the idea of bringing a statistician of the standard and level as Mr. Seers is because it is a question of organisation. To create such a department would entail piles of work in so far as research is concerned.

6.35 p.m.

A man like this who is referred to here is in himself a power house. Although I would agree with you that you could send four or five members of the Civil Service to function, the question is whether they would be able to lay the foundation to say nothing of the piles of information which it is necessary for this Department to keep within research. As regards this frivolous sum of £1,000, you could not even start a discussion on that; I do not believe the Government would want to discuss that. I imagine that you would be expected to pay part of this Officer's expenses, his hotel bill, travelling and incidentals but surely it could not be based on much. I do not imagine it would be based on three months. But this is service which is done by the United Nations all over the areas within which there are participating Governments. I believe that every member of this Assembly must see the necessity for and be aware of the importance of such a department and what is more the training which is done on the spot, to say nothing of the research work which would be necessary to make this department function. I would hesitate to think that the Government would be willing to pay for it. However, I believe that members of the House would all be happy to pass this Resolution.

Mr. BRANCKER: Sir, notice of this Resolution was given on the 1st of this month and it is lamentable having regard to the fact that this gentleman is due to arrive here on the 12th instant; however, we were given 12 days' notice ahead of the date of his arrival. In other words, all of the arrangements have presumably been made for him to come; his hotel must be booked and he is either now a passenger on a liner on his way out or he is making his way to the Airport assuming that he will be allowed to land and no exception would be taken to this U.K. Official [laughter]. I do not think we can do anything about this Resolution now in the way of not passing because we would be putting this individual in a position in which he would not realise he was being placed by his sponsors here.

I am not saying that if there was any overwhelmingly strong case for not having this individual here that we would not be justified in throwing out this Resolution and allowing this gentleman to return by the same plane—it has happened quite recently—if he found himself coming out here. In the circumstances there must be some advantage to this colony for a statistical department being properly set up. I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, knowing Barbados as I do, with the reference to the advising and training of suitable local personnel to carry on the service. Woe unto us if the Public Service Commission is the body or sole body to decide who are the suitable local personnel to be advised and trained. There is no getting away from the fact that that Commission more

than most local bodies does not fail to show its preferences, its likes and dislikes. Only sometime ago that body recommended for appointment in a legal post in the Public Service a gentleman who did not even apply for the post and who, according to the gentleman himself, did not know that he had been recommended for the post. It rather suggests that they look around and see who is a deserving case of their own to recommend and whom they would like to get preferment, and that person would be regarded as one who is of suitable local personnel to train and carry on the Services.

I am afraid that there is still a preference being exercised in favour of persons who are either of social standing or the friends of persons not unconnected with the Public Service Commission itself. Obviously this gentleman who is coming out here would not be in any position to decide after a short visit as to who are suitable local people to be trained and that is why I am stressing that if you cannot prevent the local Public Service Commission from having a "look in" as regards making recommendations, they should not be the sole source of selection. We know of cases—only a month or two ago I heard of a case in which a most highly and extremely efficient member of the Civil Service attached to the Metropolitan Police Courts, sought assistance from the Government for a loan in order to proceed to higher studies, and he was denied that assistance, whether on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission or the Financial Secretary, I do not know; but I understand there has been a refusal to help Mr. Alleyne and that is a thing which is very hard to justify. Mr. Alleyne is one of the most brilliant men in the Service today.

I must deprecate this very short notice which we have had of this gentleman's arrival and the fact that I would not be disposed to do anything from my position in this Chamber to stop him or make him turn back by refusing to grant this money. There is no doubt that some of the money has already been expended for his passage, but I would like an assurance that it will be really suitable local personnel whom he will be training. And I am not begrudging a reasonable amount for the cost of furniture. After all, this is necessary, but for future purposes I must urge upon the Government that they discontinue giving such short notice and putting us in the position where it is almost impossible for us to refuse to grant them a particular item of supply such as the one which they happen to be seeking from us on this occasion.

6.45 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, there is really nothing to answer; but I just want to remind hon. members of what was promised in the Five Year Plan, as they talk as though something has been suddenly sprung on them. In the Five Year Plan under the head Department of Statistics, (page 26) it reads as follows:—

"A department is needed to collate and distribute information about population, employment and migration, production, secondary industries and construction, distribution (especially of food supplies), shipping and other transport, domestic and external trade, wages and prices, national income and finance. It would also be able to advise the Secretariat and other Government Departments in the interpretation of economic and social statistics. It is proposed that the services of an expert should be obtained to advise and assist in the setting up of the Department; and that a Barbadian should be selected for training possibly

at the Canadian Bureau of Statistics with a view to his appointment to the post of Government Statistician.

That was ever since in 1951, under the Five Year Plan. Then in 1954 a Message was sent by the Head of the Administration to this House. It reads as follows:—

"His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the head 'Department of Statistics' on page 26 of the Five Year Plan, and to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that consultations have taken place with the Chief Statistician at the Colonial Office and Mr. Dudley Seers of the United Nations Secretariat in connection with the establishment of a statistical Service for the Island. As a result the Government has asked the Secretariat to make application to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for the services of a suitable expert to advise the Government in the establishment of the Service and in training local personnel to carry it on."

Thus application has been made to the Legislature for funds which are expected to be the obligation of the Government.

"It is proposed to submit a Resolution for the required amount as soon as we have received word from Mr. Seers and to arrive at a decision as soon as possible."

Mr. GODDARD: When was that?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: That was 23rd November, 1954. The House had an opportunity then of saying "no." Well why is Mr. Seers taken note of? Mr. Seers, I understand, is a man on the top-most level and is also connected with the University of Oxford. [A VOICE: He is a wig.] I do not suppose that you can pick up such fellows on the beach any day. Arrangements have been made and we are told that Mr. Seers should have come in January 1956; but on a sudden we were advised that he will come in late November of this year: hence the apparent haste of this Resolution. He is expected on the 12th November which is four days from now.

Now the hon. junior member for St. John said, quite rightly, that Mr. Seers will not be paid. That quite rightly, that Mr. Seers will not be paid by the Government. There is an agreement that in the case of all these United Nations experts no salary is paid, but the Government pays one half of the local living costs, transportation etc., I am sorry I did not have this file with me when I began to introduce this Resolution and since then I have had to send for it from the Secretariat. What we are asking for now is up to 31st. March, [A VOICE: You cannot go beyond that.] One half of local living costs \$1,300, local travelling \$250, furniture and equipment \$600, statistical equipment \$500, contingencies \$200. The sum of \$4,900 is asked for to cover expenses up to 31st. March as I said before.

Now this gentleman is coming down here to advise and assist in setting up a Department of Statistics. In connection with that, the hon. senior member for the City mentioned some local gentleman. Of course, I am not in a position to say anything about this gentleman. Quite obviously, I cannot say anything about him; but it is stated in His Excellency's Message of November, 1954 which I have just read that "a Barbadian should be selected." Well if this gentleman is partially trained, it is quite obvious that he would not be overlooked. But as I have said before, that is a matter for Professor Seers to decide when he comes here. This gentleman, and I suppose others, will be submitted, and we will await his decision.

As I said before, there is really nothing for me to answer but I just elected to remind hon. members of their obligations when they accepted the Five Year Plan and again when approval was given to His Excellency's Message of November, 1954, which we are now called upon to honour.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I hope the hon. member will see now the value of having files before you when you are introducing a Resolution appertaining to that file. It has been most valuable to get that information and I tell you that a break down of those figures should have been given in this Addendum. [A VOICE: It would have saved a debate.] We have had some of them here already and the principle is well established: but it is always well, in dealing with the people's money, to give as much information as possible. When the Hon. Minister read from the Five Year Plan, I consider that they were thinking then in terms of Canada; because after or just before it we had a Mr. Cough here; he came, I think, from the Canadian Bureau of Statistics. That is what we were thinking of then. This is another matter. The first one to which I have already referred came in a Message in November, 1954. It would be well in future for the House to insist upon the relevant Minister relying to things of that nature. That matter, I repeat, relates to a time when we were discussing the economy of the Colony and we were considering money on immediate projects. It is in the financial part of the Five Year Plan, because such a plan was for development and taxation. I am again counselling the Government to give to the House as much information as possible when they introduce a measure like this. The Hon. Minister would have saved a great deal of debate if he had been able to say: "This is the reply to the statement in the Five Year Plan." I repeat, that a little more information than was given would have saved an extensive debate; instead, the lack of it has raised a debate.

I am wondering whether it is because of the Hurricane that Mr. Seers will be coming. If that is so, I would tell him now, to go back; for this reason: the whole Civil Service is working overtime and we are thinking of the rehabilitation of our people and their homes and I am not sure whether this is really the best time for the Statistician. He may be able to help with the houses that are down; but it may not be a good time for him to come here at a time when we are so concerned with the damage done by the storm.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
6.55 p.m.

Resolution No. 3 Postponed

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to postpone Resolution No. 3 and to proceed with Resolution No. 4.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1955—56, EMERGENCY FUNDS

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, —Resolution No. 4 is for the sum of \$250,000 for Emergency Relief Funds. As can be seen from the Addendum to the Resolution, by Resolution No. 73/55 the sum of \$120,000 was provided for food distribution. Due to Government's decision to extend

the food distribution scheme to the end of October, 1955, a further sum of \$85,000 is required.

In Resolutions No. 65/55 and No. 67/55 it was agreed that the sum of \$480,000 should be advanced from the Public Treasury to meet expenditure in connection with hurricane relief. Of this sum \$185,000 was spent by the Public Works Department on urgent repairs to houses. It is estimated that a further sum of \$165,000 is now required to meet outstanding commitments of all Government Departments. Of this amount, \$125,000 is needed by the Public Works Department to meet expenditure incurred in repairing houses and Government property damaged by the hurricane.

The Addendum is quite explanatory. It sets out the figures in connection with the food distribution and what the Public Works Department needed for the repair of houses. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the first thing I am going to do is to appeal to the Hon. Minister in charge of this resolution to see that **Civil Servants** are more careful in the preparation of information which is for the purpose of putting before the people's representatives. The Addendum to the Resolution starts off by saying "By Resolution No. 73/55." Well, I had great difficulty before I discovered to what Resolution that 73/55 referred, because the number of this Resolution with which we are dealing is No. 45. I hope that Government will pay some attention to that. I have been made to understand that this 73/55 is the serial number which has been given to this Resolution after it passed the Legislature and it is done in the same manner as they number the Acts when they pass the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman, there is a bit of information which I would like to get on this Resolution. Can we be told now what is the extent of the damage done to Government property by the hurricane? Has the Government recovered anything or hope to recover anything from the Insurance Company? I see in the Addendum to the Resolution that \$125,000 is needed by the Public Works Department to meet expenditure incurred in repairing houses and Government property damaged by the hurricane. I know that the Government gets a special rate by the Insurance Company because Government buildings are not covered in the same way as private property; therefore, I think we are due some information on the matter. Everybody else is getting hurricane insurance and I think it is time Government tell us something about the matter. The way how it is stated here is a bit complicated.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: All I can tell you at this stage is that negotiations are still going on with the Insurance Company. The accounts have been finally made up and the claims have been put in.

A VOICE: For how much money?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I really do not know.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, there are one or two matters in connection with the repairs of houses on which I should like some information, and it is to be hoped that the Minister dealing with this Resolution, although not the substantive Minister for Housing, is appraised of all the relevant facts.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order. There is another Resolution coming up for consideration dealing with building houses; and I am appealing to hon. members that whatever comments they want to make on housing to withhold them until we are dealing with that Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Hon. Minister has suggested that we withhold our comments on housing for a later date.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I did not say until a later date. We will deal with that to-night. There is one more Resolution which we will consider before we get to that. I am again appealing to hon. members to withhold their comments on housing until we are dealing with that Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Very well.

Mr. LEWIS: Seeing that this Resolution deals with Food Distribution and some of it is for the repairing of Government property, I do not think that I should lose opportunity of speaking on those matters. As usual, we are getting these schemes complicated. What I mean by that is that here is a Resolution under Current Estimates for the repair of houses and the money for the repairing of houses is mixed up under three different funds.

7.05 p.m.

It appears as if the repairs to housing are mixed up under three different funds. You have hurricane relief funds and you should find some means of working them in the Estimates; if you have current Estimates and Capital Estimates for repairs, my humble opinion is that Capital Estimates should refer to the building of houses. This is like the Deep Water Harbour; we voted money to pay for an investigation; we voted money for building roads, we voted money for everything and we are not linking it up with the Harbour at all. We have all these things here for the repair of houses; I think that we should be able to shift these funds around so that you see that the Capital Estimates will be for the building of houses, and this amount will be for relief in repairing houses. I am sorry that I cannot hear the extent to which Government buildings were damaged because the Government will have to deal very sternly with some of these insurance companies which seem to regard it their function merely to collect premiums. I should like to say that dealing with this matter purely through the secrecy of the Executive Committee might not do the Government any good.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am a bit confused as to these figures here. I am not going to make a speech on this Resolution, I am keeping my speech for the other Resolution. The Addendum to this Resolution states this:—

"By Resolution No. 73/55 the sum of \$120,000 was provided for food distribution. Due to Government's decision to extend the food distribution scheme to the end of October, 1955, a further sum of \$85,000 is required.

In Resolutions No. 65/55 and No. 67/55 it was agreed that the sum of \$48,000 should be advanced from the Public Treasury to meet expenditure in connection with hurricane relief. Of this sum \$185,000 was spent by the Public Works Department on urgent repairs to houses. It is estimated that a further sum of \$165,000 is now required to meet outstanding commitments of all Governments. Of this amount \$125,000 is needed by the Public Works Department to meet expenditure incurred in repairing houses and Government property damaged by the hurricane."

I think that these figures are wrong.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: This \$250,000 is the \$85,000 plus the \$165,000. In the first paragraph of the Addendum the sum of \$85,000 is mentioned and in the second paragraph the sum of \$165,000 is mentioned. Of this \$165,000, \$125,000 is needed by the Public Works. Therefore the \$125,000 is taken from the \$165,000; all we are saying in respect of the \$125,000 is that it is taken from the \$165,000.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister will appreciate that we are not trying in any way to hold

up this Resolution; but when this Resolution goes to the Other Place it will be found that the Addendum is not clear.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The sum of \$85,000 is required for food. \$165,000 minus \$125,000 will leave \$40,000 and that \$40,000 will make up the amount for food and the rest will be for the Public Works Department for lumber, etc.

Mr. LEWIS: I think the Resolution which is supposed to be No. 73 is the Supplementary Estimate No. 37 of 1955-56. No. 73 is the serial number. I think that they must be careful when they are doing these things. This Resolution to supplement the Estimates 1955-56 is a Resolution for \$200,000. I take it that this \$85,000 has already been spent and they need coupons to redeem that amount.

7.15 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I remember well that in the matter of insurance affecting Combermere School, when I raised the question I was successful then in getting the Government to agree to hold up that Resolution until they had settled the matter with the Insurance Company.

I am not pressing the matter today; but people who suffered as a result of the hurricane here are having some difficulty in getting their insurance claims met. I am saying this for this reason: we only have a hurricane once in every generation and it has been reported to me by a lot of people who have had their houses insured that obstacles are being put in the way of collecting their money. I say that those actions are very dishonest. I understand that they brought an Englishman down to Barbados to see how best he can reduce the money to be paid for insurance claims. While we find the small houses which the Government has got put back, there are many people who have had their houses insured and every attempt is now being made to prevent them from collecting their insurance. It is not at all a good advertisement for any insurance company. I want this made clear: if you are insured with a company, we are voting this money today with a certain amount of reserve; reserve because with the Combermere matter, a tremendous amount of discussion took place as to whether the damage sustained was due to a hurricane or not. Some people are bold enough to say that it was not due to the hurricane. [VOICES. Shame! Shame!] There is no reason why property which has been damaged should be allowed to remain and deteriorate. If they are going to adopt that attitude then let us get these Insurance Companies out of the island. We have some representatives here who only pay claims to certain classes of people. Some companies realise that there has been a hurricane. I in my position as Churchwarden have been very cautious in doing certain things. Take what was done in the case of St. Barnabas for instance; what was done was to the fact that we had dealt with decent insurance companies and we could take their word. However, there are some insurance companies whose word you cannot take. I hope that you have had good surveyors to attend to the properties which have been damaged to a greater or less degree.

You are going to take up this money to repair properties; but I want you to understand this: that certain companies are bringing people in to see how much damage has been done and are doing everything possible to prevent people from having their claims met. I do not care who is offended at this. This Chamber is the place where such things should be criticised. It will be remembered what a great fight you had in the Combermere matter. You will remember also that you got a reply to the effect that it was not due to the hurricane that it was damaged. Then,

at long last you got the money. All this money which you are spending you should make sure that you get it back.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head IV Auditor General

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$4,879. It is under different heads and according to custom the Resolution will be dealt with under these separate Heads.

Head IV—Auditor General was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Head IV—Auditor General: the note says:

(1) It was necessary to import a part for the Underwood Adding Machine to replace the original one which had become worn and unserviceable. This expenditure, which amounted to \$56.24, was unforeseen and therefore could not have been included in the original estimate. In addition there have been increased requirements under this item as a result of staff increases. Supplementary Provision of \$100 is therefore necessary.

Then there is stationery for which supplementary provision is required in the sum of \$50. I beg to move that Head IV stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am commenting on Note 2 which states "the requirements have been greater than anticipated owing to the increase in the volume of work as well as to the appointment of additional staff to the Department."

Do you mean to say that because you put additional people on the staff that you must have additional stationery. However, I am not pressing the point.

The question that Head IV stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XV Police

Head XV was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Head XV deals with the purchase of horses. It is set out here in the note that this additional cost is due to increased freight charges which were not anticipated when the horses were ordered. In other words the increase is not due to an increase in the price of the horses but to an increase in the freight rates"... an order was placed earlier this year for two horses at a total cost of \$1,500."

I beg to move that Head XV stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, there is really one little question I have to ask at this stage. I have never imported a horse myself; but do you really set out to put a horse on board a ship before knowing the freight charges? Or it depends upon the way the horse behaves on board ship that they charge you more or less; or is it dependent upon the horse's appetite? [A VOICE: He may take sick.] Somebody has said he may have taken sick. The note states "due to an increase in the freight charges which were not known until after the horses had reached the Island". Do you mean to say that they have accepted the horses subject to the increase being made on the high seas? I imagine that if you were buying a horse from somebody, they would charge you, say, before hand \$40 or \$50 for freight.

The question that Head XV stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7.25 p.m.

Head XXIII General Hospital

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The incinerator at the General Hospital is not inadequate to meet the increased needs of the hospital; in other words it is too small. A Board of Survey has recommended that this incinerator be replaced by a large and more efficient one, and the present machine be used at an institution where disposal is neither bulky nor excessive.

An estimate of the funds which will be necessary to carry out the replacement is as follows:—

Incinerator (F.O.B.)	£362		\$1,737.60
Freight Insurance			500.00
Cost of building to house incinerator			2,000.00
Unforeseen contingencies and incidentals			262.40
			\$4,500.00

As honourable members know, the question of building a new hospital is still under examination and even though we are getting this done we are not permanently stopping up or proceeding on the old plan: but in any case this incinerator will be needed because the new hospital when expanded will come to over 500 beds, and the old incinerator is too small even as the Hospital is with 400 odd beds. If that is so, you can see that to a greater extent it will be too small for a large Hospital. As regards the old incinerator I think a use will be found for that at some other institution.

I beg to move that Head XXIII (2) stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: The first thing I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, is why should there be a Board of Survey for this incinerator. I can well understand a Board of Survey going to see if an engine or an entire motor lorry at the Public Works Department or the Highways and Transport Department or the Waterworks Department is worthwhile repairing or saying "let us get a new motor," but to tell me that if an incinerator is of a certain capacity, and you want one of a greater capacity, and because of that you get a Board of Survey, I cannot see with you. Do you mean to tell me that you get a Board of Survey to give you an incinerator of a greater capacity? That is absurd. From your own experience, you should know that if it cannot take what you have to put into it at one time you will have to get one of a larger capacity; you do not have to condemn it if it is of too small a capacity for you. To put that in here, is nonsense.

I am wondering if the Government is considering taking out the old incinerator and putting it at Government Headquarters. Some time ago Government came here with a Resolution for furniture for public rooms and an incinerator at the Ministerial Buildings at Bay Street. I think the incinerator cost \$1,000. I am wondering if the Government—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I think the honourable member should have heard me to say that I think we can find use for this old one. That is what I have in mind to do with it.

Mr. LEWIS: That is alright. It is quite obvious if we can save a dollar you save it.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The sum of \$1,000 is voted to buy an incinerator for the Ministerial Buildings, but we have it in mind to carry this old one at the Hospital to the Ministerial Building.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the assurance which the Hon. Minister has given us is quite interesting, but there is something else which puzzles me. When we gave them the money for the purchase of the incinerator for the Ministerial Buildings, of course, we forgot to ask at the time what the incinerator would cost; it was coupled with the furniture for the public rooms. I wonder if the Minister can tell us.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable member is out of order; he is referring to a vote which has passed this House.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, that statement by the Minister proves that he is alert. What is more interesting is to know that the cost of the building of a house for the incinerator is going to cost \$2,000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: To which building are you referring?

Mr. TUDOR: If Your Honour will look at the Resolution, you will see that a building to house the incinerator is estimated to cost \$2,000. Perhaps the Hon. Minister will tell us whether that sum is the very least for which you can erect a building to house the incinerator. I take it that it would have to be a structure of stone or bricks, but the cost does seem to me to be excessive and I am wondering whether the Hon. Minister can assure us that this sum is the very least for which this incinerator can be housed.

The Hon. Minister has also drawn in to good measure an estimate of \$262.40 for unforeseen contingencies and incidentals. We are always reminding Government in this House when it is asking us for these things that they should estimate them to the nearest dollar. We have got the impression that they do not mind very much how generous they are in spending and perhaps we lose a lot of money that way.

7.35 p.m.

One thing strikes me as being very significant and it is that with regard to this question of the incinerator, it is easy to choose an alternative which has been in the minds of some people. It has even been suggested earlier in the evening that there is a political party in existence which specialises in the burning of documents. It is a pity that the Government could not have saved money by asking the Democratic Labour Party to burn its documents for it.

The question that Head XXIII (2)—General Hospital—stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman I beg to move that a Resolution for \$4,879 do now pass.

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

The motion was put and agreed to.

HURRICANE REHABILITATION

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is the one which has been circulated. I intimated earlier today that I would ask for leave to change the figures from \$500,000 to \$710,000. I will give the reasons for doing that as I go along. This money is needed for the further repair of chattel houses which have been damaged by the storm, according to the estimates which were given to us over the week-end. That is one reason why we are asking for the increase from the

original amount of \$500,000 which was the amount of the Resolution which has been circulated. This will be the final instalment for these housing repairs but this does not take into account the provision which has been made for victims who were told to go ahead and repair their own houses and who have done such repairs and who will be given assistance by the Government. Those figures have not all been given to us. As far as we can gather, this \$710,000 will complete the repairs of houses to be done by the Housing Board.

Hon. members will be interested to know, as they will see, there are 8,493 houses repaired by the Housing Board, the Public Works Department, Parish Relief Committees and Plantations and there yet remains about 5,350 houses to be repaired, houses which are considered repairable. As far as we can gather, there are 799 or 800 houses which are considered to be not repairable.

Honourable members will remember that we had various votes for repairs to houses. From the special Reserve Fund there was \$150,000; from the Supplementary Estimate No. 36, \$200,000 voted to the Public Works Department; from the Special Reserve Fund, \$135,000; in Supplementary Estimate No. 45 \$125,000; which makes a total of \$610,000. We now estimate that we need \$710,000 which will bring the grand total to about \$1,320,000. I want it to be clearly understood that this money is for the repairs of houses. We have already voted money for the building of prefabricated houses and flats. This amount is separate and distinct from that. As honourable members know, we have had to cease operations for the past few days due to a shortage of lumber. We expect that some lumber will be arriving towards the end of this week and as soon as this lumber is received we will go on again with repairs as we have done in the past. We took the opportunity over the week-end due to the cessation of work to make a fresh survey and as a result of this fresh survey we have arrived at the total of 5,350 more houses to be repaired which will require in the vicinity of \$710,000.

7.45 p.m.

That is the information we have to hand. I think it is quite clear and I suppose honourable members will be interested to hear the number of houses in each parish that are considered repairable. In St. Michael 1,788; in Christ Church 1,621; St. Thomas 281; St. George 645; St. John 105; St. Joseph 116; St. James 176; St. Peter 55; St. Andrew 74; St. Lucy 60; St. Philip 530. There are 799 that are considered unrepairable.

As far as this 799 is concerned I think the prefabs and terrace houses will take care of that. I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$710,000 do now pass. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Does the number for St. Michael cover the City?] Yes.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Hon. Minister has introduced this Resolution for the Minister of Housing; but I presume that he is acquainted, himself, with the important facts of the Government's policy with regard to this matter. Now, to begin with, I believe that the Government is considered optimistic if it believes that the amount called for today will conclude the hurricane housing programme. But they will find in a very short space of time, that with over 5,000 houses still to be repaired and 799 unrepairable that the money called for in this Resolution is insufficient to cope with the situation. There are one or two matters on which I need some information and the first is this: I presume all along that the Government's policy in this matter had

been to repair or build houses for people who, through poverty, were unable to do so themselves. Yet I find that the Government are only repairing the front houses of those damaged buildings and refusing to touch either the shedroofs or the kitchens. Well now, throughout the country districts there is a lot of dissatisfaction on that score; because as you know, Mr. Chairman, the average 16' x 9' or 18' x 10' house in the country district cannot provide adequate accommodation for a man, his wife and five children, and these shedroofs have to be put on in order to provide additional accommodation for the family. It is true that you cannot give them back everything, as the Honourable Minister says; but that is not the point. If you are repairing houses for people who cannot repair them for themselves, you really cannot stop at the front houses. Scores of people have been approaching me on the matter and scores have been to the Parochial Authorities on the matter and nothing can be done because it is the Government's policy not to touch the shedroofs and the kitchens. They sometimes put back the shedroof and leave the kitchen down. It is my opinion that so long as the people are too poor to help themselves that the Government should put back the shedroof and the kitchen. Numbers of these shedroofs have shattered to pieces and you can neither get labour nor material to put them back. I am really expressing my own conviction that for the people who are too poor to put back up their own sheds and kitchens, something should be done about it by the Government.

There again, I want to find out from the Hon. Minister why the Government has reduced the wages to be paid to the foreman and artisans on this hurricane housing project. As from last week the wages have been reduced. Well now, before wages were reduced, there was a lot of criticism that the houses were not being properly repaired. The moment the Government reduces the wages, you can expect that you are going to have bad work done; because there is bound to be more dissatisfaction. The Government must have some valid reasons for reducing these wages; and since the people themselves have not been told, I think now is opportunity for the Government to make some statement on the matter.

Finally, I do feel steps should be taken to expedite this repair programme. The labour is available and certainly if we have reasonably good supplies of the material we need there should be no cause for delay. There should be material in the country by now. There is no point in underestimating our requirements and then every other week running short. We should have had supplies from the very first week after the hurricane or from the very first week after we were told the number which was repairable. It seems to me that accurate estimates should have been made, and I suggest that this should be done. In addition to that, the number of workmen engaged in the various parishes should be doubled in order to get through with the work at a faster rate; otherwise at the rate at which we are going in general, next year we will still have houses under repair. There is no proper policy behind the repair of these houses. You have, I think, in parishes like St. Philip and Christ Church to double your labour force. In every district, in almost every street and road, houses are still flat on the ground and uninhabitable; and there is no lack of labour, no lack of supervision and no lack of money to get the job done. At the rate at which we are now going we are going to be faced with double expenditure. It is hampering other aspects of community life and still eventually we are going to be

forced to find money and material to repair these houses. The longer these houses remain on the ground, the worse is their condition. A lot of material which was available from the damaged houses a month after the storm, is there up to today; and even the Government must understand that the longer a house remains damaged or uninhabitable its condition must deteriorate. There can be no reason for carrying on the programme in the dilatory fashion in which the Government is doing today.
7.55 p.m.

We should have a far bolder policy in this matter. From the first week in October, we should have sent out orders and got the materials here from wherever you could get them, but do not go on picking, and picking, and paying no due attention to a problem as big as this. It seems to me that the number of houses given by the Hon. Minister today as yet under repair is bigger than what we were told two or three weeks ago; the number seems to be growing. I tell you that the rate at which they are going on and repairing parts of houses and going back to them, they will not be finished within the the next two years.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do feel that on this matter so many Resolutions have come to this House from time to time that it is difficult to say precisely with what speed they have been working; but there is no aspect of the matter mentioned by the last honourable member to which one should pay attention. We will have to be aware of it and try our best to see that it does not occur. If we do not we will find that the hurricane season for 1956 will come around and find a large number of houses still under repair.

When this Resolution was introduced a remark was used in introducing it that this money was to be used for the building of chattel houses. I want to make it clear that many of the people abroad who have given money towards the relief of the people have given it without any stipulation, and we all agree that the people who are in greatest need should be assisted first. There are some stone houses that have been completely demolished, and some attempt should be made to make them habitable. I am one who do not subscribe to the idea that because a man may live in a house which is not a chattel house, therefore, he is not a poor man. The suggestion has been made that you should build houses of a more permanent structure, and there are people who are prudent enough to provide themselves with a structure a little better than a chattel house. What is worrying me is this: Are you going to say that those people are not deserving of any public assistance on an occasion such as this? If that be the case, it would be a penalty to the men and women who are prudent enough and had made some saving during their life time to do such a thing and who had not squandered all their money in useless things. I make bold to say that some people are as poor as they want to be in that a man or woman may spend his money so badly that he does not have anything; he may not look upon the procuring of a home as the first essential. Some people say that as long as an 18in. x 9in. house can hold them that is enough for them, and they spend their money in other ways. That is why I said, I do not subscribe to the idea that because a man lives in a house that is not a chattel house, therefore he is not a poor man. It would be one of those cheap political ideas to say that. It is a fact that some people who live in a house a little better than a chattel house are as poor as dirt. I have known instances where people started to build houses and the hurricane came along and blew them

to bits. I am sure that some of those houses have not been insured. With the Government as generous as it is, and along with the people from abroad who have given their pennies or dollars, I do not think those people who have suffered loss will feel pleased to see that there will be a policy that the only houses which Government is going to repair are chattel houses. If Government is only going to repair chattel houses, can they say up to what size house will be repaired? We have many a working class man today to whom somebody has left a little land, and he has bought some stones and built a stone house, but that does not mean that he is not a poor man. I do hope that this suggestion that this money will only be used for the repair of chattel houses will not find favour.

There is another point which I wish to make. If you want to rehouse the people of Barbados quickly (and the honourable senior member for St. Philip also made this point) by what is now described as "flying squads," I do not think that is the only means for doing the job. There are many people who have suffered damage and some attempt should be made to assist those people who are willing to help themselves and willing to speed up the programme. There are some people who have left their houses unattended mainly on the basis that the Government must fix them; they are of the opinion that if they effect the repairs themselves they will not be reimbursed in the end or be given any assistance for so doing. If you want to rehouse these people and to do so quickly, a real attempt must be made to help those people who are interested in helping themselves and who want to get themselves back under their own shelter.

I share the view of the honourable senior member for St. Philip that you cannot employ too many people on this programme because there are other things to be done for the community which you must do. You should try to rehabilitate these people as quickly as you can so that they will be able to perform their regular domestic life in comfort. You should try your best to remove them from the schools as quickly as possible. I was amazed last Saturday night to find that the Bay Street School and the building for the Ministries were still in use as shelters. Government should not allow this long period of shelter at these institutions. The education which is being given now to the children at those schools is nothing for us to be proud about, and the elementary school teacher is still being used as a glorified warden. You must make an attempt to see that this aspect of life go back to normal as quickly as possible, therefore, if you must increase your labour force to meet that end, do so. This is a job which has to be done. It has arisen out of a disaster. I do feel that some positive attempt should be made to speed it up.

I heard a *sotto voce* remark asking whether I want to have 5,000 houses repaired in a week. I say, yes, if you can repair 5,000 in a week, by all means, do it. It is better to do it in a week than to do it in five weeks. I do not agree that you should complete the whole lodgings of a large house, because I do not feel the present organisation is adequate enough to cope with the problems.

8.05 p.m.

I do feel that you have to approach such a monumental problem in a monumental manner. I do feel that this idea of keeping people out of their home depresses the community generally: it depresses the aspect of life among those people and you do not get the maximum from the community when a section of it is still living

under these conditions. I am sure that there is room for expansion of the work; if anything can be added to the Housing Board or the Public Works Department so as to give relief, do that by all means. Attack this problem in a manner in which you can be relieved to deal with other problems: otherwise you will be dealing with a problem which is not of a productive nature; but it will be of a relief nature and your whole force will be handling this problem. We have to do our respective jobs and it is time that Government, if by examination, it has found that there is room for expansion, then you should expand your programme so that it can be dealt with. The point I am making finally just as I have begun, is that I do not like the suggestion that you are only going to repair chattel houses because it connotes that any man who is living in a house other than a chattel house is not a poor man.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: As far as the other type of man who is not considered a poor man, the Government is not unmindful of him but we have not yet reached a policy in that regard. We are not unmindful of the type of person who is willing to help himself. As far as the rate at which chattel houses are repaired, that is at about 1,004 a week; but we have reached the stage where bigger houses have been demolished and the rate of repair has not been as rapid as before. Some of these are flat and therefore the rate at which we are going is slower than before.

Mr. LEWIS: I should just like to say that I do not like this emphasis on chattel houses although I think that that is the type of house which the Government should set about to repair first. The Government itself has been encouraging people to build houses of wall and it is not right to say that the man with the small wall house is not really injured or that he has not been taken advantage of, in these various losses of \$120 and things like that. I hope the Government will be sympathetic about this matter.

What I would like to know is this: I do not think it is right to put this matter under Capital Expenditure, but I see they have started off in that way. I wonder if the Hon. Minister could give us an idea as to how these Funds are going. I know that there are available Funds, Revenue Balances, Development and Welfare Money and other special Funds but have we really got this money under available funds? Or will we divert—[Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: We will get it from Available Funds.] I do not know if the Available Funds can stand this position at this time. I know that money which is available will be sent out of the island and invested. I hope that we have some justification for doing what we are doing here now and that there will not be any trouble afterwards.

Some years ago when Resolutions came down after the Estimates had been laid, we used to get some sort of statement; and now we have a Financial Secretary and an Accountant General, we should be able to get some figures from the Treasury as to the prospect of releasing our taxation. Something like that should be put before us so that we can see that these available funds are going to be puffed up this year and we hope that they will come out squarely on it. It is really \$910,000, nearly \$1 million, which we have supplemented for Available Funds and I hope that the Heads under which they will get it will permit them to have it.

I should like to say that there are some parts of the City of Bridgetown, and perhaps other parts of the island too, which have not yet been touched in so

far as the repair of houses is concerned and I mentioned that so that some direction should be given. There is not a single house repaired in Mason Hall Street, Hutson's Alley and places like that and I think there must have been an oversight.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot help but mention this: when we were first told of the figures concerning the damaged houses, we were given that it was 7,742 unrepairable and that we may be faced with only 1,309 to be repaired. Unless it takes into account those that were repairable it would appear to me that the figure was really 11,000 houses and not 7,000. It is very regrettable if somebody has gone around and given the Government the impression that it was 7,000 when it was really 11,000.

8.15 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I think that the—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The hon. member must have been sleeping. I did say that we are awaiting all returns. We have not got many returns and—

Mr. LEWIS: I should like them to bear this in mind: it is alright to say that you are going to entertain these claims; but in the meantime you should tell the people also where to send in this information. Nobody seems to be able to tell them. It is alright to say that at some future time you are going to entertain these claims; but for the present, put some notice in the Newspapers stating that claims can be sent to Mr. So and So. You do not have to commit yourself as to whether you are going to pay some or all. But do not delay because it would be dangerous.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA the Chairman reported the passing of five Resolutions in Committee and the postponement of one.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

McLEOD ENABLING BILL

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I think the honourable senior member for the City would like to do a Private Member's Bill.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am asking leave to take Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill which seeks under the Solicitors Act to authorise that Mr. Alexander McLeod, having satisfied the Chief Justice of this Colony as to his qualifications, be duly admitted to practise as a solicitor. The history of this matter is that Mr. McLeod who is a solicitor registered in the neighbouring Island of St. Vincent was selected by the Secretary of State to be a Police Magistrate in Barbados, which office he performed from the year 1946 until his retirement on 18th April, 1954. He has since retired, as everyone knows, and this Bill seeks to give him the authority to practise as a solicitor in this Island. The necessary approval has already been given by the Board and Council of the Barbados Law Society, which Body has also communicated the information to the Government. I, therefore, beg to move, without further ado, that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BARROW: I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. BARROW Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

On motion of Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. E. W. BARROW the Preamble was postponed.

Clause 1 was called.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

Mr. BARROW: I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 1 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 2 was called.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

Mr. BARROW: I beg to second that.

Clause 3 was called.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

Mr. BARROW: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: There is a revised form for Clause 3 and I suggest that it be adopted.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I accept the revised form.

The question that Clause 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. E. W. BARROW the question that the Preamble stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. BARROW Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill as amended in Committee. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY seconded by Mr. E. W. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
8.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn—

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, before the question is put, I am asking leave for Item 36 of Private Members Business be made Item No. 1.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 15th November, 1955 at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

Hour of Meeting of the House

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move as an amendment that this House do now adjourn until the same day, at 10 o'clock a.m. In doing so, I am following up the suggestion made on the last occasion by the Hon. Leader of the House.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not agree with that motion.

Mr. LEWIS: I am not doing it because I am a leisured gentleman. It is far to the opposite. I feel that it is something which should be considered by this House. However, it seems obvious that this motion will not find a seconder —

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am not going to support it for the simple reason, Mr. Speaker, that while I agree with my colleague that you should have some change in the hour for adjournment, I agree that the hour for meeting should be 3 o'clock. I am surprised to see the hon. junior member for St. Joseph seconding the motion of my colleague. I can very well see from the face of the Hon. Leader of the House that he would appreciate a closing down of the House at 9 o'clock at night. This carrying on until 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock at night must weary you. I may say, if you do not realise it that when you start laying traps for people, you are laying them for yourself.

Mr. Speaker, I am supposed to be the most sickly man in this House, but I can tell you that if I am really prepared I can stand up to any grind. I can stand up to late meetings if I want to.

I am wondering if the Minister would agree although we have not had the Rules amended yet, that we should begin at 3 o'clock and finish at 9 o'clock. That is what I think it should be. I am not going to support the motion of my colleague and I am suggesting to him to withdraw it.

I may say this: if the meetings of this House are carried on every meeting like this meeting when the Minister was willing to set out and give information as the Hon. Leader of the House has done tonight in dealing with this Resolution for \$710,000, I am sure it would not be necessary to meet after 9 o'clock on Tuesday nights. Apparently, some Ministers feel that by giving information for the benefit of this side of the House they are doing somebody a favour. You do get some of the Ministers over there being possessed of the feeling that they should not give information on any measure.

However, Mr. Speaker, I feel that this House should adjourn until 3 o'clock next Tuesday, and I am supporting the Government on that. If you adjourn until 10 o'clock those members of the public who do not have the time to come at that hour would not be able to follow politics well. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you will readily agree that the meetings of this House should start at 3 o'clock and end at 9 o'clock. I am wondering if the Hon. Leader of the House would assure us that this House would be adjourned at 9 o'clock when it meets.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I am not the most sickly member in this House; as a matter of fact, I feel I am the strongest, but I am not going to agree to any suggestion that Parliament should meet at 10 o'clock in any tropical country. We have had that experience already when Parliament used to meet at 12 o'clock noon, and we have had to change it. I came to this House when its meetings began at midday and the majority of the then hon. members objected to coming at midday on two grounds. One ground was that the House was meeting at a time when members had to forego a whole day's work, and when they were not working in the House for a half day, that is, they came in at the middle of the day to begin their work. I feel that the time of meeting now is quite alright. The suggestion by the hon. junior member for the City to come to this Chamber at 10 o'clock in the morning is a joke, as well as that by the hon. senior member for the City who suggested that this House should sit until a certain period is another joke. Let me tell this House that the Jamaica House of Representatives is now adopting the attitude of the Barbados House of Assembly by beginning to sit late in the afternoon and going on until late at nights. The suggestion of limiting the time of Parliament when that Parliament only sits once per

week is a joke. Do you realise what it means if you say that this House of Assembly should meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and adjourn at 3 o'clock p.m.? If you do that, you would be forced to adjourn at 9 o'clock irrespective of what business there is to be done by Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can tell the hon. member that in the new Rules for this House there is a Rule for the adjournment of the House at a specified time.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am saying, that a time limit for Parliament is a joke. In the House of Commons where they meet four days a week there is a time limit, but they do not stick to that; and there is no point in our copying the Rules of the House of Commons, lock, stock and barrel, especially when it is taken into consideration that this House meets for the most part once a week. Very rarely does it meet more than once a week. We are coming here once a week and if it means meeting at 3 o'clock and staying until 1 o'clock in the early hours of the next day, why cannot we do it? When members face the electorate to come here, they do not make these suggestions. My attitude is that you should meet at 3 o'clock and adjourn when you have finished the business of the day. I know what is the state of health of the hon. senior member for the City, and I can tell him that it is better for his health when this House meets at 3 o'clock in the afternoon than for it to meet in the heat of the sun.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to oppose any suggestion of our meeting in the heat of the sun.
8.35 p.m.

We can meet at any time but I am not suggesting that we meet at 10 o'clock in the morning. We can meet at 8, 9 or 10 o'clock but when we meet in the afternoon hon. members are given the opportunity of doing a bit of business which they have to perform during the day and then they can come here and spend seven or eight hours in doing public business. Very few hon. members go to bed at any

9 o'clock [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: How does the hon. member know that?] Not one of them goes to sleep at 9 o'clock.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. I am a married man and I resent that statement being made in this House.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I know that the hon. member might go to sleep at 9 o'clock but he comes out at 12 o'clock [Laughter] No hon. member can claim that he sits up until 9 o'clock and then he is like a little boy whom his mother puts to bed. We know where we meet them. Do you think that after nine o'clock those hon. members go to bed?

The occasions on which we sit until one o'clock a.m. are very few. I feel that we have been running very well indeed. The *Advocate* has taken the opportunity to say that we should meet at 10 o'clock a.m. but when we met at 12 o'clock noon the *Advocate* said that we should meet in the afternoon. However, we only have a year here now and we can leave it to the other boys to decide when we should meet.

The question that this House do now adjourn to meet on Tuesday next 15th at 10 o'clock a.m. was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. VAUGHAN, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. LEWIS and Mr. BARROW—6.

Noes: Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. GODDARD and Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY.—10

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the negative, six hon. members voting "Aye" and ten hon. members voting "No". I declare that the "Noes" have it. The question now is that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next 15th instant at 3 o'clock p.m. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned.
8.45 p.m.